225 Parsons Street is one of the most famous guitar addresses worldwide. It has been home to the Heritage Guitar Inc. for the past 30 years. The company, started by a small band of craftsmen, collectively, the most experienced full line guitar builders in the world. The Heritage Guitar Inc. of Kalamazoo incorporated on April 1, 1985 and is one the premier guitar builders today.

The idea to start Heritage Guitar Inc. began when Gibson Guitar Corporation closed its Kalamazoo, Michigan factory in September 1984 and moved all production to its Nashville, Tennessee facility, which had been in operation since 1975. With this move some of the employees were asked to relocate to Nashville; however, Kalamazoo was home to their families, making uprooting difficult.

Three men, Jim Deurloo, Marv Lamb and JP Moats took an idea and made it a reality with the 1985 incorporation of Heritage Guitar Inc., and two other former Gibson employees, Bill Paige and Mike Korpak joined as owners. Forty-year industry veteran and former Gibson Executive Vice-President of Sales and Marketing, Lane Zastrow, has held and continues to hold that position with Heritage Guitar Inc. today.

The first guitar introduced by Heritage Guitar Inc. was the H-140 solid body single cutaway electric guitar, followed by the flagship Golden Eagle: one of the most respected carved top guitars ever made.

Since its inception, 30 years ago, Heritage Guitar Inc. has built thousands of revered guitars to meet the specifications and needs of the most discerning and discriminating musicians, such as the legendary Kenny Burrell, The Country Music Hall of Fame Roy Clark and renowned international artists: Henry Johnson, Mimi Fox, and David Becker.

At the factory you will find three of the founding owners, as well as other employees from the Gibson days still cutting, carving and bending fine woods, fitting lustrous abalone and mother-of-pearl inlays, and fine lacquer finishes done by hand in the time honored traditions of the true craftsmen... building the guitars with pedigree and provenance. Look for the headstock with:

The Heritage
Guitar hero status in rock and other genres is a decidedly macho affair, but results matter more in jazz, where few string-benders are as admired and sought-after as a collaborator than the Bay Area's Mimi Fox. An astonishingly agile and melodic player, Fox seamlessly incorporates foundational elements such as Django Reinhardt and Wes Montgomery and goes on to develop a mature style all her own. … But she's at her most impressive taking the lead, carefully molding her wide-ranging interests into a gloriously unified voice.

**Bio**

Mimi Fox began playing the guitar when she was ten. At 14, her first jazz album - John Coltrane's classic *Giant Steps*, was an inspirational turning point. Fox began touring right out of high school and became an internationally renowned guitarist/composer/recording artist. She has been a winner in six consecutive Downbeat International Critics Polls. Mimi has recorded and/or performed with innumerable luminaries including: Diana Krall, Branford Marsalis, Manhattan Transfer, Joey DeFrancesco, Houston Person, Terri Lyne Carrington as well as fellow guitarists Charlie Byrd, Stanley Jordan and Charlie Hunter. She has also shared the stage with legends Stevie Wonder and John Sebastian. Mimi has released multiple highly acclaimed albums that have topped the billboard radio charts. Mimi has been featured in numerous television and radio specials including BET and NPR. She maintains a whirlwind schedule playing major festivals from New York to Tokyo, including tours of the Caribbean, Japan, Thailand, Australia, New Zealand, and Europe. Mimi has headlined at the Montreal Jazz Festival, The Kennedy Center, Guinness Cork Jazz Festival, Perth International Jazz Festival, Monterey Jazz Festival and countless others. In a recent feature story Guitar Player Magazine said: "Beyond her passion and virtuosity, Fox plays with a profundity that only comes from a lifetime devotion to one's art."

In a review of her performance at The Kennedy Center, All About Jazz said: "Guitarist Extraordinaire Mimi Fox presented a stunning set of music that kept the audience riveted... Fox's firm control, clarity of concept, and emotional depth made this the most memorable moment of the festival." Mimi is also a respected educator/clinician who conducts classes worldwide. She is head of the guitar department at the California Jazz Conservatory in Berkeley, and Adjunct Professor at New York University.

**Fox’s Signature**

Introduced in commemoration of Heritage Guitar Inc.’s 30th Anniversary

**Fox’s Signature H-575**

Honors the dedicated renown international artist with a custom H-575 built with the proven iconic elements of the classic H-575 along with her particular modifications.

**Her Voice**

A singer with no voice! Stunning performance… her guitar was her voice. A fabulous melodic performance – all done on guitar. …[S]he relishes the tonal variety her guitar can produce.

Excerpts from review by Pete Rainey

The Nelson Mail

**Heritage Guitar Inc. is not owned by nor affiliated with any other manufacturer of stringed instruments.**