



ARCHIE SMITH
WOOD BOOTH #9

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Archie Smith will be designing a bowed psaltery, using rare woods and inlays in a “Daliesque” theme. Smith’s “sculptural-functional” musical instruments incorporate ancient craft techniques with contemporary combinations of woods, to create a modern rendering that draws from ancient roots.

Archie Smith Instruments, formerly Horsebottom Ridge Instruments, developed in the basement workshop of his home on Horsebottom Ridge in the

mid 1970s. His instrument making began as a hobby and a diversion from his “primary” profession of teaching history at Lees-McRae College. After 30 years of teaching, he resigned as Associate Professor of History and moved back with his wife, Rosie, to the farm in Mt. Pleasant where he grew up to pursue instrument making full-time.

Smith makes mountain or lap dulcimers and bowed psalteries from a variety of fine domestic and exotic woods – only solid woods are used, no plywood or commercial veneers. The tops and backs of his instruments are always book-matched to accentuate the varied colors and grain patterns of the carefully chosen woods. Cross-sections of black walnuts or butternuts are sometimes used for the sound holes. The book-matching of woods and the use of nuts as sound holes, while time consuming, nevertheless carry out the motto of Archie Smith Instruments - “A unique melding of art and music”- and produce heirloom quality instruments. All of his dulcimers and bowed psalteries are finished with a hand-rubbed lacquer finish and are all personally handmade, numbered, dated and signed.

