

# MOM'S JOY ROOM

2964 Fairmont Road, Morgantown, WV 26501 | (304) 282-3671

## CERTIFICATE OF DESCRIPTION & VALUATION

*Vintage Carousel Music Box Pair — Otagiri 1982 & Kurt Adler 1986 — Both Fully Functional*



PAIR MARKET VALUE

**\$80–165**

*Combined realistic shop/private-sale value — both pieces working*

PAIR ESTIMATED WORTH

**\$150–280**

*Collector ceiling for two working vintage music boxes with original mechanisms*

**About This Pair:** Both pieces represent the golden era of decorative music box production — the 1980s, when Japanese and American importers brought high-quality, whimsically designed musical collectibles to the American gift and collectibles market. Otagiri Mercantile Company and Kurt S. Adler Inc. were two of the most respected names in that market, known for well-made, imaginatively designed pieces that have aged into genuine collectibility. Both boxes in this pairing retain their original working musical movements — the defining quality factor for music box collectors.



Otagiri 1982 — Tin lithograph carousel music box  
Red, blue & gold crown/diamond pattern  
Rotating horses, brass finial — fully working

## 1. Otagiri Carousel Music Box — 1982

*Otagiri Mercantile Company, Japan/USA Import — Tin Lithograph — Swiss-Style Musical Movement*

A vibrant tin lithograph carousel music box from 1982, produced by the **Otagiri Mercantile Company** — one of the most prolific and respected Japanese importers of decorative giftware in the American market from the 1960s through the 1990s. The carousel form features a domed tent top with a brass ball finial, printed in a bold red, blue, and gold harlequin diamond and crown pattern that wraps both the canopy and the cylindrical base. Suspended beneath the canopy are miniature carousel horses on wire hangers, which rotate as the musical movement plays. The base winds from the bottom to engage the internal movement.

Otagiri's music boxes were known for their cheerful, well-lithographed tin construction and reliable internal movements — made to be played, not just displayed. The carousel form, with its rotating horses and fairground color palette, was one of Otagiri's most popular designs and has become a sought-after piece among music box collectors and fans of 1980s decorative giftware.

### NOTABLE DETAILS

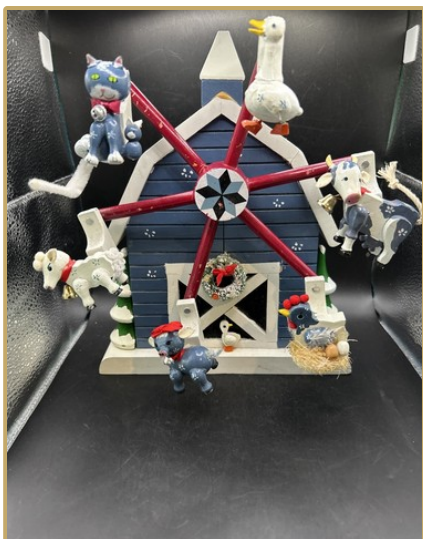
- ◆ **Maker:** Otagiri Mercantile Company — Japan/USA import, dated 1982
- ◆ **Construction:** Tin lithograph — bold red, blue, gold crown/diamond harlequin pattern
- ◆ **Features:** Rotating miniature carousel horses beneath domed canopy, brass ball finial
- ◆ **Movement:** Internal wind-up musical mechanism — fully working
- ◆ **Condition:** Working; lithography bright and intact

MARKET VALUE

**\$40-80**

ESTIMATED WORTH

**\$75-135**



*Kurt Adler 1986 — Folk art barn ferris wheel music box — navy blue barn, farm animals  
Cat, goose, horses, cow, teddy bear — fully working*

## 2. Kurt Adler Folk Art Barn Ferris Wheel Music Box — 1986

*Kurt S. Adler Inc., New York — Hand-Painted Resin & Wood — Musical Movement — 1986*

A charming and highly detailed folk art music box from 1986, produced by **Kurt S. Adler Inc.** of New York — one of America's most celebrated designers and importers of decorative collectibles, holiday ornaments, and musical giftware, founded in 1946 and still active today. This piece takes the form of a **navy blue folk art barn** with white painted detailing, a hex star medallion on the front, a Christmas wreath over the barn door, and a hay bale with nesting hen at the base — a complete little farm scene.

The centerpiece is a **red ferris-wheel spoke mechanism** mounted on the barn facade, from which six individual **hand-painted farm animal figures** are suspended: a blue-accented cat, a white goose, two horses (white and dapple-gray), a cow, and a blue teddy bear. When the musical movement plays, the ferris wheel rotates, spinning all six animal figures around the barn in a delightful animated display. The folk art painting style — flat, slightly naive, charming — is characteristic of the American country folk art aesthetic that was enormously popular in the mid-1980s. The piece is both a music box and a miniature animated diorama.

### NOTABLE DETAILS

- ◆ **Maker:** Kurt S. Adler Inc., New York — dated 1986
- ◆ **Form:** Folk art navy blue barn with red ferris-wheel spoke mechanism
- ◆ **Figures:** Six hand-painted farm animals — cat, goose, two horses, cow, teddy bear
- ◆ **Animation:** Ferris wheel rotates when movement plays — all figures spin
- ◆ **Details:** Hex star medallion, Christmas wreath over door, nesting hen & hay bale at base
- ◆ **Movement:** Internal wind-up musical mechanism — fully working
- ◆ **Style:** American country folk art aesthetic — mid-1980s peak period
- ◆ **Condition:** Working; hand-painted figures intact

MARKET VALUE

**\$45-90**

ESTIMATED WORTH

**\$80-150**

**Collector's note:** The single most important value factor for any music box is whether the musical movement still works — a non-working music box loses 50–70% of its collector value immediately. Both pieces in this pairing retain their original working movements, placing them firmly in the desirable category. Otagiri tin music boxes are collected both for their cheerful lithography and their reliable mechanical movements; the carousel form is among the most sought-after Otagiri designs. Kurt Adler music boxes from the 1980s are collected within both the music box market and the American country folk art collectibles category — the animated ferris-wheel mechanism with hand-painted farm animals is a more complex and unusual form than a simple rotating carousel, giving it a slight edge in the folk art collector market. Individual Market Values reflect realistic shop/private-sale pricing; Estimated Worth reflects what dedicated music box or folk art collectibles collectors would pay.

*"One plays the fairground, one plays the farm — and both have been playing beautifully for forty years."*

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Sandy Wade, Proprietor

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