VINTAGE STYLING AND SOUTHERN CROSS ADORN STEPHEN STILLS D-45SS

In honor of his stellar career and his passion for Martin guitars, C. F. Martin & Company is pleased to announce the D-45SS Stephen Stills Signature Edition. As one of rock music’s pre-eminent singer/songwriter/guitar players, Stephen Stills has been one of the most loyal fans of Martin guitars throughout his extraordinary career. In 1997, Stills became the only artist ever inducted twice into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame on the same day (once with Buffalo Springfield and again as a member of Crosby, Stills & Nash). Whether performing with Buffalo Springfield (“For What It’s Worth”) with Crosby and Nash (“Suite: Judy Blue Eyes”), or as a solo artist (“Love The One You With”), Stills played his Martins.

Just 91 of the D-45SS Signature Edition Martin guitars will be offered for sale. “Ninety-one” is the number of original D-45 guitars.

(Continued on Page 6)

Few artists share a passion and loyalty for Martin acoustic guitars the way Stephen Stills does, photographed at left with one of his many D-45s.

INNOVATIVE INLAYS PAY TRIBUTE TO DON MCLEAN “AMERICAN PIE” EDITION

Don McLean’s legendary “American Pie” is one of the most famous songs of all time. Recorded in 1971, “American Pie” was issued as a double sided single. The song immediately hit #1 on the charts in both the United States and the United Kingdom, and Don McLean became an instant star whose popularity has continued throughout the years. In honor of Don McLean and “American Pie,” Martin is proud to present the D-40DM Don McLean Limited Edition Signature Model. In commemoration of the year the song was written, the edition will be limited to no more than 71 instruments.

Don McLean has been a loyal player of Martin guitars throughout his career with more than 14 Martin guitars in his collection. When discussing the edition, McLean said that given a choice between a Grammy and the honor of being chosen for a Martin Limited Edition Signature model, he’d “take the Martin any day.”

The D-40DM is a 14-fret Dreadnought with a solid Engelmann spruce top, the soundhole of which is inlaid

(Continued on Page 6)

Singer, songwriter, and guitar lover Don McLean with a D-45, just one of his fifteen highly prized Martin instruments.
Dear Martin Enthusiasts,

Peggy Sue, Peggy Sue... Well, actually that’s my sister Georgie in the picture. Judging from her expression, I’m no Buddy Holly either. The picture was taken Christmas morning, 1967. My father and grandfather gave me that red GT-75 and an amplifier. I never did go on to be a rock star, and Martin electrics never caught the fascination of America’s youth.

Today we don’t even make electric guitars. We are, however, installing more electronics packages (Thinline® pickups and various pre-amp configurations) in more and more of our acoustic guitars.

Thanks to your continued support of our products, we have run out of room and are once again expanding our factory. Included in our new addition will be some much needed climate controlled storage space for our critical wood materials. Construction of the addition will continue through the end of the year.

The printing of the newsletter coincides with our summer trade show in Nashville. We are showing lots of new models and products. Some of my favorites are the Stephen Stills and the Willie Nelson (Check out the hemp covered case!) models. We have expanded the mahogany- topped 15 line into smaller body 00 and 000 size models, and we are introducing phosphor bronze strings to our bright, long lasting SP line.

Of all the models we are introducing, the one that has me the most excited is the DXM. This guitar is a sophisticated blend of old and new. For all of the details please read the in-depth story on page 4. When I heard the first “X Series” prototype, I knew we were on to something. Now, several years later, we have refined and developed the product and process to the point that it sounds good, looks attractive, and is very affordable. Who would have thought a Martin guitar made in Nazareth, PA, would retail for $599 in 1998!

Sincerely,

C. F. Martin IV
Chairman & CEO, The Martin Guitar Company

It’s clear from this photo that Chris Martin was destined from a very early age (12 years old here) to have a dramatic impact on the music industry. We think he looks a lot like Buddy Holly, though he has never attained such legendary guitar playing technique. He certainly has put many thousands of great guitars in the hands of guitarists all over the world.
Dear Mr. Martin,

I just opened up the case of my new Limited Edition 0-45JB Signature Model, and I have to tell you that this is the most beautiful guitar I've ever laid my hands on. I'm speechless.

I'll be touring with it, loving it, cleaning it, and making music with it for many audiences to come! Thank you all at Martin.

Warmly,

Joan Baez

RARELY SPEECHLESS
Dear Friends at Martin,

I just opened up the case of my new Limited Edition 0-45JB Signature Model, and I have to tell you that this is the most beautiful guitar I've ever laid my hands on. I'm speechless.

I'll be touring with it, loving it, cleaning it, and making music with it for many audiences to come! Thank you all at Martin.

Warmly,

Joan Baez

CAN ANYTHING GOOD COME OUT OF NAZARETH?
Dear Mr. Martin,

Nathanael said to Philip, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” and Philip said to him, “Come and see.”
St. John’s Gospel, Chapter 1, Verse 46.

Obviously as a Priest in the Church, the theological answer to this question is an emphatic “yes!” But as a life-long guitar player, I can tell you that the answer remains emphatically “yes!” I began playing guitar in the ‘60s. That was during the great revival (no pun intended) of folk music in America, and I can tell you Martin definitely was the choice of anyone who played.

The very first Martin I played was a New York model. I was hooked. However it belonged to a friend who I

suppose to this day hasn’t parted company with it. I played one cheap guitar after another until in 1984, when I purchased my first Martin. It was a new D-35, and it was a model commemorating Martin’s 150th Anniversary. I still own it today and it has aged into perfection.

Then last summer, I came across yet another good thing to come out of Nazareth. It was an SP000-16T and it was unbelievable. The sound was heavenly (literally speaking) and the ease of playing was reminiscent of that old New York model. I couldn’t resist the temptation, and now I have two Martin guitars. Some might say it is sinful to own more than one. I prefer to say that I am twice Blessed. Thanks to Martin for all the good that comes out of Nazareth!

Faithfully,

Father Ernest C. Madden +
Saint Philip’s Episcopal Church
Ardmore, Oklahoma

PS: I’ve decided to keep my eye out for a 12-fret slotted head Dreadnought. That would cover the highs, the lows, and the middles. Besides, three is a “holy number” you know!

VICARIO USLY MARTIN
Dear Mr. Martin,

I first encountered a Martin guitar over ten years ago when I was a counselor at a music camp. One of the campers had this beautiful 000 Auditorium model that I would play whenever I could. I was very impressed at his parents’ foresight in getting an instrument that was so fun to play. While the other kids clunked away on what felt like two-by-fours, this kid had a real instrument and it made a difference.

I’ve wanted a Martin ever since but have been working hard to pay off my loans for medical school all of these years. Well, now I have a son of my own and he loves when I play the guitar for him. In fact, he loves to play the guitar himself. I’ve been checking out a 000 Martin at a local store for over a year now. For his next birthday, my son will have the guitar I’ve wanted for years. I want to give him that special feeling of making music on a guitar he can appreciate for a lifetime. Of course, I hope he doesn’t mind if I borrow his Martin once in a while!

Thanks for making such wonderful guitars.

Sincerely,

Adam Levy, MD
New York, NY

ONE THIRD OF THREE
Dear Friends at Martin,

As The Kingston Trio prepares to go out on tour again, I have been putting the finishing touches on my first solo recording entitled “In The Middle Of A Life”. The cover just came off the presses, and I thought you’d like to see the results.

After playing long-neck banjo with The Kingston Trio for so many years, everyone is shocked to see me with a guitar, but it really is my favorite instrument. With my continuing allegiance to Martin Guitars, my D-45 always shares the spotlight. And always will.

Sincerely,

George Grove
The Kingston Trio
Las Vegas, Nevada

We’d Love To Hear From You. Send Your Letters To:
C. F. Martin & Co. is proud to introduce the first in a series of patented new acoustic guitar designs, the bodies of which are constructed with high pressure laminated materials.

With a manufacturer’s suggested retail price of $599 (less case), the DXM model provides exceptional value for guitarists that want Martin’s high quality construction, ease of play, and commitment to tone.

The DXM is not intended to replace traditional tonewoods, but rather to provide an extremely viable high quality acoustic guitar alternative in a price range never before addressed by the company. With ever dwindling wood resources, the DXM also provides an ecologically friendly alternative to guitars constructed with more traditional solid and laminated tonewoods.

Tonally, the DXM has a surprising volume and projection while retaining the warmth and resonance for which Martin instruments have always been prized.

At the heart of the unique top bracing pattern is Martin’s famous X-pattern, but the left and right quadrants of the X are reinforced with triangular panels of solid spruce. An unusual split bridge support plate utilizes half mahogany (on the bass side) and half East Indian rosewood (on the treble side). The presence and specific configuration of these solid tonewoods on the interior of the top have a dramatic and positive effect upon the tonal characteristics of the instrument.

The DXM is the first in a new series of Martin acoustic guitars constructed with high pressure laminates. The result yields surprisingly rich tone, ease of play, Martin attention to detail and value to the customer.

“The DXM is a natural evolution for the company. We realized several years ago that we needed to learn how to work with laminates. This product is basically a prefinished laminate, and we have figured out a way to make a fine sounding guitar out of it.”

C. F. Martin IV

The DXM is the first in a new series of Martin acoustic guitars constructed with high pressure laminates. The result yields surprisingly rich tone, ease of play, Martin attention to detail and value to the customer.

The neck on the DXM model is constructed of solid genuine mahogany and features Martin’s comfortable and fast low profile neck with a traditional 1 11/16” neck width at the nut. The fingerboard is constructed of Morado (Bolivian “rosewood”) and is without inlay except for the necessary side position dots. Tuning machines are chrome enclosed with chrome buttons.

Martin’s legendary logo is precision screened in gold epoxy on a mahogany grained headplate. This new and innovative process is both attractive and extremely resistant to wear.

The DXM includes a Morado bridge with Martin’s new compensated saddle. The model is strung with Martin’s widely acclaimed and long lasting “SP” strings.

As with all of the company’s acoustic guitars, the DXM carries Martin’s limited lifetime warranty for the original owner. The instrument incorporates two distinct patents: one that involves the exclusive and proprietary use of high pressure laminates for use on acoustic guitars. A second patent protects Martin’s unique neck-to-body geometry and cantilevered A-frame top bracing pattern.

Martin Guitar dealers will begin to take orders for DXM models immediately, although due to extremely heavy demand for Martin instruments, this new and exciting model will not begin to appear in stores until the Fall of 1998.
MORE GREAT NEW PRODUCTS AND SPECIAL EDITIONS

THREE MODELS ADDED TO MAHOGANY TOP 15s

In 1997, mahogany top guitars were re-introduced to the Martin product line with the D-15 (a 14-fret Dreadnought). The lowest priced all solid wood acoustic guitar in the Martin line (suggested retail $849.00), more than 1,000 D-15s were sold during the first year. Martin is now introducing three additions to the 15 Series: the small bodied 00-15 and 000-15, plus the DC-15E acoustic electric cutaway.

The 00-15 and 000-15 models pay tribute to the small bodied Style 15 and Style 17 Martin instruments popular during the first half of this century (see photograph on page 9).

The more contemporary DC-15E (shown above) combines the powerful tone of the D-15 Dreadnought with a full access Venetian (rounded) cutaway and a state-of-the-art Fishman/Martin System One onboard pickup with slider controls. 15 Series instruments, constructed of solid genuine mahogany top, sides, back and neck, offer exceptional tone, ease of play, and legendary Martin craftsmanship.

NEW GROUND PAVED WITH MARTIN “ROAD SERIES” ACOUSTICS

Martin is proud to add four new models to the company’s affordable Road Series Acoustic Guitars: the 000R, the 000CME Cutaway, the JM Jumbo, and the BM Acoustic Bass. The original Road Series Acoustic Guitars (the DM, the DR and the O O O M) have been very successful, and Martin is adding more instruments to expand this popular product line and offer customers more variety.

The 000R provides a rosewood alternative to original mahogany 000M. The 000CME (shown at right) is a smaller, thinner-bodied shape and is the first dedicated acoustic-electric guitar ever offered by Martin. The JM is Martin’s lowest priced jumbo guitar, and the BM is the acoustic bass entry in the Road Series.

MARTIN RECREATES OM-45 DELUXE WITH GOLDEN ERA® EDITION

In 1930, C.F. Martin & Co. offered the OM-45 Deluxe. Just 14 of these instruments were originally made. Priced at $225, the Deluxe was the most expensive flat-top Martin guitar available in the 1930s. Leonard Slye (aka Roy Rogers) played a Deluxe. These highly collectible vintage Martins serve as the inspiration for the Limited Edition OM-45 Deluxe Golden Era® Model. No more than 14 of these instruments will be made, with the construction following the original specifications as faithfully as possible.

The Limited Edition OM-45 Deluxe Golden Era® model features an Adirondack spruce soundboard with matching braces, an abalone inlaid tortoise color “teardrop” pickguard (unique to this model), hand-engraved banjo tuners with genuine Mother-of-Pearl buttons, and a replica of the old style 45 mosaic back inlay strip.

TWO NEW CUTAWAYS FOR MARTIN “1 SERIES”

The affordably priced Martin “1 Series” guitars have been in constant demand since their introduction. In response to demand, the line is being diversified with the addition of two new cutaway models: the JC-1E and the DC-1R.

The JC-1E Jumbo (see photograph on page 9) is Martin’s lowest priced “1 Series” cutaway, offered with onboard electronics. The DC-1R (not shown) adds a cutaway option to the popular D-1R laminated rosewood Dreadnought model.
The sides and back are bookmatched from selected East Indian rosewood. The body is bound in white, and the back is separated with a Style 45 multi-colored mosaic inlay strip. The neck, with a standard playing width of 1 11/16” at the nut, is crafted of solid genuine mahogany with Martin’s traditional carved diamond volute.

The interior label of each instrument includes Don McLean’s hand-colored “thumbs up” logo. Each label will be personally signed by Don McLean and C.F. Martin IV, and each instrument will be individually numbered in sequence with the edition total (i.e., #1 of 71, #2 of 71, etc.). A portion of the proceeds from the sale of each D-40DM will be donated to the charity initiated by Don McLean himself, The Don McLean Foundation.

Though orders are being taken now for this special edition, the D-40DM will begin to appear in stores in the early months of 1999.

“One striking aspect of this guitar is the pickguard, which is inlaid with the five abalone stars of the Southern Cross.”

“They’re works of art,” stated Stills about his Martins. “They’re the Stradivarius of American musical instruments. The best Martins that I’ve heard — with dense Brazilian rosewood and cross grain ripple to the top, lightly braced — sound better than anything else ever made. There’s an artisanship in them that just can’t be replaced...The craftsmanship, and the handmade-ness of things, you can tell the love and care the workers put into those things...You can really feel someone’s spirit in them.”

(The above statement is a quotation taken from the award winning new book Martin Guitars: A Celebration Of America’s Premier Guitarmaker by Jim Washburn and Richard Johnston. Stephen Stills wrote the forward to this book and is also featured with a full page tribute.)

A 14-fret Dreadnought, the top of
The D-28LF replicates the famous enlarged pickguard as well as the pearl inlays that were customized by Mike Longworth.

The unique inlays on the original Lester Flatt D-28 were done by historian, author, and inlay artist Mike Longworth.

Commemorative model includes the special oversized tortoise colored pickguard, a pattern that appeared on virtually all of Lester Flatt's wide assortment of Martin guitars. As an option at the point of ordering, dealers may request the more traditional D-28 tortoise pickguard instead of the original Lester Flatt oversized version.

Other specifications for the edition are matched closely to the original 1950 D-28 guitar, which include Brazilian rosewood two-piece back and sides, genuine ebony fingerboard and bridge, Martin 5/16" height standard X-bracing, a small maple bridge plate, grained ivoroid bindings, and a black and white checkered back inlay strip. A 5-ply Geib™ Vintage Style Deluxe hardshell case is included with each instrument.

Each guitar in the edition will bear an interior label numbered in sequence and personally signed by C.F. Martin IV. A portion of the proceeds from each Limited Edition D-28LF model will be donated to the estate of Lester Flatt.

Martin Guitar dealers are taking orders for the D-28LF now, though the edition will not begin to appear in stores until the early months of 1999.
The Stephen Stills model is a Brazilian rosewood Dreadnought that recreates the vintage styling of the pre-war D-45. No more than 91 guitars will be offered, in keeping with the number of D-45s originally made.

This tribute to Don McLean’s “American Pie” is also a testament to his love of Martin guitars. Don was involved personally with every aspect of this guitar’s design, from the selection of tonewoods to the inlay patterns.

The D-28LF commemorates the significant musical contribution of legendary performer, Lester Flatt. The appointments of this Brazilian rosewood edition closely match Lester’s original 1950 D-28 (Serial #114855).

The most distinctive aspect of the D-45SS model is the pickguard, which is inlaid with the constellation of the Southern Cross. Stephen Stills’s distinctive signature is inlaid in the last frets of the fingerboard.

The fingerboard captures the key words of “American Pie” in crimson letters within each of the hexagon inlays and Don McLean’s signature is inlaid in pearl above an elegant abalone rosetted soundhole.
Willie Nelson’s well worn “Trigger” is certainly one of the most famous guitars in existence. This replica edition is limited to 100 instruments, no more than 30 of which will be offered in Brazilian rosewood.

The SPD-16 Dreadnought will now be offered with a gloss black finish on the top, back, sides and neck. With features typically found only on higher priced models, the SP models combine value, taste and elegance.

In addition to the enhanced features found on all of the special SP Models, the SPD-16 Dreadnought will now be offered with domestic Walnut or Maple back and sides.

The huge success of the D-15 model has spurred the introduction of these two new small bodied models: the 00-15 and the 000-15, both constructed with all solid mahogany top, back, sides, and neck.

The JC-1E (shown) combines a cutaway and onboard electronics with Martin’s jumbo size. Another addition to the popular “1 Series” is the DC-1R Dreadnought Cutaway with rosewood back and sides (not shown).

The huge success of the D-15 model has spurred the introduction of these two new small bodied models: the 00-15 and the 000-15, both constructed with all solid mahogany top, back, sides, and neck.
I said, “Well what else have you got around?” He said he had a Martin up on the shelf for $750. I asked if he could put that same Baldwin pickup in the Martin. And, that’s how I got it, right off the shelf, unseen from a thousand miles away. When I got it I knew that I had picked up something special. I like to just sit around in a room and play it. I like to write on it. I just like the sound of it.”

Photographs taken throughout Willie Nelson’s career show the gradual evolution of his famous guitar (nicknamed Trigger) from its pristine new condition to its current weathered look. Much like Willie, this famous guitar has come a long way. Trigger has been played so much, there is a rather sizable hole worn right through the top, one that Willie considers so sentimental, he won’t have it repaired. In addition, Nelson estimates that he has 100 signatures on his Martin including those of Leon Russell, Roger Miller, Kris Kristofferson, Gene Autry, Johnny Cash, Waylon Jennings, lawyers, football coaches, and other friends and associates. When asked why his guitar is named Trigger, Willie explains: “Roy Rodgers had a horse named Trigger. I figured: This is my horse!”

And what’s so special about this guitar? Willie says: “It has great tone!” Most recently on his widely acclaimed album “Spirit” and on several soon to be released new songs, he has been recording with Trigger and nothing but a single microphone. The guitar simply embodies that Willie Nelson trademark sound.

During his well publicized perils with the Internal Revenue Service, Willie was so worried that they might try to take Trigger away from him that he hid his guitar at his manager’s house for safe keeping.

1999 is the 30th anniversary of the original Trigger guitar. Martin will offer the edition in two configurations. No more than 30 instruments in the edition of 100 will be offered in rare Brazilian rosewood, the wood used to construct the original Trigger guitar. The remainder of the edition will be offered in East Indian rosewood.

Martin N-20 models have gone through many incarnations. The scale of this unusual model is 25.4”, a length which was replaced with the longer 26.44” scale within a year of its introduction. Willie’s specific guitar bears Martin’s square non-tapered headstock shape with rounded slots which preceded the more traditional classic headstock shape. The neck is fitted with the highest quality Waverly Sloane sidemount classical tuning machines.

The soundboard is bookmatched from solid Sitka spruce, tinted with the original “mellow yellow” toner, and polished to a high gloss. The rosette is the traditional N-style wooden classical mosaic in black, white, red and green.

The fingerboard is crafted of solid genuine ebony with Willie Nelson’s signature inlaid between the 17th and 18th frets. The fifth fret bears a Mother of Pearl inlay depicting the silhouette of the state of Texas with a single “lone star” in the middle. The name “TRIGGER” is inlaid at the 12th fret in western style poster lettering.

Each guitar will be offered with a state-of-the-art pickup system custom fabricated by Fishman Transducers, Inc. to closely replicate the tonal nuances of the original Baldwin pickup, which is no longer available.

In addition, every instrument will include a customized Deluxe Geib Style 5-Ply Hardshell Vintage Case with special “hemp” covered exterior.

Photos taken throughout Willie’s career show the gradual evolution of his famous Trigger guitar from its pristine new condition to its current ‘weathered’ look.

Each guitar in this special edition will bear an interior label individually numbered in sequence and personally signed by Willie Nelson and C.F. Martin IV, Martin’s Chairman and CEO. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of the Willie Nelson Limited Edition N-20WN will be donated to Farm Aid. Nelson’s charity formed in 1985 to draw attention to the plight of America’s farmers.

Martin Guitar dealers are taking orders for the Willie Nelson Limited Edition Signature Model now, though due to heavy demand for Martin instruments, this edition will not begin to appear in stores until the early months of 1999.
TRAVIS TRITT’S CUSTOM D-45 DELUXE

During his 1996 visit to the Martin factory with fellow “Double Trouble” touring partner Marty Stuart, country music legend Travis Tritt stopped in to take a tour and discuss the specifications for a very special Martin Custom guitar. His one-of-a-kind D-45 Deluxe guitar, which was finally completed in the Fall of 1997, is constructed with Brazilian rosewood back and sides and a red spruce soundboard.

The inspiration for the unique inlay came from Marty Stuart’s unique signature model HD-40MS, which was the first guitar to utilize a herringbone pearl rosette. Travis’s custom has herringbone pearl around the entire perimeter of the body, plus Dick Boak’s unusual “Vine Of Harmonics” fingerboard design inlaid in various shades of pearl, coral, azurite, and turquoise.

After receiving the special guitar, Travis called us to say how thrilled he was with every aspect of the instrument: beauty, tone, playability, and plugability. It is equipped with a state-of-the-art Martin Gold+Plus® pickup, internal condenser microphone, and Fishman Pocket Blender system so it is certainly stage ready. In spite of the fact that this is one of the most precious guitars ever produced by Martin’s Custom Shop, Travis isn’t keeping it under the bed. We’re glad to see that he’s been out on the road (and appearing on TV at the Grand Ole Opry) with his Martin. Keep up the good work Travis!

Classical guitar virtuoso Eliot Fisk met up with master luthier Thomas S. Humphrey at Sadowsky Guitars, Ltd. in New York City to try out his new Martin C-1R model.

Eric Clapton, who has always been adamant in his preference for smaller-bodied Martin 000s, recently came across a Martin D-28 Dreadnought that he just couldn’t pass up! The tour to promote his new CD “Pilgrim” has been a smashing success, and the demand for Eric’s 000-28EC signature model continues to be extremely strong.

Photo by John Sterling Ruth, Courtesy of Travis Tritt
Martin Women and Music Group Introduces New Cutaway Acoustic

Martin Guitar’s Women and Music Program continues to be a roaring success in the media, in music stores, and in the hands of guitar players. The Program began in June of 1996, as a mandate to address the needs of women players and to support change in the marketplace to meet those needs. The group’s maiden voyage at the 1997 Winter NAMM show premiered a limited edition guitar that was incredibly comfortable with a powerful and rich sound; a 00 mahogany profile with a Dreadnought depth. The appointments were unique and designed to be affordable for the working woman.

The guitar sold out the first day of the show. At this year’s Winter NAMM (International Music Products Association) trade show, the group debuted its first signature model, the stunning Joan Baez 0-45, selling out within hours, while the 00-16DBR (the group’s deep bodied 00-sized rosewood offering) continues to inspire constant demand.

The committed group of Martin employees responsible for the design of this guitar and ongoing program, are proud and excited to introduce its first stock model, the 00C-16DB. In our efforts to keep listening to the needs of players, we are marrying the richness of sound that the 00-16DB afforded, with increased accessibility to the neck by incorporating a rounded “Venetian” cutaway. This beautiful instrument features the distinctive rosette and back purfling selected especially for the Women and Music guitar, slotted headstock, Waverly tuners, spruce top, and mahogany back and sides. Simple but elegant, it sports a traditional Martin high gloss finish and black pickguard. As with the 00-16DB, the volume of sound emanating from this small bodied cutaway guitar is amazing, in great part due to the increased downward pressure on the nut created by the slotted headstock. Available with electronics, this is a guitar that can rock or soothe. Complete with a label defining it as part of this historical program, this is a collectable work horse that any guitar player is going to want to have their hands on.

Singer-songwriter Diane Ponzio, based in New York City, is a proud participant of the Women and Music Group. She tours world-wide, has released three CDs, and sometimes appears with Chris Martin, performing at Martin Guitar clinics here and abroad.

The 00C-16DB, the first stock model to be offered as part of Martin’s highly successful Women and Music Program, blends excellent tone, beautiful appointments, player comfort, affordability, and full accessibility to the upper frets of the neck.
“SP” Strings have been giving guitarists clear, rich, and long-lasting sound since their debut in January 1997. The Martin String Division, working with the same dedication to quality right alongside the guitar makers, innovated this terrific sounding string by using imported steel core wire, which produces increased resonance, brilliance, and life. In a climate-controlled environment, Martin uses computers to check the tensile strength of the wire, and then carefully spins a brass wrap on the core wire for strings 6 through 3. The brass wrap, called 80/20, refers to the mix of alloys that compose brass, giving it a warm and deep sound, as well as a classic look. Now, for players who have always preferred the brightness of Phosphor Bronze, Martin has taken this same proven core wire and is wrapping the bottom four strings with Phosphor Bronze, known as 92/8. This will give you the brightness that you love in a Phosphor Bronze string for a much longer time because of the superior core wire.

In working on photographs for the new Rodale book Martin Guitars: A Celebration Of America’s Premier Guittarmaker by Jim Washburn and Richard Johnston, we came across this great Rolling Stone cover of Paul McCartney with his left-handed D-28. Paul McCartney and John Lennon both took their D-28 Martin guitars to India during their visit with the Maharishi where they co-wrote many of the songs that appeared on the now legendary Beatles’ White Album. Those D-28s showed up many times back at Abbey Road Studios and were were probably used to record several of the White Album’s acoustic tracks like Mother Nature’s Son, I Will, It’s Been A Long Time, Blackbird, and Rocky Raccoon. John Lennon used his D-28 during the filming of a video for the song Hello Goodbye which appeared on the Magical Mystery Tour album and film. Of course, throughout their career, the Beatles performed with many brands of instruments and rarely endorsed any products. Martin guitars did however continue to be seen in the hands of all of The Beatles (excluding non-guitarist Ringo) and throughout their various solo careers, especially Paul McCartney’s. Naturally, we are thrilled to have played a part in the incredible history of this influential band.

We are saddened by the recent passing of Linda Eastman McCartney. She was a committed mother and dedicated wife, a first class photographer, a passionate advocate for animal rights, and a successful marketer of vegetarian foods. Her talents and enthusiasm will be greatly missed.

In Memory Of
Linda Eastman McCartney
1941-1998
SCOTT LANDRESS (at right) from New York, NY, is seen here on a trip to the Ried Park Zoo entertaining a guitar loving giraffe. The other animals did not pay much attention, but this one followed Scott from place to place as he practiced the lead to “Hey Joe” on his Martin Backpacker. Wild!

STRUMMING THE FRIENDLY SKIES

A Poem By Captain Paul Ayer (Airline Pilot, San Clemente, CA)
I have to say I love my Martin Backpacker
It keeps me from being a “lackluster vagabond slacker”!
Now I can carry a guitar on the trips I travel
And practice for hours as spare time unravels!
I do spend a lot of time in hotels on the road
Often wishing I could practice music in my hotel abode.
Carrying a big guitar through airports is cumbersome and tough
The traveling public might think it looks unprofessional and rough.
We airline captains are to look sharp, composed and mature
But carrying a big guitar makes the passengers feel a little unsure!
We’re supposed to rest and renew on our overnight hotel stays
And a guitar player knows that playing the guitar is the best rest way!
I love the carrying case, it doesn’t look like a guitar at all
And the two pound guitar is carried easily through the airport halls.
The acoustic sound is pure, and gives me quite a grin
And thundering full of sound when I electrically plug in!
So thanks to Martin for inventing it for the flight crews
Many of my contemporaries are buying when they hear of the news.
And I’m glad it’s made strongly, I don’t want a bad thing to occur
Cause my two year old daughter thinks you made it for her!

IT’S ALL HAPPENING AT THE ZOO

SHAWN CREIGHTON, a wood burning design artist from Madison, Wisconsin, has done this outstanding job of decorating the top of his Backpacker. This is the first in a series of woodburned guitars he plans to do.

SHAWN CREIGHTON, a wood burning design artist from Madison, Wisconsin, has done this outstanding job of decorating the top of his Backpacker. This is the first in a series of woodburned guitars he plans to do.
BACKPACKING THE YAMPA RIVER RAMPA GE

Singer songwriter **Melissa Crabtree** took her Backpacker guitar into action on a white water rafting trip down the Yampa River in southwestern Colorado. Although the Martin Backpacker has occasionally been compared in shape to a canoe paddle, it does in fact function much better as a musical instrument.

Melissa is not only a great musician but also an excellent outdoor educator. Her friend **Roberta Porter** accompanied her on this particular trip and took these great photos.

We’d love to hear your Backpacker stories. Send your photos and stories to: “The Sounding Board”, Box 329, Nazareth, PA 18064

TRAVERSING THE ARCTIC CIRCLE

**Vince Nusunginya**, 16, waited on tables at The Old Town Village Restaurant in Kenai, Alaska last summer, and he saved enough money to buy his first Backpacker guitar. Since then, he has become almost unseparated from it.

Shortly after his purchase, he brought his Backpacker to where his grandfather was fishing for salmon. An accomplished guitarist, his grandfather exclaimed: “Oh my God, it’s a Martin!”

Last summer on vacation, the whole family crossed the Arctic Circle in the north central part of Alaska’s interior. Of course, Vince wanted to have his picture taken in front of the marker. Tongue in cheek he said, “Wait until the folks at Martin Guitar see this.”

Above: In a calm moment on the Yampa River, Melissa Crabtree poses with her rafting crew. Her fellow rafters appreciated the frequent river concertos. Above right: Don’t try this at home! Believe it or not, the Backpacker survived quite nicely. Below right: Melissa found many serene moments to practice and compose. Below: Vince Nusunginya at the Arctic Circle.

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C. F. MARTIN & CO. HONORS LEGENDARY WILLIE NELSON WITH N-20 ‘TRIGGER’ REPLICA

The Martin Guitar Company is honored to announce the N-20WN Limited Edition Signature Model guitar, a collaboration with Willie Nelson, one of the world’s most renowned performers and songwriters. The N-20WN is a replica of Willie Nelson’s beloved guitar, one of the most famous and recognizable instruments in existence. Available from authorized Martin dealers and distributors worldwide, C. F. Martin & Co. will make up to but not exceeding 100 Willie Nelson N-20WN Limited Edition Signature Models. No more than 30 of these 100 instruments will be offered with Brazilian rosewood back and sides.

Willie Nelson, a country music hero and an American legend whose career spans nearly half a century, is one of the most distinctive and popular musicians in the world. Nelson bought his first Martin sight unseen in 1969. He remembers the unusual circumstances:

“The Baldwin Company gave me a Baldwin amp and classical electric guitar with a special three-cord stereo pickup. I busted that guitar up pretty badly so I sent it up to Shot Jackson in Nashville to get it fixed. He called back and said, ‘I can’t fix it. It’s broke too bad.’

Willie Nelson holding his famous 1969 N-20 “Trigger” guitar with Martin Artist Relations Manager Dick Boak holding the prototype Willie Nelson Signature model.

Bluegrass legend Lester Flatt shown here with his famous Martin D-28. An edition of 50 will replicate the Longworth fingerboard inlays plus the unusual oversized pickguard.

MARTIN COMMEMORATES LESTER FLATT WITH D-28LF BRAZILIAN EDITION OF 50

The Martin Guitar Company is honored to announce the Limited Edition Lester Flatt D-28LF Commemorative Dreadnought acoustic guitar. Years ago, Lester Flatt, one of America’s greatest bluegrass stars, gave his priceless and legendary Martin D-28 to a 14-year-old mandolin prodigy named Marty Stuart. The Limited Edition D-28LF Commemorative is a replica of Lester Flatt’s original and unique Brazilian rosewood Martin guitar (Serial #114555) made in 1950. A maximum of 50 limited edition instruments will be offered for sale worldwide.

Lester Flatt and his wife invited the very young and talented Marty Stuart to live in their home in Nashville when Stuart was launching his career as a teenager. Stuart found the guitar in a spare room of the Flatt’s house and he immediately recognized it as the Martin that Lester Flatt had played throughout his long and illustrious career. Flatt gave Stuart permission to play it. The D-28, which is now owned by Stuart, had been uniquely customized over the years with special fingerboard inlays and an enlarged custom pickguard.

Lester Flatt, a native of Sparta, Tennessee, was born in 1914. An innovator and composer, he was one of the first bluegrass artists to play in Carnegie Hall.

(Continued on page 7)