

JOHN JORGENSON

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JURY OF PEERS

JOHN JORGENSON ON THE SCHERTLER UNICO ACOUSTIC AMP

**WHO?** Currently one of the foremost proponents of acoustic Gypsy jazz, Jorgenson also played acoustic and electric guitar with Elton John for many years. He was a founding member of twang kings the Hellecasters and country-pop-rockers the Desert Rose Band, and has performed and recorded with dozens of major stars, including Bob Dylan, Roy Orbison, Little Richard, Sting, Bonnie Raitt, Willie Nelson, Hank Williams Jr., and k.d. lang. Jorgenson also sings and plays mandolin, violin, piano, and saxophone.

**WHAT?** The Schertler Unico is a 180-watt, bi-amplified acoustic combo amp with an 8" woofer and a 1" dome tweeter, spring reverb, a limiter, three outputs (DI, aux, line), and an insert. Its four inputs can accommodate nearly every type of mic, transducer, or line-level signal.

**JORGENSON'S GEAR** Saga Gitane DG-300 Modele John Jorgenson guitar, Takamine JJ325SRC John Jorgenson guitar, Gibson F5 mandolin.

**TESTING ENVIRONMENT** Touring the world for nearly two years, primarily with the John Jorgenson Quartet, in support of his latest CD, *Franco-American Swing* [J2/FGM].

**CHEERS** “One of the things that I like most about the Unico is that it has four channels and functions like a little mixer. There’s a channel specifically for microphones, with phantom power for condensers, a

channel for dynamic contact mics such as the Schertler DYN-G, a channel for piezos, and one for magnetic pickups.

“The Unico also has multiple outputs. There are aux and line outs that can be used for recording or go to a tuner or another amp, and an XLR direct out for going straight to the house board, so I don’t need a direct box. There’s also an insert for a volume pedal or effect.

“I use a Schertler DYN-G dynamic contact mic mounted on the face of the guitar, combined with a small Audio-Technica condenser mic mounted between the bridge and the tailpiece. The DYN-G captures much more of the character of the instrument than any piezo or bridge pickup I’ve used before, and the combination provides a really natural and warm sound. I just plug in two things and send the output to the house, and the amp serves as a personal monitor.

“I’ve been trying to get a good acoustic sound onstage for 25 years, and this rig is by far the most consistent. I’ve used it for 18 months, and now it’s like, ‘Where have these things been all my life?’”

**BEEFS** “I don’t love the spring reverb. Schertler is very proud of it, but I would prefer digital reverb. It would also be great if the amp were lighter [laughs] because the new airport regulations are more restrictive.” —Barry Cleveland •



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