

The NorthStar



*A masterpiece of banjo art
and playability.*

This instrument combines
the skills of three artists:
Will Fielding: *Banjomaker*
Glen Carson: *Engraver*
Michelle Holzapel: *Carver*

FEATURES:

12" Cherry pot with whyte ladye tone ring
Cherry neck with ebony fingerboard
Engraved pearl fingerboard inlays
Ebony peghead overlay with
engraved pearl
Heel carving with maple and oak motif
Fielding tailpiece
SN 0773
Signed by the artists
\$6500



Will Fielding began his professional woodworking career in 1973 learning the art of guitar building. Having always been a banjo player, he began repairing old banjos and building new ones that same year. Turning to full time banjo making in 2001 he soon began thinking of incorporating the carving skill of his friend and neighbor Michelle.

Michelle Holzapfel has over two decades of experience turning and carving native hardwoods. Her work has been exhibited in museums and galleries in the U.S., Australia and Europe. She became aware of the tradition of

banjo heel carving when Will approached her in 2003 with the idea of doing a heel carving on one of his banjos. Since then she has added her unique carvings to a dozen of his banjos.



Glenn Carson built his first banjo in 1975 based on plans he found in the Foxfire books. He was particularly inspired by the timeless classic designs of the great Boston banjo companies. Glenn studied the old instruments and gradually learned to engrave mother of pearl and metal. He was especially inspired by the finest engraver and designer at the Fairbanks company, Icilio Consalvi.

Glenn first read about Michelle Holzapfel in a Fine Woodworking article many years ago, and has admired and appreciated her heel carvings on Will's banjos. When Will and Glenn met at an Old Time Music jam they quickly discovered they had common ideas about banjo building. They have greatly enjoyed being able to work on banjo projects together. The Northstar is the first project that all three artists have collaborated on.

Read more about the artists at
fieldingbanjos.com/northstar.html

