

Jim Weeks Interview.

Today is February 10th, 2016, this is Cindy Kus, I am in the Alpena History room at the Alpena County Library, and we're talking today with Jim Weeks. Jim plays in a band by the name of House Call, uh, he . . . we're going to start out talking about his musical roots. I know that Jim comes from Kalamazoo, and we'll see where it goes from there.

JW. I started, uh, playing music when I was in grade school. My, uh, dad was, uh he worked at the Upjohn Company and ah, he was interested in music, played piano, and *made* all the kids take piano lessons – it wasn't something we necessarily volunteered for, but that was just part of what we did, and my older sister did it, and I played, uh, piano, and my younger sister also, and they provided the music lessons for us, and, uh, we – the eventual goal was to get to where we could take lessons from Dr. Rowland, who was a professor at K College. So, you had to work your way up, you couldn't play for Dr. Rowland until you knew what you were doing. So, we took lessons from teaching fellows at the, uh, from K College, mainly, and uh, you know, every Saturday I had my music lesson with the teaching fellow and then, uh, you know I was forced, forced into, uh practicing at home. And it was, you know it was a lot of music theory and playing songs and then, you know, every year we'd have to have a recital, you know, with all the students, and then over the years I finally got to where I could play with Dr. Rowland and, uh, it was a, you know he was a very, uh, older gentleman, you know, by the time, but, uh, it was, looking back it was a real privilege to be able to take lessons from him because he was an incredible musician and, and, uh, he really, uh, challenged, challenged me and, uh, everybody, I mean my sister had taken from him, too, and, and uh, you know, we would do, you know, all kinds of scales and be playing along, and then he would, you know, call out different keys and you just had to switch keys, you know, uh, you know in mid-stride and whatnot, and, yeah, as a kid that was pretty boring stuff, but it was a, you know, good foundation, uh . . .

CK. What - what age did you start?

JW. In, ah, grades school.

CK. Ok.

JW. And, uh, and then, uh, you know, I had friends playing guitar, and you know, of course that was more interesting to me, and I had saved up paper route money and, uh, bought myself my first guitar, uh, in junior high, and it was a, a miserable, horrible guitar because I bought it because of the price and not because of anything else and I didn't know any better and it was so hard to play that, uh-

CK. It was acoustic?

JW. It was very frustrating. Yeah, an acoustic guitar – and, because I couldn't afford to buy, you know, amplifiers and all that kind of thing, so I got the acoustic guitar, I struggled and struggled with it, learning some chords and things, um, had such a hard time because it was so hard to get calluses on my fingers, and my fingers would blister and bleed before I'd get calluses 'cause the action on the

guitar was so high, and, uh, I really didn't know any better than that until I actually went to college, and then some of my friends had guitars and, uh, and I got to play their guitars and it was just like a whole world of difference, I thought, "my gosh, I can't believe this." So I saved up money, and I was working in a nursing home uh, and saved up some money and then bought myself a - another guitar which was a little bit better than the first one that I had and uh, uuuuh, and continued to play, but not a whole lot, I, I played a little bit. I was involved in a religious organization at University of Michigan, uh, called "Word of God" and it was a Pentecostal uh, uh . . . group-

CK. Mm hm.

JW. -mainly students, and uh, it was most incredible, that was the most - one of the most incredible musical experiences because, uh, at the meetings, you know, people would get together and it was just people that got together because they wanted to worship God, and, you know, there wasn't any, you know, forcing anybody, it was all, everybody wanted to be there-

CK: Right, right.

JW. - and it was a whole gymnasium full of people and ah, we would oftentimes sing, and they had a music ministry and the people would play guitars, and there was no music for much of it, it was just spontaneous, uh, you know, uh, utterances, and, and it all blended into this incredible crescendo of harmony and, and beauty and it was-

CK. It was all voice-

JW. Amazing, voice, and, and, and the guitar, people would play music, they'd play their guitars, too, and it was just, somehow it all came together, you know, and, in the spirit,

CK. Mm hm. Mm hm.

JW. . . . you know, so, so that was - that was an incredible, uh, experience to see that, and to, uh, to experience that, and then I got to play some, uh, in our - we would have, uh, you know, prayer sessions, and people would get together and some people would bring instruments and we'd play, and they had music, too, we had songs that we played and, uh, and that was, that was sort of, uh, moving me along a little bit, uh, in music, you know and playing, now that I had a guitar that I could actually play, so that made a difference, and played a little bit. But, I was mainly working, you know, uh, as my job was to, uh, study, and, and uh, you know, as my Dad was paying for my education, and I took it very seriously, so

CK. Right.

JW. I, uh, wanted to - and the only way I could pay him back was to excel in what I did, you know, so, you know I'm not the brightest bulb in the, on the string but I, you know, worked harder than anybody else, you know and-

CK. Uh huh, you're determined. Yes.

JW. -I spent a lot of time in the library and, uh, didn't have as much time for - for my music. So, I just kinda played a little bit here and there, and uh, I never played, uh - rarely played songs all the way through, I played beginnings, I played ends, I played little parts that I was trying to work on, I'd work on different chords and things like that but, hadn't really done much, uh - I always said the only person I played for was my cats, I would close the door, and cats would be in there and they could listen to me, but uh, not too much else, so-

CK. Well, I'm getting a little picture that you had a very full life with school and everything, did you use music at the end of the day to-

JW. Yeah, to relax and, you know, that was my, you know, recreation time, was to - to play, and I always had guitars with me and the cats would stay in the room

CK. And the cats stayed in the room with you, they didn't leave . . . (laughs)

JW. No, they didn't, uh, you know, I played folk music and quiet things so, you know, they didn't mind too much.

CK. Uh huh.

JW. And then it wasn't until 1997, actually that, uh, uh, that I got involved, uh, uh, after my divorce, when I was seeing a girl that worked in the Emergency room, and who's now my wife, and uh, she said, uh, "you know, you should get together with Dave Larkin, you know, he's a, he works in the ER, ER docs, he plays music and there's a, uh, uh, they've got this group they're getting together for this Guitar Summit", and I thought that meant that there were people were going to get together, play together and learn from each other and, you know, kind of an informal thing, so I said, well, sure, that sounds like fun, and my partner, Steve Zweig, was, uh, also, he had played in a band as a youngster, you know, so he had played, so we decided that we would, you know, get involved in this, uh, guitar summit, then it turned out - went to the meeting and they said, well, it's at the high school, and, you know, you're playing out, you know, in front of people, and that just absolutely terrified me because I'd never done that before. So, as I said, I never even played songs all the way through. So, you know, we started getting together, three of us, and - for the first Guitar Summit that we played in, and I think it was Steve's first Guitar Summit.

CK. Steve Slag?

JW. Zweig - Z-W-E-I-G. So, uh-

CK. He played guitar also?

JW. Mm hm.

CK. Ok.

JW. So we, uh, uh, you know, came up with some songs that we were gonna play and, uh, worked to, you know, to uh, to participate in this performance - and like I said, it was getting out onstage in

front of - and there were literally hundreds of people there, it was amazing how many people were there at the, at the guitar summit there at the high school. And, uh, you know, we, you know, managed to get through it and then, Dave and I have continued playing together, Steve hasn't, he decided he didn't want to do it anymore, so he hasn't played with us since that first summit, which I believe was in, I think that was in 1998 . . . yeah, pretty sure it was 1998.

CK. So you're going close to 20 years now-

JW. Yeah.

CK. -of playing together.

JW. Right. And so then, Dave and I have continued playing together and, you know, we get together, and uh, and play uh, you know, we've played I think for six guitar summits. Uh, you know, we played the first six of them all the time, and they would have us play uh, to warm up the crowd if you will, you know-

CK. Mm hm.

JW. And a kind of an add-on group because, uh, they liked, you know, we were able to get people into things and lot of people like the kind of music that we play - Simon and Garfunkel, Jim Croce, Beatles, you know, that kind of thing, so it's . . .

CK. Easy listening.

JW. Easy listening type of stuff, and we played, you know we played at, uh, K of C uh, uh, uh, Christmas party and this one person asked us if we, you know, did any Everly Brothers and I said gee, we've never done Everly Brothers, so we looked it up, and found a song that we could play together, so we started - we did that.

CK. Which one was it?

JW. It's um . . .

CK. Didn't mean to put you on the spot...

JW. Yeah, now I can't think of what it is . . . hm. Anyway, it goes "I bless the day I found you", you know . . .

CK. (quiet hum)

JW. So that's one we like to play and,

CK. Yes, right.

JW. And then, lately we've been, every summer, uh, Dave and I get together and have a . . . a gathering at the north end of, of Grand Lake, uh

CK. The Shawnahee.

JW. The Seanachie, right.

CK. Shawna-he?

JW. Seanachie – schi, I guess, I'm not sure. So we uh, we do that, and that's - we just have so much fun with that, you know-

CK. Can you tell me a little bit about that? I was intrigued when I saw that.

JW. Yeah, we uh, uh, we started it, uh, you know, we had gotten together and then Dave, you know, he was kind of inspired by - I go to a place in over on the other side of the state called "Stone Circle", uh, and it's a, it's a, uh, gathering of people that come together on Saturday nights and the guy that runs it is a poet who - teaches at, uh

CK. Wooten?

JW. Terry Wooten, exactly.

CK. He went to school here, I believe.

JW. No kidding! No kidding. Yeah, so, Terry does the Stone Circle and they have - he does a lot of his poetry and recitation recitations, and people tell stories and they have people that play music, and, uh, you know, it's a really any big campfire and it's up on the hill overlooking the Grand Traverse Bay, and it's in a beautiful place, and I told Dave about that in fact . . . I don't know if I ever - I think I dragged him there one time. But, you know it was such a cool concept and Dave said I'd like to do that over here, and so then he came up with Seanachie because he's Irish, and, you know, that was a story teller, you know, in uh, Gaelic.

CK. Mm hm.

JW. So he uh, uh, decided to start that and we started doing it, and he lives up in, uh Presque Isle Harbor Association, so they have the, uh, two areas, uh, one is on Lake Huron where there's a house you know, a beach house, and then, you know, we would get out on the beach and play, uh, then we found that oftentimes the waves were too loud, and we couldn't hear ourselves, because we're not amplified, so we moved it to the north end of, uh, Grand Lake where they have the club house or the beach house or club house – I don't know what it's called. At any rate, it's part of the Presque Isle Harbor Association so,

CK. Mm hm.

JW. -we have a little campfire there, and then people come and you know, they're invited to – to play, and sometimes people do, they bring instruments and play and.

CK. Is that place that has a small swimming pool inside?

JW. Uh, that's the third place, this is on the Grand Lake itself, that's the-

CK. Ok.

JW. Yeah, that's the beach house, and the clubhouse, and the other, I can't remember what it's called. But, uh, so we're at the, uh . . . clubhouse, I think.

CK. Club house. Ok.

JW. But it's . . . yeah.

CK. Is it open to the public?

JW. Yeah.

CK. Anybody can come?

JW. Right, we do it, you know, from um . . . Memorial Day through Labor Day.

CK. Mm hm.

JW. Every Thursday night from 7:30 and we play until the bugs get too bad or it gets too dark and we can't see anymore. Uh, and uh, a lot of times Dave and I play, and a lot - as I said other people come, we've had people, some really good people that've come and brought their guitars and played, you know, along with us, and uh we've had uh, people play keyboard, we have - Dave's son plays keyboard, so we have a battery-operated uh, keyboard that he plays and his sons play, of course, Connor is in Bobbing for Piranhas, and uh, excellent musician, just fabulous, he comes and plays a lot n' a lot of his own music, and uh, his uh, younger son, uh . . . um there's Connor and Rory and . . . hmmm, I always forget the third one, that's how it is with three kids. Uh, but, so he plays keyboard and sings, and you know, it's really - really kind of a neat thing. And, uh, sometimes there's seven or eight, ten people there, and sometimes it's just Dave and I, and one time I went, and Dave was working, and uh, I was the only one there! And, uh, you know, I stayed there and I - I played for two and a half hours, and uh, and just had a blast all by myself. I played for the guy that was cleaning the toilets, and then uh, he left, and then I stayed until it got dark. I came home, my wife says, "Well, why didn't you come home?"

I said, "If I came home, I wouldn't have played at all!"

CK. Yeah.

JW. You know, I mean it was the most freeing experience, 'cause there was no, absolutely no stress, I had my guitar strapped to my . . . uh, to myself, and I just walked around sometimes, and I played, and I played without music because, you know, I didn't need it, you know, I could, I could play everything I knew from memory. So, uuuh, so that's a lot of fun. We have done that, and then . . .

CK. Now, is it on the beach, outside?

JW. Mm hm, yeah.

CK. Ok. Campfire and . . .

CK. Ok.

JW. Yeah, yeah, Dave's got a little portable, uh, uh, thing that we build a little fire on, and people sit around it and

CK. That sounds great!

JW. Oh, it's fabulous. It's just the most fun. I - I love it, and I look forward to it, and it's nice that I have more time to do be able to it, you know, now than I've had in the past, and a lot of times it's hard, Dave and I, you know, both physicians, somebody's on call, it seems like, or somebody's working and, you know, but uh, you know I usually try to get out there as much as possible. It's a lot of fun, even though, as I say, there's not very many people that come, but you know we probably don't advertise it very well, either, you know, so we've tried to get – get more people involved and it seems like there's – there's more people and the people that come, we've had people come from as far away as Alaska, you know I mean they were here visiting somebody . . .

CK. It's a word of mouth-

JW. Yeah.

CK. At this point, right?

JW. Right. Right. Uh, so it's not nearly as, as well known as Stone Circle, but uh, but it's, uh, it's our version. And of course, we do it on Thursday, because you know I want to have the weekends to be able to, I go over to the other side of the state, I have a place on Torch Lake and, uh, you know I, I uh, spend a lot of time sitting out on my deck or sitting out by the lake playing outside, and I just absolutely love it. Now I've played a couple of weddings, uh, I played at two weddings, I've got another wedding I'm playing at for people I work with, that wanted me to play. I always tell them, you know, I'm not a professional musician, you know, you have to take me warts and all. (Laughs) But, you know, it's worked out – worked out really well, it's uh, a little more stressful 'cause it's just me uh, uh . . . playing in a, you know, kind of little bit more uh-

CK. Focus on you, right?

JW. Focus, yeah, right, even though I'm just kind of there to provide music for people to, uh, uh, when they're coming in, and when they're leaving, you know as they're getting seated – and then, you know, they always seem to want Pachelbel, you know, for – for the uh, when they're coming down the aisle, and that's – that's hard for me to play, you know? (Laughs) I do my best - I have a simplified version that I play, but uh . . .

CK. So, if Guitar Summit was your first, um . . . performance in front of an audience – was, did it take long for you to reach a point where you were comfortable with that?

JW. Just, you know, when we got out there, I mean everybody was so supportive, you know, Greg Altman, you know, he was involved in that and, did most of the work with that, and Greg Adamus, and you know, they were just, you know, they knew I was a newbie, and you know, they were very supportive about, you know, what - what we were doing, and uh, uh we had to play or . . . that wasn't the first one, that was one of the other ones, but they wanted us to, uh play for uh, WBKB had a little news thing, and, and they interviewed Dave and I and then we played one of our - one of our tunes, you know, that they then played on, you know, on the uh, on the television news you know, as advertisement for the summit, and that - that was probably even more stressful because, of course we couldn't have our music, you know, so we were doing it from memory, and as soon as you don't have your music, you kind of forget everything, you know. I uh, always find when I'm - I can play things, I can play for hours, you know, in my room, un- you know, flawlessly, but as soon as I get in front of somebody I - I forget, you know, I get nervous still, so, um but uh . . .

CK. So tell me about you, your,

JW. (electronic blip of phone) Sorry.

CK. That's ok.

JW. Turn this off.

CK. Your arrangements with um, Dr. Larkin, your - how you two work together - were your, were your styles similar to begin with?

JW. We had similar interests, yeah, and uh, you know the music that, that I liked and had grown up with, you know, he liked and he likes and is good at doing harmonies, so Simon and Garfunkel works well for us, and then-

CK. Mm hm.

JW. Uh, we do a lot of that, and it's mainly, you know, like we always tell people we're - we're playing all the tunes and songs that we love and you know, so that's - you know, that's - that's what you get, you know, is what we know and what we love and - and you know we're always coming up with - with uh, new songs, you know, we'll hear things, and uh, you know just the other day I was watching the Today Show, and they had Jeff Daniels on-

CK. Mm hm.

JW. -who's an actor in plays, and in fact I think he's played here at, uh, in Alpena one time - or I saw him in Traverse City, I can't remember where, but at any rate, he - he plays guitar and writes songs, and he had a song that he, uh, had written for his son . . . uh, when he was very little, he said he was watching him in the crib, he said the song just kinda came to me, and uh, they played a little bit of it on the news and then he had played with Ben - uh, on a tour, they were touring, his son is a musician, so they played this song together and uh, and you know, at the end, you know, he uh, he hugged him and said you know, this - this was the best ever, you know, and that was just very

powerful to me, being as I have sons, and Dave has sons. And uh, actually we played with our sons on the Guitar Summit - one of the Summits, and my son came up from Detroit and we played a song, and uh, Dave and his son played, and then we all played together. But, you know, I heard that song and I just really liked it, it really spoke to me.

CK. Mm hm.

JW. You know it, uh, you know, one of the uh, lyrics – I mean, lyrics are just incredible sometimes, you wonder how they come up with things, but his son is - is talking to the father, hey Dad, hey Dad, you know, am I taller than I was yesterday? And he replies, Son, you're not - you ain't no bigger, but you're a little bit older, a little closer to being farther away.

CK. Oh, wow . . . Mm.

JW. So I really - you know, it obviously gets to me.

CK. Mm hm. Mm hm.

JW. Uh, but uh, you know I heard that, and I said, Dave and I - we have to do this song. So, you know, it's only available on YouTube, you know – it's not, he isn't hasn't published it, so I got the YouTube video and listened to it, and wrote down all the lyrics, and then I was able to download the song into a program I have on my iPad which deciphers the song and then gives you the chords.

CK. Oh!

JW. You know, so and you can get things from YouTube on that, which is nice, 'cause it gives me a starting place, you know. A lot of times you can just listen to it and try and figure it out – and you know, I can watch the YouTube video and see that he's playing a D chord - ok I know it's in the key of D, so, you know, it's just a very time-consuming process, so, aah, you know, we come up with songs that way and I wrote it out and got all the - the things and gave it to Dave, and he, uh, looked at the video, said yeah, we gotta do this song. So, you know, some of those songs are the way we get them and uh, and frequently I - I listen to the radio and I'll hear a song, and I've got a pad and paper next to me.

CK. Uh huh.

JW. In, in my cars, and – 'cause I can't remember – and I'll quickly write down who it is and try and get the – and now, with the, you know, on the satellite radio, it actually gives you the

CK. It's all laid out for you, yes.

JW. It's all written out there, so you can write it down. Then I come home, I go to iTunes, I look up the song, I download the song, and then I put it on my iPad, then I've got two programs, one that'll slow down the music so that you can stop it and just play little snippets of the song and go over and over again to try and figure it out and then I've got the other program that kinda gives me the chords so I can, you know, get the chords and, and uh, you know, have the – have the song –

and then you can go online and get the lyrics a lot of times, so you can just download the lyrics and then, you know, add the chords, and it's just amazing-

CK. It is amazing.

JW. – the technology, you know, I have several iterations of, of devices to do that – you know, I started, uh, with a variable speed tape recorder, because on a tape, as it goes into the tape, the pitch changes because the speed of the tape changes a little bit.

CK. Mm hm.

JW. You know, as you're beginning or the end, so you have to have a variable speed to try and, you know, match the sound to what it is. And, uh, you know I think the first song I ever did was, you know, "City of New Orleans" and that's one that Dave and I do all the time – we always start with that 'cause it's our favorite, and we just get comfortable, you know, doing that. But, you know, I had spent, you know, hours – you know, I heard that was, was done by a, a Dr. Goodheart – you ever heard – heard of him? He's a chiropractor but he uh, uh, uh does music and he's over on the other side of the state and does - plays a lot of festivals and I had seen him and they, they played that song and it just - I really liked it. And that was one of the first songs that I kind of picked up and wrote down and figured out and uh, and played. But, you know, from that, then I've gotten, you know, digital recorders, and I've got, you know, other things that I can kind of play – play my stuff into so I can, you know, kinda figure out, 'cause now I'm trying to figure out - a lot of times the chords are one thing, but it's what goes in between the chords which is where the interesting stuff and the most difficult to do, you know, and uh, so it, uh, you know, now that technology is so much better, it's just a lot of fun, and you know I try home recording, and you know, I've got, you know, amplifiers and all that kind of stuff.

CK. You can get kind of innovative,

JW. Oh, yeah.

CK. I mean, there's so much – so much

JW. There is, and it's

CK. That, yes – it's wonderful.

JW. You know, the problem has always been time. You know, and I'll have, fifteen minutes, or twenty minutes or half an hour, you know, so I tend to play what I know, because I can do that, you know, and, and, and have a sense of accomplishment – sometimes these other things take hours and hours, to, you know, to do, to to get it, to get it down. I've got this song that I'm working on, and that song, and this song, and I've got one and – no! I heard one today you know, and I want to do that! And uh, so it's, uh, it's been a lot of fun. You know, I heard Garth Brooks play a song, uh, it's called "Mom", uh and I heard him on Today Show again, you know. And he was there, and he said, "You know, I have a hard time playing this song, I rarely get through it without breakin' up", and he

said “now I didn’t write this song, but I should have done this song years ago” – because he lost his Mom, uh, I think to breast cancer, but, uh, uum . . . it was just an incredibly powerful song, you know, and I just – I just loved it. And uh, you know again, did the same thing and then uh, you know, played it at my Mom’s memorial, and, you know, it was - I had the same problem that he did. I said, you know, Garth Brooks can hardly get through this song without breaking up, so I don’t feel so bad.

CK. Yeah. Mm hm.

JW. But, uh, it’s a really cool song, and it’s uh, just uh – you know, like I say, I just - I run into these things, you know I never know where I’m gonna hear the next song that I really like and uh, and uh, wanna make my own.

CK. It is interesting, sometimes the timeliness of those things and when they show up in your life is sort of, uh . . . fascinating.

JW. It is.

CK. Yup.

JW. It really is.

CK. When you least expect it, something that comes along and it just fits. Fits what you need right then.

JW. Right.

CK. Yeah. Yeah. Do you and Dave get together and practice?

JW. Not as much as we’d like to, we uh, of course he’s busy – he’s got three kids that are younger than, than mine – mine are all gone. But uh, he uh, uh, when we’ve got something that we’re gonna, uh, play for, like this May, we’re playing for the “Docs That Rock” thing, we do that all the time at the, it’s a fundraiser for uh, for uh, the uh Friends Together, uh at the Fresh Palate. They’ve done that uh, two years now, and they always want us to play. Which is nice, we enjoy playing there, but then we’ll get together and uh, and uh, and work on our stuff, but, you know, we haven’t had as much time to uh, to work on new things – you know, we keep having these songs that we’d like to, we’d like to do, and then we don’t have time to work on ‘em, we kind of fall back on the stuff we always do, but people still seem to like it, so (laughs) – you know, it’s the tried and true stuff.

CK. That’s what matters. Yup, yup. Do you ever play outside of Alpena – or is it mostly local?

JW. Mostly local, yeah.

CK. Uh huh. I saw that you play, um, at least this past year, you did – for the Thunder Bay Folk Society?

JW. Right.

CK. The Folk Festival?

JW. Right, I played there the first time last year - they've asked us to play again this year. That was a lot of fun. Uh, I think again we played again our tried and true stuff, but uh, everybody seemed like they, they enjoyed it and

CK. How do you decide what you're going to play? I mean, do you actually do a list?

JW. Oh, yeah,

CK. Or is it kind of impromptu?

JW. No, we do a list, and uh, and then we, like I say, we have uh, certain ones that we've played all - all the time and then uh, we have some new ones that, we've, you know, like the Everly Brothers song that we play, and we've played, uh, uuh, one Frank Sinatra song and uh, uuh, so it, uh, you know, every now and then we come up with things, and he'll give me the music, and I send him music, and then we, uh, work on it and try to - try to get it . . . You know, it's hard for us because, you know like I say, we don't have much time-

CK. Time, yeah.

JW. -but, uh to uh really work on it, but uh, usually we'll get together you know, before we have a gig that we're gonna be playing, we, uh, get together frantically several times in the, in the week before, and we're gonna do it even though we've known about it for months, you know but we somehow we never get around to getting it done. Dave's been really busy, the ER's been terrible, I know they're short-staffed, and we've been - I've been short-staffed my whole career here in, uh, in radiology, and uh, so it's time has been an issue, so it's, uh, when we get together for-

CK. When you can do it-

JW. Music, we - we take the opportunity and - and just really, really enjoy. That's why we like the seanachie, 'cause it, and we're playing once a week - you know, every week we get together and,

CK. Mm hm.

JW. You know, he plays new things he's been workin' on, I play new things that I'm workin' on, and we do stuff together, uh . . . and get to listen to other people, too, so that's - that's a lot of fun.

CK. That sounds great. I hope I'm around to, uh, come to one of those.

JW. Oh, definitely! Gosh, we'd love to have ya. You know where, it's right up on the very north end of Grand Lake, you know, if you take 23 North to I think it's 638, and it goes to the Presque Isle Lighthouse.

CK. Right, right.

JW. And then, just before you get – get to, it forks off to the Presque Isle Lighthouse, and then there's uh . . . I think it's . . . Pine, I think it is, the road that comes in, and then it's just down, and there's a sign that says "The Clubhouse" and it's McCreary Road I think that it's on, and uh, uh parking there, and like I say, we're one of us is there or both of us, and yeah, it's a lot of fun. And like I said, people can participate n' - or not participate, depending, they just have to bring their own chair, if you want a beverage, you bring that, but uh . . . uh, yeah, it's a lot of fun.

CK. You mentioned that both your son, sons and Dave's sons play as well?

JW. Mm hm.

CK. Was that something - how do you, how did that evolve, in your – in your case?

JW. Yeah.

CK. Did –

JW. I forced my son to take piano lessons, uh, which he absolutely hated.

CK. Ok.

JW. And I said, you got to take at least one year, at least – my dad made me take it for years and years, but I said you got to at least take it for one year. And, you know, made him take the piano lessons and he was – he hated it, and didn't want to do it, and fought me, and whatnot. So finally, we just said fine. Let it go. And then he wanted to play guitar. So, I said, ok, I'll support you with that, so I – he wanted electric guitar, so I bought him an electric guitar and I got him a – ah, amplifier and whatnot, and then, you know, he kinda played a little bit, but discovered that it was harder than, than he thought.

CK. Mm hm.

JW. So he didn't make much progress, actually didn't really pursue it. Uh, so, then he went to, uh, college, Michigan State, and uh, he uh, discovered that college was a lot harder than - than he thought, first semester he just partied all the time and then was in trouble academically. And then, really tried hard and then discovered that he wasn't very well prepared, ah, even when he tried he couldn't do it. And he ended up being recessed from uh, Michigan State. So I told him, I said, you know, maybe college isn't for you, you know, maybe you want to come back here, you know, go to ACC, what do you want to do? Go in the Army, you know – something, anything, you know. It's fine, it doesn't matter. If you want to just work, you know, that's ok, too. Nope, I don't want to come back to Alpena, that's admitting defeat, and so he went to uh, community college in Petoskey. Cottage over there and, you know, he had been over there on that side of the state, so at any rate, he went to the community college there and uh, you know he worked at it, and then he was living in this horrible house and uh, he uh, decided that he wanted to uh, get a guitar, so he bought himself an acoustic guitar. And uh, then uh, he was working on the acoustic guitar and he said, you know –

he really worked hard on it. And he said, “You know, he says, uh, if you really work hard and practice you can actually do something with it.”

And this was an epiphany, uh, if you practice, you’ll be rewarded. And he translated that into his schooling – he said, “You know, if you study, and work harder than everybody, you do well.”

And he just turned it – I mean, he had a 0.5 grade point average in - at Michigan State, and uh, he went to, uh, uh, at uh, uh, Petoskey, he went to school there for a while, and he didn’t like it, he said it’s kinda like high school, and so then he transferred down to uh, uh, the Northeast Michigan College and uh, Grand – er, uh - Traverse City.

CK. Mm hm.

JW. And went there, and he was – he just tore ‘em up. I mean, you know, got all A’s and graduated and got his - his uh, uh, two year degree, and then transferred down to uh, Western Michigan. And you know, in the meantime, he had learned, you know, he says, I really can’t live with anybody, I have to be by myself, ‘cause I get in trouble when I’m with other people. So, he just got himself his own little apartments, and, uh, you know, studied hard and played his guitar and uh, did very well and graduated from Mich-, uh from Western, you know, summa cum laude and uh, and uh, and got a full ride scholarship for uh, psychology at West Virginia Ph.D. program, which he decided not to do - you know, he didn’t like that, so he didn’t finish it. But you know, he – he really, the music was the, you know, as much as I whooped on him and, and you know, lectured and said, you gotta work hard and you have to study and good – you know, good enough is not good enough, you know, I mean that’s been my mantra as much as my Dad – you know, my Dad, you know he and I re-wired several houses together and he always said, you know, the code, the electrical code is just, er, you know, kind of the starting point, so everything he did was code plus. And every time the inspectors would come out – wow. You know, I mean there’s absolutely nothing wrong, you know, you’re way more than you needed to do here, but that’s what he wanted to do, that’s like he did it. And, uh, you know, Tyler, you know, when he discovered that if you work hard in music, you can, you can make, you can make progress, and that changed - turned his whole life around, you know – he ended up getting his Master’s in psychology, but uh, you know, he’s, you know that was really a-

CK. Pivotal.

JW. -an opening for him,

CK. Yeah.

JW. and uh, and then, you know he’s continued to play, and you know, like I say, he and I played at the Guitar Summit and you know, that was – that was one of the best times, you know, when we did that.

CK. Mm hm, mm hm. Yeah. It’s – It’s, music is an amazing and kind of wonderful bit of our culture that . . .

JW. It is-

CK. Can-

JW. -and it's so sad that oftentimes that's one of the first things to get cut out of the budget for the schools, and it shouldn't be. When I was in, in uh, junior high, my homeroom teacher was the music teacher, and uh – Mr. Longry, and you know, he, he just, I don't know, he he he latched on to me. And, he uh, you know, we'd get our report cards, and he'd say, everybody's dismissed except for you, Mr. Weeks. And I'd have to sit there, and he'd say, you know, "Look at this report card, you know, "you've got three B's here", you know, for, you know, "you can do better than that." You know, "I expect more from you", uh, and you know, "you need to work up to your potential." You know, I was thinking, geeze, B, that's not so bad, you know, but, you know he didn't – I mean, that was every day, I mean, all the time. He was, you know, encouraging, but you know, I mean, man, I had to knuckle down so, you know, I – you know by, when I was ninth grade, which we were, junior high was ninth grade then – you know, I got all A's, well, then Mr. Longry couldn't, couldn't be upset with me, because I had done it. And - and then I continued to do it, you know, I mean I got all A's all through, you know, all through high school, you know, and valedictorian, co-valedictorian – there were six of us that had all A's, you know, but, uh - back in the day when A was all you could get. Uh, but you know, he really – he really pushed me, and you know, I mean, he was my music teacher, but you know, he didn't really pushed me in music, but he pushed me in academics.

CK. Uh huh.

JW. And uh, you know, like I said-

CK. He probably saw what you were capable of doing.

JW. I guess - don't know how, you know (laughs)

CK. Were you playing piano at that time-in?

JW. Yeah. Oh, yeah. Mm hm.

CK. Do you ever play piano?

JW. Just, I have a keyboard, and I play a little, but not much.

CK. Uh huh.

JW. Yeah.

CK. Yeah. Guitar is what – you found the guitar.

JW. Right.

CK. Right. Yeah. Well, we've talked about, yes, those places that you are involved in here – is there anything else that you would like to add to what we've been talking, memorable performances or moments in music that stick in your mind?

JW. Yeah, well – you know, like I say, the time that we played with our sons was, was a, certainly a memorable uh, event. You know, I thoroughly enjoyed, you know, playing you know, for, for benefits – you know, we don't play for money, you know, we play-

CK. Mm hm.

JW. -for free, and uh, you know, that's, you know, I enjoy being a part of that. You know, we played for Habitat one time, and that was a lot of fun, and like I say, we play for fundraisers and, you know, Christmas parties and, and things like that, you know, it's just uh, uh

CK. To see the - I've heard other musicians say this, that the pleasure, the gift is derived from seeing how much people are enjoying the experience.

JW. Right, right. I can see how, how – you know, I saw Garth Brooks play in Las Vegas and you know he went through his evolution, you know, his show in Las Vegas was sort of like, you know, this is, this is where I started, and these were the songs that influenced me, and you know, he would play something from the Beatles and then he would play one of his songs. He said, you know, did you hear it? Did you hear it? You know, and then he was playing some of his songs, and of course the whole audience was into it, and so they're all playing – or singing along, and you know, he just said, you have no idea - when I'm up here and you're singing back to me, what that means. You know, that's the best.

CK. Mm hm, mm hm.

JW. And a lot of musicians have said that, you know where they just love it when people are participating and, and enjoying their music so much that they've got it memorized and they singing it out, so that was really cool. We went to see Simon and Garfunkel, and they're on their reunion tours before they broke up again, and we went down to, to Cleveland to – to see them, 'cause I couldn't get tickets to the one in uh, in uh Detroit. And so, my wife said, well, we'll just follow wherever they go, we'll go, you know, so she knew how much I liked 'em. And so, we went down to Cleveland, and uh, you know, the place was packed, you know, it was huge venue, you know it was the basketball uh, thing, and there were just you know, thousands of people there, and they were playin', and you know, everybody was singing and enjoying and it was just so much fun, you know, it was just the best. It was the best. Seemed like Art Garfunkel was having more fun than Paul Simon, but you know, Paul's kind of a . . . kind of a sourpuss sometimes.

CK. Uh huh. (Laughter)

JW. But, you know, it was, it was a lot of fun, and you know, I – I think they were having a good time, but it was, you know, that was one of the most enjoyable concerts that I can remember – uum, probably because it was, you know, I grew up with them,

CK. Right, right.

JW. I played them, and uh, you know, thoroughly enjoyed it. I have this obsession with guitars – I think I have twenty-four guitars now, you know so.

CK. You've come a long way since that first one!

JW. I've come a long way

CK. that you couldn't get calluses from!

JW. 'Cause I've got, you know, six string guitars, and twelve string guitars and nylon-string guitars, and resonators, and I've got, you know a banjo, and I've got, you know I - which I haven't learned how to play yet – you know, I bought it 'cause I heard my grandfather was a banjo player, I never knew that.

CK. Mm hm.

JW. He died when I was fourth grade, uh, but you know I never knew that he played and my dad had told me that he had played, that he - he was in banjo club, and they would get together and play, you know, banjo. And one of the things he said that, you know, it's really good if you're playing with somebody and you both finish at the same time, because he said, that way people think you know what you're doing, and everything that you did in between is just interesting improvisation, so all the mistakes that you make is just improvisational. So if you finish at the end, that's the key. So, I uh, my dad was in the nursing home, and uh, he was, had pretty bad dementia, and you know it was really sad because he was one of the most brilliant people . . . sorry . . . but it was really hard to see him like that. But, you know, I, I brought my guitar in and played for him, and wherever he was, you know when I finished a song, he would kind of roust up and kind of give me a little applause. And uh, you know he was getting worse and worse, time went on, but, uh, you know, I was, you know, just talking with my mom, you know I had mentioned that story about banjo club, and my dad, you know, roused up and, and laughed, and said "Banjo club!" you know, so he was in there.

CK. Yes. Yes.

JW. And uh, and the music, you know, reached him. And it was funny, because I'd be out there, we'd go to the sunroom and I'd play, and uh, you know, little by little people would come down, you'd see they're, they're kind of moving their wheelchairs, one little roll at a time, you know, and they'd all come down and listen as I played, and uh, and they enjoyed it, and that's one thing I want to do, you know, now that I'm retired is to, is to play. I know that Greg Altman and his group, uh, they play at, uh, Tendercare a lot, and uh,

CK. There's –

JW. Dave and I played at, uh, one of the, uh, the Senior Citizen's uh, uh, residences' over by the mall.

CK. Oh, yes. Yes. Uh huh, uh huh.

JW. And, uh, that, the people just really like that.

CK. Yup, yup.

JW. We had – we had such a good time and that was something and is something that I - I want to do more of, uh, you know, just-

CK. That's great – that's great.

JW. Take all my toys out n- and play, 'cause I know how much – how much my dad, you know enjoyed, uh – enjoyed that.

CK. It's so meaningful. Yup. It's a, it's really a gift, a contribution that's important, I think.

JW. Yup.

CK. Um, in all my notes, too, it's – I have that you like the finger-picking style.

JW. Mm hm.

CK. So it seems like banjo-

JW. Yeah

CK. -is - that's a perfect, um, crossover for you.

JW. Right. Right. That's one of my goals, is to learn how to play that, and I've got a resonator guitar that, you know, is a slide - slide guitar that I've found very interesting, but that's . . . that's really hard and I haven't figured out how to do that yet. So. And then I've got a Irish bouzouki, um, which I had heard, uh, one of the - I can't remember who it was that played here – but, uh, he played the bouzouki and he said that that everyone told him he shouldn't play the bouzouki but uh

CK. What is the bouzouki, can you describe it?

JW. It's uh, it's like an octave mandolin, so it's a, it's an octave lower than a mandolin.

CK. Ok.

JW. And uh, it's uh, eight strings, uh uh, you know, it's tuned like a mandolin except it's lower, and uh, it's – it's a very interesting sound, and a lot of Irish music, uh – I'd like to get into some of that, I have Irish roots, too, so. Dave, of course, is uh, is - has a lot of Irish in him. He had a – he was going to Ireland, and uh, for vacation he asked me, he said, you know, I says, I've got this guy that, his name is Larkin, who's a luthier and makes guitars, and you know, he - I can get a custom guitar made, you know, by this uh, Larkin Guitar, he says, but it's kind of expensive, I'm not sure I should do it. I said, Steve, god, this is no-brainer – I said, you gotta do it! You know, you're gonna to

Ireland, you're gonna to meet the guy, you know, you're Irish, you know, you've got the roots – it's a, it's a Larkin guitar, for gosh's sakes! So, you know he did, and he got it - he's got a Larkin guitar, and it's a beautiful instrument and, uh, you know, when he went over there to, he went over there to see it, they were still making it and uh, and then uh he met the guy, and uh, and then he had came back, and then it wasn't ready yet so then he had to have it shipped back. And he said actually it would've been cheaper for him if he'd uh, you know, gone over there and bought a ticket for the guitar and put it in the seat next to him than to, than to ship it – you know, and the cost kept changing every time he, you know, call, it was different because the Euros were changing, you know, so the guitar was getting more expensive. (Laughter)

CK. Well, I really want to thank you for coming in and taking the time to come in-

JW. Oh, you're welcome

CK. -'cause I know your time's kinda precious and I'm happy to hear that you'll have more of it to explore, it sounds like that's a big part of your enjoyment,

JW. It is.

CK. is putting things together and um, I wish you well with that.

JW. Well, thank you, I appreciate that.

CK. Yup.

JW. It's like I say, it's been – I've been kinda working my way towards retirement for a long time, planning, and you know the music is a big part of it. You know, I've got a whole row of music videos – uh, that's a very interesting thing to, now that you can get things on DVD, and you know, listen to, see, play, you know, and I, I've got this Pete, Pete Hut, Hoyt, Hoytinger, Huttlinger, is a musician, he used to play with John Denver, and uh, he uh, uuh, put out a number of music videos for John Denver, Gordon Lightfoot uh, and uh Jim Croce, are the ones that he has music videos for, many of the songs that I love, and uh, so now I can, I can, uh, you know work on those more, and you know like I say, go back and forth and he just explains everything and it's all written out in tablature and whatnot, so you can kinda learn how it, you know, something like I say, those little - little riffs that make it interesting are sometimes the most difficult to figure out, so he does that, and now even more so because he uh, had a stroke – he's a young guy, and he had some heart problems and he ended up with a massive stroke and uh, he was in terrible heart failure, and they thought he was gonna die, and (? Inaudible) and uh, you know, it was devastating, and then, you know, he finally - he recovered, and he said it was horrible, because his - he said 'I didn't forget any of the music, a - but, he said, 'my right hand didn't work. And so my left hand could do the chords, but my right hand couldn't play, and he said 'I had to', you know, 'start all over again and learn and force myself to, to learn how to do it.' They had an article about him in "Acoustic Guitar Magazine", and you know his struggle through that and his determination, and he says 'I'm pretty much back now'. But, you know, I mean when I had first heard that, I was devastated, because I love the guy and uh,

it was, you know it was, uh, nice to hear that he uh, made a recovery. And . . . but, you know, and it's, you know, that what he - his hurdles and that he overcame, are incredible, so, you know, whatever hurdles I have are nothing compared to that, so it's, uh, neat, and I think about that whenever I put on one of his - one of his videos to uh, to work on a song, because, you know, I know that he's doing better now. So, that's a good thing.

CK. Mm hm. Is there a room in the Weeks' house that's devoted to the 24 guitars and the keyboard and . . .

JW. Yup, I have the music room.

CK. The music room.

JW. My wife hates it because it's a lot of entropy in that room, so there's a lot of different th- you know a lot of the stuff takes, you know, wires and things to put it together, and I've got my amps in there and I've got - well, my daughter's - it's my daughter's room, and uh, she had a walk-in closet, and that's where all my guitars are, and I've got a dedicated humidifier in there-

CK. Right.

JW. -because you wanna keep your guitars humidified, so um, it's at a constant 53% humidity in there and uh, and then I can, I pick out a different guitar, you know, every day I play something different, I don't know what it is that - I've got all my guitars labeled now, I couldn't tell 'cause all the cases look the same, you know, and so I made little labels so I know, you know.

CK. Who's who.

JW. Which one's the Kenny Loggins, uh, you know uh, guitar, and which one's the uh, James Goodall, and which one is, you know, which, so I can play different guitars. And, you know, and I've purchased guitars different places, you know, I went to uh, Washington on a mid-conference one time, and I like to go to guitar shops when I'm in different places, to see what they have. And I went there and I was talkin' to a guy, you know, they had a few guitars, and he asked me what I had, and he says, 'Well maybe you'd like to get something a little different', you know. He says, you just have a seat right there at the top of the stairs - it was a walk-up place - and uh, he sat me down in a chair, and all these people were coming up to go to their thing, and there's all these musicians coming in to get their guitar strings changed and this and that and the other thing, and they're talkin' about their gigs that they're gonna play and whatnot, and I'm sittin' there, and I don't know how to hardly play anything, really, but, you know, I played what I could, and then this guy starts bringing guitars from the back, and that's where they had 'em all, is in the back, they just had a few in the front and he's bringin' out, he says, you might wanna try this, try this one, try this one, and . . . and uh, you know I finally decided on, you know, after I played all these guitars, you know I really liked this particular Breedlove guitar, you know. He said, 'you know, this was made for Carly Simon, but she decided it was too small, and she wanted to hide behind the guitar, so she wanted one with a bigger body, so she didn't get that guitar', so then, you know, he had gotten it, and whether it's true

or not, I don't know, but that's what he told me, and so I bought that guitar. And then I went out to, uh, Seattle, and I went to a guitar shop, and I played a bunch of used guitars and whatnot, and had this uh uuuh, James Goodall guitar, who's from Hawaii, and I just really liked his guitar, and 'nah, I'm not gonna buy it'. I went home and I said 'I really want that guitar'. Called him up and said 'listen, can you ship me that guitar?', and he said 'yeah, no problem'. So they shipped me that guitar. And we went to Savannah for a thing, and I – uh, just vacation, I went to a guitar shop, and I saw this guitar and I'd seen 'em in a guitar magazine, but I'd never played one before and it was a uuuh, you know, just and incredible, a McPherson guitar, and it was just the most incredible thing, you know – a very different style and whatnot of guitar, and I uh, fell in love with it and ended up buying it, you know. So I keep buying these, you know, it's a, it's an obsession. Like Dave wrote a song, called uh, called "GAS", and that's, it stands for 'guitar acquisition syndrome', (laughter) so, you know, just one more guitar!

Sue says, 'Well, don't they all play the same?'

I said 'no, not really', you know, they're all a little bit different.

CK. Mm hm. Mm hm.

JW. You know, I've got too many guitars, I know that, but I don't ever get rid of one 'cause I still love the ones that I have, you know, so you know, it's just a...

CK. It's a healthy obsession.

JW. Yeah, I guess, but it's a, it's – I probably spent too much, but uh, like I say, a lot of them are different, you know, I've got a six string, twelve string, nylon string, you know, acoustic-electric, just acoustic, you know, non-electric, I've got an electric guitar, I've got an electric twelve string, electric six-string, so you know, and I still have the guitars that I had, uh, in college, so I haven't gotten rid of anything. (Laughter) And I've got, you know, uh guitars made out of – of carbon fiber, you know, I've got one over at the cottage that's carbon fiber, because it, it doesn't – it's not affected by humidity, so I don't have to humidify it.

CK. Ok.

JW. So that one can be over there and it's safe, you know, I don't have to worry about it.

CK. What's the tone like on that?

JW. Oh, it's excellent, sounds like a regular.

CK. Really.

JW. A regular acoustic guitar, so . . . yeah, I play it – and then I play that one, I've got another one that's a combination carbon fiber and fiber glass, and that – that one I play a lot at the Seanachie 'cause we're outside and it's damp, you know, and otherwise your guitar is always going out of tune and that one's not affected by the, by the weather, so. But, yeah, I've, I had one guitar that I looked

at in Traverse City, it was used and it was just absolutely gorgeous, made of koa, you know, wood, and I - I really liked it, and it was nice, but aaah, I can't, I can't buy that guitar. So then Sue went over there, she says, 'Well, I just want to look at it'

I said, "Ok." It's a, you know, it's a guitar shop there.

So she went and looked at it, said - 'Whoa, that is a beautiful guitar'. Then she bought it for me, so I didn't, I had, I had successfully gotten away without getting it, then she bought it for me. And then I bought a baritone guitar which is a low - it's five steps lower than a normal guitar, so it's got a lot of bass, and I was looking at that guitar, and uh, you know, I said, well, I don't know if I should get that guitar and she was down in Indiana, and gonna pick up a cat from her daughter, who's a vet, and she had delivered these cats, uh, by C-section, and the client had wanted all these cats to be put down, and she said, I can't put down normal animals, so I'll just keep 'em and find homes for 'em, so they hand raised them, you know, and then she went down to, uh, to get the cat, and then she said, you know, she's got a brother and, you know, he needs a home, too, you know, so he uh, you know, I want to get the other cat, too. I said well, I'd kind of like to get this baritone guitar, so maybe you get the - I would let her get the cat without getting the baritone guitar, but ...

CK. (Laughing) You used it for leverage-

JW. I used it for leverage, yeah. Show you a picture of my cats, but uh . . . um, I don't know if it'll come up, it's the screen saver, so I don't know if it'll come up, but, uh . . . uuuh, no, in fact, it won't.

CK. Hm.

JW. But, uh, at any rate, they're, they're twins, you know, so I have a picture of them sleeping together, you know, nose-to-nose, they're so cute. Uh, but uh, so yeah, like I say, now I'm to the point where it's, uh, everything that I have is all that I want, you know, so I - I don't think I'm gonna be acquiring any more guitars. I've said that before, but I don't have any room now. And then I got a guitar, uh, I got the first one they actually made, uh uh - I had seen it in a magazine . . . There - aren't they cute?

CK. Oh, my gosh. They're gorgeous.

JW. So, it was a uh, travel guitar, 'cause that's another thing that's always been an issue, you want to take the guitar with you when you travel and it's, you know, the airlines, you know, fitting things in the overhead bin, you know, in a regular seat the guitar's too big, they used to let you put 'em in a closet, I heard they won't let you do that anymore, and you put it in with the luggage and they can really get beat up, you know, it's not very good. (Phone beep) So, uh, any rate, I saw this carbon fiber uh, uh guitar that - that folds down, you know, into a - uh, and it, and it's made to the airline specifications for overhead compartment.

CK. Hm!

JW. It is the only thing when you travel that would actually fit in that thing that they say it has to fit into. You know, you look at people - they've got things that are this thick, you know, everything in there, they're much bigger. Mine is made to be that 14 by 17 by, you know, 6 inches, you know.

CK. You do have that-

JW. That is - So there's no way that anybody can say that can't go in there, and uh, so, and it, you know, it - it it literally the one part comes off, and then it goes into a thing, and then it's, the body is, it's not a big, you know, it's small, but - uh, and then you snap it together, and you know it - it and it's almost in tune, you know, even with that, I mean, it's incredible. So it takes very little tuning to get it uh, up to uh, uh up to tune, and then, you know, and I can play and uh, it's uh.

CK. That's great!

JW. You know, it's so nice, and I - I talked - I called 'em and talked to these people and uh, you know they said, well, you know we have to sell it through a guitar shop, so I, I said well, Elderly's in Lansing, I've done a lot of work with them, so I called Elderly's and asked 'em if they would, you know, and so then they went to look at the guitar at the NAMM guitar show and thought it was incredible, too, you know, so they decided they were going to be a dealer for this guitar, and then you know, they built the carbon fiber was the first one that they had built, and they sent it to Elderly's because I had gotten them the contract, if you will, you know, so uh, so they uh, uh, sold it to me - and uh, and it's. it's wonderful, because I don't, there's no stress, always-

CK. Mm hm

JW. -before there's stress, is it gonna to go in, or you put it in there and it's kinda going over one, and you see somebody jam something up right on top here - your guitar neck, oh, gosh, this is terrible.

CK. Mm hm. (Phone beep & vibration noise)

JW. So I uh, uh, yeah, I got that, and then I - I just recently bought a silent guitar, and uh, it's, it's basically, you know it's kind of a, looks like a frame thing, but it's got strings on it and everything, and you when you're playing it, you can hardly hear it, you know, because it's like an electric guitar, uh, but then you plug headphones in and it sounds just like, uh, a you know it's got electronics in there and it sounds just like an acoustic guitar, and then it's got, you know, different sound effects, you know, chorus and reverb and all that kinda thing that you can dial in.

CK. Mm hm.

JW. So my wife is sleeping, I can play that and hear myself perfectly fine and it doesn't disturb her, you know, at all, or if I'm in a hotel, and a lot of times you can't play -

CK. Mm hm, mm hm

JW. -Especially in the morning because people are sleeping, and you know nobody can hear it-

CK. Yeah

JW. -but I hear it just fine, you know, with the, with the uh, headphones. And then the other thing is, you can plug your iPad into the guitar and then play your tune and hear that, and yourself playing along with it.

CK. Oh, ok.

JW. It's fantastic, and you know and then, you've got, you know I've got noise cancelling headphones so you know I hear everything, so I discovered I was making a lot of mistakes that I didn't realize you know, because I'm just not fingering it right, or something so it, it really kind of hones, forces you to hone your skills a little bit, because you're, you're hearing all the mistakes. (Laughs) And then you can plug it into an amp, you know, so you can play it out, if you wanted to, so it's pretty neat, uh, gadget. I saw that in *Acoustic Guitar Magazine*. I've gotta quit reading the *Acoustic Guitar Magazine*, it's costing me a lot of money.

CK. You've got a guitar for every occasion! (Laughter)

JW. I do!

CK. Wonderful.

JW. So, at any rate...

CK. All right, well thank you.

JW. Oh, you're welcome.