

Bengt Wälivaara is a Swedish high-end guitar builder with a passion for traditional woodworking combined with a modern approach to material and manufacturing. Growing up in the close vicinity to the Arctic Circle in Sweden, Bengt was early inspired by the forests and lakes of the barren wilderness in Northern Scandinavia. Together with his father, many evenings were spent in the family's small workshop making handcrafted artifacts, knives and bowls from materials found in the northern woodlands.

Bengt's passion for music and guitars started as a teenager in the 80's buying his first Washburn solid body electric guitar (alas, with a warped neck!). A fascination of cool guitars and music of the 70's and 80's inspired many hours of arduous practice in his student room. A 25 year "detour" from musical instruments resulted in a PhD in physics/materials technology, engineering work in small innovative start-ups, project leading and management. Parallel to this, Bengt also attended two years of art school learning composition, form and color.

When Wälivaara Guitars was founded in 2018, Bengt could take the full advantage of his past professional experiences and established himself early as an innovative builder of guitars with great tonal response and long sustain. Bengt works in close collaboration with local music stores providing "locally" produced high-end alternatives to the internet giants and strongly believe in collaboration with other professional colleagues in the small luthier community to provide the customer with the best solutions.

The design philosophy of Wälivaara Guitars is to provide comfortable, beautiful, high-end instruments that lasts a lifetime that can be passed on for generations. A transformation to using more sustainably sourced wood combined with innovative manufacturing solutions, keeping a close relation with the customer during the entire building process are hallmarks for the company.

Wälivaara Guitars features (so far) three body sizes for steel strings: 00, OM and Dreadnought, an OM nylon cross-over and one electric semi hollow body. The future will surely involve more models, the never ending curiosity of exploring new models and develop manufacturing methods is part of the core business.

Bengt currently resides together with his family in central Linköping, Sweden with the small workshop in arms-reach from their living quarter.