

# “Gibson Gives” Debuts First-Ever Music Scholarship Program & Guitars



Sister Rosetta Tharpe. Photo Credit: Getty Images.



Submitted by  
Naomi Richard  
VILLAGER  
Entertainment Reporter

(VILLAGER) - Gibson, the iconic American instrument brand headquartered in Nashville, TN, is thrilled to announce its first-ever annual music scholarship program. The *Gibson Gives Scholarship Program* known as *Gibson Gives*, will award 15+ music scholarships this year comprised of cash grants, as well as instruments and gear, allowing meaningful giving directly to high school seniors for their post graduate education and careers.

*Gibson Gives* will partner with *Save The Music Foundation* for 10 of 15 scholarships this year to help both musicians and prospective music students nationwide develop a career in the music industry.

The new *Gibson Gives* Scholarship Program joined with the *Sister Rosetta Tharpe Scholarship* – the first music scholarship created in honor of the iconic and incomparable *Godmother of Rock ‘n’ Roll*. The *Sister Rosetta Tharpe Scholarship* has been awarded to *Sierra Guilmartin*, a senior at *Philadelphia High School for Girls* who plans to pursue music at the *University of the Arts in Philadelphia* in

the Fall.

Instrument donations have included general music instruments, band and string instruments, digital keyboards, and recording and production equipment through the *J Dilla Music Tech Grant*, which launched at *South Philadelphia High School* in 2018.

The *Gibson Gives* Scholarship Program is available to students with a guitar interest, who are planning to pursue music of some form in college. Each recipient will receive one guitar, as well as a \$5,000 cash grant to assist in their college funding. *Gibson Gives* and *Save The Music Scholarships* alone will result in over \$75,000.00 (10 grants of

5,000k, and 10 Gibson guitars) in giving to young musicians. The scholarships will be created in both current and legacy artist’s names to celebrate their cultural impact across multiple genres of music.

*Sister Rosetta Tharpe’s* immense talent and confidence arrived during an era when women, and especially women of color, had no voice. An era where no woman dared play a guitar at the front of the stage, let alone front a solo act. No woman except *Sister Rosetta Tharpe*.

From *Cotton Plant, Arkansas*, *Tharpe* became a gospel superstar and one of the true founding fathers of rock ‘n’ roll. She fronted her

own band, she was one of the first artists of note to play the iconic ‘61 *Les Paul SG Custom* electric guitar, and she was a headlining black female artist who toured through the segregated *Jim Crow South*. She has been largely overlooked.

The founding father of rock ‘n’ roll wasn’t a father at all – that distinction belongs to *Sister Rosetta*. A gospel-trained force of nature that broke barriers, stereotypes, and norms with astonishing regularity.

The mission of *Gibson Gives* is to create, develop, and support non-profit organizations worldwide in their efforts to advance musicians, youth-focused education, music, and health and wellness initiatives.



Sister Rosetta Tharpe. Photo Credit: Getty Images.

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“This life, therefore, is not righteousness, but growth in righteousness; not health, but healing; not being, but becoming; not rest, but exercise. We are not yet what we shall be, but we are growing toward it. The process is not yet finished, but it is going on. This is not the end, but it is the road. All does not yet gleam in glory, but all is being purified.” --- Martin Luther

Romans 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ

Kenneth Hill, Pastor

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