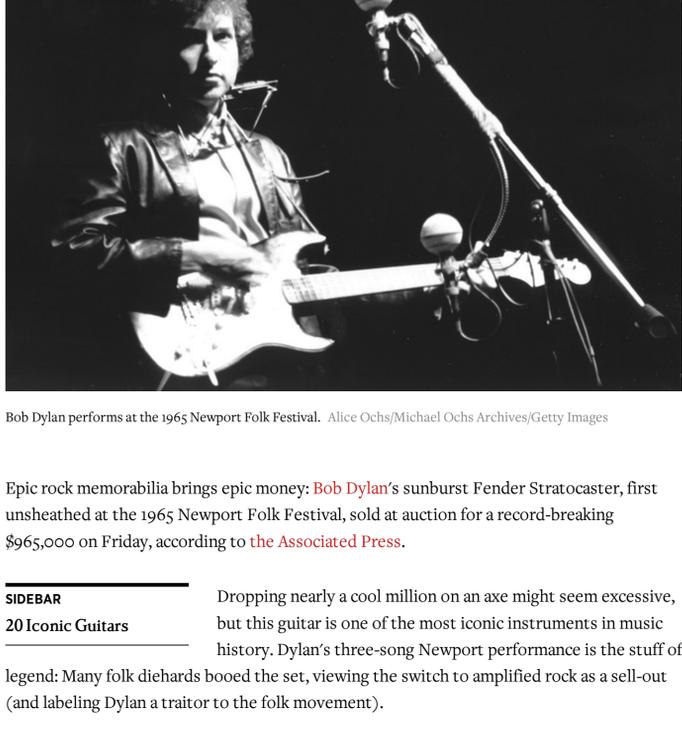


Bob Dylan's Newport Guitar Sells for Nearly a Million Bucks

Surpasses Clapton's 'Blackie' as the most expensive guitar ever auctioned

BY RYAN REED | December 6, 2013



Bob Dylan performs at the 1965 Newport Folk Festival. Alice Ochs/Michael Ochs Archives/Getty Images

Epic rock memorabilia brings epic money: **Bob Dylan's** sunburst Fender Stratocaster, first unsheathed at the 1965 Newport Folk Festival, sold at auction for a record-breaking \$965,000 on Friday, according to [the Associated Press](#).

SIDEBAR Dropping nearly a cool million on an axe might seem excessive, but this guitar is one of the most iconic instruments in music history. Dylan's three-song Newport performance is the stuff of legend: Many folk diehards boed the set, viewing the switch to amplified rock as a sell-out (and labeling Dylan a traitor to the folk movement).

Despite the historical importance of the instrument, Christie's auction house wasn't expecting such a massive price: pre-auction estimates for the guitar (which also included the original leather strap and hardshell case) were between \$300,000 and \$500,000. Within the case itself was another hidden gem: early-draft lyrics to three Dylan tunes ("Absolutely Sweet Marie," "I Wanna Be Your Lover" and two others). Those pieces were estimated between \$3,000 and \$30,000 by the auction house.

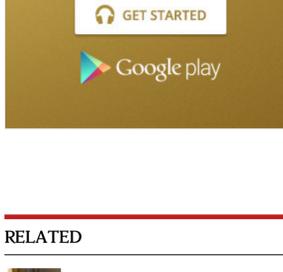
Dylan's guitar now holds the record for the most expensive guitar ever auctioned, topping **Eric Clapton's** "Blackie," which sold for \$959,500 back in 2004.

The buyer of Dylan's Stratocaster remains unnamed for now, but the story of its prior ownership is fascinating: Dylan left the guitar on a private plane, and when the pilot notified the songwriter's management, he never received a response. The Strat has remained in the pilot's family for nearly 50 years, and it was authenticated last year when the his daughter, Dawn Peterson, brought it on the PBS program *History Detectives*.

Speaking of Dylan in 1965: Last month, the legend released an [interactive music video](#) for "Like a Rolling Stone," which *Rolling Stone* named the [greatest song of all time](#).



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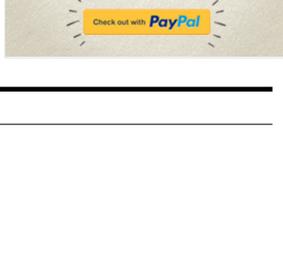
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Jeff Jefferson · a year ago
"... "Like a Rolling Stone," which Rolling Stone named the greatest song of all time."

But Time magazine says "Time Has Come Today" (Chambers Brothers) is the greatest song of all time.

Go figure.

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Kevin · a year ago
I'm sure the unnamed buyer is Jim Irsay. He owns all the other important guitars that have come up for sale for the last decade or so.

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sharkguitar → Kevin · a year ago
I said the same thing on another site. Now that Guitar Center is nearing bankruptcy, Irsay would be the logical conclusion, as he paid close to a million for one or Jerry Garcia's guitars, has George Harrison's 64 SG and a lot of other celebrity guitars. It certainly makes me feel like I got a bargain on my one owner 64 Strat. I would of rather bought Ron Wood's 55 Strat that his ex wife Jo sold at Christies for a tenth of the price! Now that I think about it, he probably bought that too!

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Mr.Snooks · a year ago
I remember being shocked and upset when I first listened to the album Highway 61 Revisited, it was like Justin Bieber had put out an album of show tunes and standards. ROCK ON Bobby

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Trev Gibb · a year ago
Bob Dylan bought that guitar back. No doubt about it.

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Rick Sullivan · a year ago
<the buyer="" of="" dylan's="" stratocaster="" remains="" unnamed="" for="" now="">

Maybe, Peter "Pete" Seeger the American folk singer; he would have had a motive.

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Rick Sullivan · a year ago

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al ferrante · a year ago
are you sure it wasn't unveiled at Forest Hills first !!

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Guest · a year ago
Who got the money? Peterson or Dylan?

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qyna → Guest · a year ago
Peterson

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PhilT Listener → qyna · a year ago
She inherited a million bucks!

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Johnny806 · a year ago
Maybe y'all didn't notice, but it comes with a leather strap and hardshell case! Toss in a "whammy" bar and a Mel Bay chord book, and that \$1,000,000 seems about right.

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Mr. Fusion → Johnny806 · a year ago
No picks?

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sharkguitar · a year ago
Mike Bloomfield told me that Dylan had "borrowed" the guitar from Pete Seeger after he broke a string on his Martin .

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Guest · a year ago
It sold for almost a million bucks? I'm sure they'll get a response from Dylan's management now.

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Shawn · a year ago
How are there drafts to 3 songs, and then 2 songs are named and "two others". Doesn't anyone proof read these stories? Get it together RS.

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The Dude → Shawn · a year ago
And then there's this line:

"and it was authenticated last year when the his daughter"

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Guest · a year ago
1965...Bobby upsets fans by going electric...

The audience had to follow Bobby...Bobby never followed the audience!
Thank God for that...

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Guest → Guest · a year ago
Fans never know what they want until they get something else.

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Guitar Loving Fool · a year ago
I've got a 1980 Gibson SG, all black w/ black pick guard for sale...I'll let it go for about \$147,322...Bargain!!!

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sharkguitar → GuitarLoving Fool · a year ago

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