

5 Projects to Root For: A New Austin Film With Alex Karpovsky, the Endangered Acoustic Guitar & More

by Bryce J. Renninger (June 2, 2011)

"Musicwood"

Logline: A new music documentary looks at the latest endangered species: The acoustic guitar. The world's leading guitar-makers attempt to slow the over-logging of a rain forest before it's too late and their industry is silenced.

Production team: Director/Producer: Maxine Trump; Producer/Editor: Josh Granger; Cinematographer: Curt Wallin; Subjects: Bob Taylor of Taylor Guitars, Chris Martin of Martin Guitars, Dave Berryman of Gibson, Yo La Tengo, Turin Brakes and more

About the film: "In 2007, I was working on a short documentary about subsistence communities in Alaska, when I heard about the over-logging of the largest coastal rain forest in the world and the devastating affects it was having on the music industry. The logging is now so extreme that the acoustic guitar as we know it is under threat. To tell this story, my team and I found ourselves filming acoustic performances in the Alaska forest at the base of a 600-year-old Sitka Spruce tree that can grow to double the height of the Statue of Liberty. My team were able to follow Martin, Taylor and Gibson as they traveled together for the first time to this majestic forest in an attempt to persuade the Native American loggers to slow their industrial level of logging. The distrust of these white men was palpable. As Chris Martin of Martin Guitars put it, to resolve this issue 'it will be as close to a miracle as I will see in my lifetime.'"
—Maxine Trump



An image from Maxine Trump's "Musicwood." [Image courtesy of filmmaker]

Current status: Primary production on the film is completed, but several acoustic performances still need to be shot.