



*S*outhern California manufacturers helped us celebrate our most recent Made in CA Fall Open House at Rico D'Addario in Sun Valley on October 24th. A total of 33 attendees representing 16 companies attended the

event. A display area was available to those manufacturers who wanted to share their products and capabilities.

The host, D'Addario, conducted several plant tours to guests and showed their unique production process. An overview of the early history of the family and the production of raw material was the initial start to the tour. The actual production of 75,000 reeds per day in their Sun Valley location was highlighted – from cutting the reed to final packaging.



*J*azz music played in the background to offer ambiance and musical enjoyment. Because D'Addario produces reeds for musical instruments, it was a pleasure to see the product in use by D'Addario employees and relatives.



This event was open to Made in CA participants and other manufacturers so they could see the benefits of joining the program. Some companies showcased their products or services and are included below.



From left to right, Golden Fleece, Kathleen McIntyre from CMTC, Cygnet Stamping & Fabricating, APICS, Acrylatex Coating & Recycling, Planet Plexi, Scale 1:1 and Telic Company



CMTC Director John Anderson (right) with Gary Smith of Rico D'Addario

Participation in the **Made in CA** Program is complimentary, and offers a multitude of benefits to California manufacturers, including greater visibility through an online company profile page, opportunities to develop synergies with other manufacturers; invites to CMTC sponsored and hosted events and much more. The **Made in CA** program has over 300 companies and continues to add new participants each month. If you haven't already, sign up for the **Made in California** program today and get more visibility for your company and your products!

[Click here to sign up.](#)

About Rico D'Addario

D'Addario's first factory was in Lynbrook, New York, and the initial staff consisted of only five employees. As always, it was a real family operation with John, Sr., John, Jr. and James leading the company's growth and business plans. James' wife Janet helped to design packaging, heading up what would eventually become the company's art department. The printing facility was still a strong support for the fledgling company, providing a steady source of income as the family developed their superior line of strings. The D'Addario reputation for service and quality served them well as they tapped into the market with their own products. Aggressive marketing strategies would help their product line gain popularity, and the staff of five quickly multiplied to fifteen.



In 1984, the company would relocate to a larger facility to handle the increased demand for their product, and the production staff ballooned to 150 employees. This would not be the last time the company would find itself busting at the seams of its factory space. Operations have expanded on several occasions since, with the largest expansion in 1994, when the company relocated to a new 110,000-square foot facility in Farmingdale. Today D'Addario & Company, Inc. occupies a total of 190,000-square feet at its Farmingdale headquarters, an additional 51,000-square feet at the **Rico manufacturing facility in California**, and employs more than 900 people, each one of them making an invaluable contribution to what has always been a family business. A distribution center in California handles shipments to the West, and satellite offices in Chicago and Los Angeles cater to musicians across the nation. D'Addario Canada is a third distribution center, providing D'Addario products to Canada, while satellite sales offices in Japan, Australia, Hong Kong and France help service the rest of D'Addario's global customer base.