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The next generation



The members of Flobots, the Denver-based experimental rap-rock group, have seen plenty of success. However, their legacy extends much deeper. The bandmates, who met in Denver's public high schools, sought to share their love of song making and the opportunities music education could bring to young people. Thus, **Youth on Record** was born in 2008. "It was really born out of using music as a tool for voice liberation," says Andrea Viarrial-Murphy, the organization's Director of Giving and Growing. Less than 15 years later, the organization now directly mentors over 3,000 Denver high schoolers in "anti-oppression" music opportunities as an effort to increase mentorship, graduation rates, and emotional learning. "It's all through the lens of music," Viarrial-Murphy says.

Youth on Record sends instructors to high schools that lack music education, while inviting students to their Youth Media Studio after school to learn the finer aspects of the industry from audio engineering to recording their own songs in sound booths. Currently, they're gearing up for their annual "Music Matters March," a month dedicated to fundraising through shows hosted by students at local venues and coffee shops. The organization hopes these meaningful, real-world experiences gear students up for the music industry beyond school.

1301 W. 10th Ave. | 303.993.5226 | youthonrecord.org

Did YOU know?

What's now the state's most iconic music venue was once home to prehistoric animals. While clearing a road to Red Rocks Amphitheatre in the 1930s, hundreds of dinosaur bones and footprints were found on the rocky landscapes.

Careful craftsmanship

With decades of experience in guitar repair and electric guitar construction, Colorado luthier Brian Deckebach holds himself to a high standard of quality with each guitar he builds. "The process is time intensive, with a low volume of production resulting in unique instruments," he says. Working in his home shop in Denver under his own brand of **Del Toro Guitars**, Deckebach takes great pride in instruments, some of which have been used on stage by famous artists at venues like Red Rocks. "I feel like I'm contributing to something that has a positive effect on people's lives." While he uses standard models and shapes to ensure consistency, and typically pulls from the same stock of wood, Deckebach assures that "each guitar has its own character and personality." However, despite a consistent production ethic and successful business, Deckebach finds that the creation of his best work still eludes him. "The magic of the craft is that you can never tell which guitar is going to stand out above the rest," he says. "This is the chase that keeps luthiers building their next guitar." deltorguitars.com



ON THE SCENE

Looking for some live music? While you wait for spring to roll in, check out these acts around Mile High City.

Spring Festival of Choirs

Talented University of Colorado students will bridge the worlds of jazz, world music, and opera in a choir performance hosted on Feb. 6 at the university's Macky Auditorium. cupresents.org

For Once In My Life Tour

On Feb. 9, a handsome group of men called "il Divo" will visit the Bellco Theatre for the third stop on their tour. This male quartet provides a new twist to classical music. Don't miss this multi-national classical crossover vocal group. bellcotheatre.com

Sam Bush

Visit the Gothic Theatre on Feb. 9 to hear Bush's amazing Blue Grass sound. He's a master fiddler who incorporates jazz and rock and roll together. Last year he was inducted into the International Bluegrass Music Hall of Fame as a member of New Grass Revival. axs.com

The Other Josh Cohen

For fans of musicals, this award-winning fresh take on the medium is a must see. This rock and roll romantic comedy hosted at the Garner Galleria Theater & Bar has several showtimes throughout the month of February. denvercenter.org

Connect Four

Comprised of musicians with experience in various folk, Americana, and classical traditions, Connect Four brings their unique blend of musicianship to the Mercury Café on Feb. 13. eventbrite.com