

3/15/2010

Mike Widner
Soul Fixin' Foundation
P.O. Box 415
Rogers, TX 76569

Blue Star Guitars

Dear Mike,

My name is Brian Schreck. I am the music therapy coordinator at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. I want to send our gratitude and pure appreciation to your foundation's generosity in making available the JR Beck electric guitars for our oncology patients to use during their hospitalizations. These guitars are so beautiful and this aesthetic is immediately recognized when our patients have been presented with them, exclaiming, "Wow!" and "Whoah...are you kidding?" These expressions are priceless. As we all can imagine there is not much to look forward to when you are stuck in a hospital for a very long time--but when presented with the gift of music and with real instruments, these "swords" given to these warriors can slice through time through acquisition of a new skill and the possibility of a lifetime companion of music! So from the bottom of our hearts, THANK YOU!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

In speaking with Don Ritter this morning he was asking me about some of the feedback on the different brands/styles of guitars I've noticed during music therapy sessions. In working in pediatrics with often very sick children I have found out that the lighter the better and sometimes even the smaller the better. Guitars that are $\frac{3}{4}$ or close to it are easier to manipulate while sitting or laying in a hospital bed. This is a tall order for a real instrument. But, with that said, we have found in playing these wonderful brand-new guitars via Soul Fixin' and Blue Star, the one I feel would therapeutically and physically be the easiest for pediatrics (ages 2-30) to play would be the Fender Squire Duo-Sonic. The JR Beck 335 style is tremendous for some of the bigger/older patients and if that were smaller it would be even more amazing! This guitar also sounds great even when it is not amplified. Please forgive my JR Beck brand-descriptors—the two

PRS-style Beck's are wonderful guitars and so beautiful, and the high-end Ibanez-style Beck is mind-blowing! All of these great instruments are currently being used by patients as we speak. The initial effects of your gifts have been profound! I know for a fact that these effects will continue to escalate and blossom.

Don told me this morning he is working with Fender and Gibson about the possibilities of creating a Blue Star Guitar. If I can help in any way as a current music therapist working in pediatrics, I believe that the Fender Squire Duo-Sonic and a smaller version of the JR Beck/Gibson 335/339 would cover almost every style of guitar player out there! They are comfortable and easy to play for all ages across the spectrum of illness and gender! Thank you for all that you do and for these priceless gifts! Our gratitude is immense and your love will effect countless patients that are going through the roughest of times—thank you for transforming their time with your gifts.

Sincerely,

Brian H. Schreck, MA, MT-BC
Music Therapist/Coordinator
brian.schreck@cchmc.org