Tremendous Success For C. F. Martin’s New Performing Artist Series

plus introducing:

Chris Martin’s 55th Birthday
D-18 1955 CFM IV Limited Edition

John Mayer Live
With His Martin OM Signature Edition
April 2010

Martin “X Series” Models
Reintroduced With Sonitone Onboard Electronics At No Upcharge

Gus Hits The Stage
With Martin’s GPCPA1 Performing Artist Series
Story on Page 9

Photo: “13th Witness”
Dear Sounding Board Readers,

At the Anaheim NAMM Show this past January, I was invited to take part in the “Breakfast of Champions” interview sessions with NAMM CEO Joe Lamond. I got to meet Yoko Ono and Quincy Jones backstage, which was very special. In my onstage interview with Joe, we discussed the current state of our business, our strategy of preserving our heritage and skilled workforce and the challenges we face in what is now hopefully a post-recession period.

It has been a tough economy, but we’ve done pretty well considering. Our three new Performing Artist Series models that feature Fishman’s groundbreaking F1 Aura electronic systems are selling very well, giving us a much better position in the acoustic-electric marketplace. We’ve seen that market grow substantially and it’s important that we participate in it.

Along those same lines, at the Frankfurt MusikMesse this past March, we reintroduced our enhanced “X Series” guitars that all include the onboard Sonocore sound reinforcement system. These economically priced HPL guitars with environmentally friendly Stratabond® necks are perfect for singer songwriters who want to perform onstage or plug in to home computers for recording.

These new products are designed to keep us current and I must say that I was pleasantly surprised, during a recent cruise with my family, that our new instruments are being embraced all around the world. We’ve been on a roll locally too, as evidenced by Gus, the second most popular groundhog in Pennsylvania. He’s been appearing on TV commercials jamming on his Martin GPCPA1 guitar! (See page 9 for the full story.)

So as we say, keep on strumming! Cheers...

C. F. Martin IV
Dear Mr. Martin,

I just wanted to tell you how much I love my Martin B-65E acoustic bass. I bought it in 1972. I've been playing bass for 26 years and I've tried others, but my Martin is the best sounding I've ever played. It is aging very nicely and it's never given me any trouble. I've been the bass player for the Blue Meanies, "Gotham City's" Top Beat Combo since 1998. We recently played an all acoustic show that went so well, we followed it up with a show at B.B. King's in New York City. I know Martin is a guitar company and that's your bread and butter, but I'm so happy that you've continued making acoustic basses. They are in my opinion the best on the market! I'm saving up for a new BC-16GTE to add to my collection.

Sincerely,

Antony Fanelli (NYC)
www.bluemeanies.net

Dear Mr. Martin,

I wanted to take a brief moment to thank you and your staff for the great workmanship that became evident the moment my father, Jimmy Mulliniks, received his 1936 Martin 000-45 back from the Martin factory. I also want to thank you for the assistance of your Customer Service Department regarding this same guitar after it had been stolen. Incredibly, it was recovered. My father passed away recently and the guitar is what he left me. He didn't have much, but I now know why it was so expedient for him to get the guitar restored when he did. The photo above is my father back in 1956 when he was just 18 years old and he's playing the 1936 000-45. I'm not quite sure what those funky pick guards were all about, though. The picture below was taken right after he received the repaired guitar back from the Martin factory. I just thought it was neat to see him with the Martin way back then and to still be able to see it today. Once again, thanks to you and your staff. Martin is by far the best sounding acoustic guitar in the world.

Eric Mulliniks
Henryetta, Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Martin,

Just in case you were wondering, my new Marty Robbins 5-18 is computer compatible! And it's so easy to stow, I never get caught playing it at work.

Roger Carroll
Nashville, Tennessee

Dear Mr. Martin,

My name is Chris LeBel. I am 17. I started playing at the age of 10 and often perform in the Bay Area. Three years ago I played a 000-28EC Eric Clapton Signature Martin guitar. It was like a missing piece of me had finally been put in place. After paying back Grandma and Grandpa with gig money and with a little help from my parents, I bought my dream guitar. Nothing I have ever heard or played sounds quite as good as my 000-28EC. It is an honor to be a Martin owner at such a young age and I am looking forward to being a lifelong customer. Thanks!

Chris LaBel
Livermore, California

Dear friends at CFM,

Dick Boak and I had serious goals when we started my red guitar project. First, we wanted to create an affordable and beautiful RED guitar for stage work with a rich tone and easy playability for slinky blues and tasty country licks. Second, we wanted excellent electronics for professional mixing in large and small venues. Third and most important, we wanted to make anyone playing it look fabulous, myself included! The FedEx man just delivered my guitar and I'm quite proud to say that we hit the nail on the head on all accounts! Once again, great job, Martin! Oh, by the way, I've got a new album called "Bingo!" coming out. Make sure to check it out.

Maurice (aka The Gangster of Love)
www.stevemillerband.com

Dear Mr. Martin,

I just wanted to tell you how much I love my Martin B-65E acoustic bass. I bought it in 1972. I've been playing bass for 26 years and I've tried others, but my Martin is the best sounding I've ever played. It is aging very nicely and it's never given me any trouble. I've been the bass player for the Blue Meanies, “Gotham City's” Top Beat Combo since 1998. We recently played an all acoustic show that went so well, we followed it up with a show at B.B. King's in New York City. I know Martin is a guitar company and that's your bread and butter, but I'm so happy that you've continued making acoustic basses. They are in my opinion the best on the market! I'm saving up for a new BC-16GTE to add to my collection.

Sincerely,

Antony Fanelli (NYC)
www.bluemeanies.net
**The Boy With A Torn Hat**

A pre-1900s vintage Martin guitar plays a major role in this newly published coming of age novel from journalist and author Thornton Sully. Find it online at: www.awordwithyounpress.com.

**A Heartbeat And A Guitar**

Antonino D’Ambrosio authored this fresh account on the making of Johnny Cash’s album “Bitter Tears.” In addition to detailing the story behind the songs, he treats us to the rich history of Johnny Cash’s life. The book includes character vignettes of the great folk musicians of the Sixties, and their key role in the social change during that irrepressible era. D’Ambrosio’s book adds important insight to the incredible Cash legacy.

**Pennies From Heaven**

With more than 200 priceless guitars in the Martin Museum, sometimes the ever increasing array of smaller artifacts and details are overlooked. “Coin”-cidentally, two Maidenhead pennies minted in 1833 both arrived in the mail in the same week: one from Ken Sribnick and one from Geronimo Henry (both from Texas). The coins are on display in the Stauffer-themed area. Let us know if you have any artifacts from 1833!

**Ken Mickey**

Ken Mickey from High Point, North Carolina recently released his debut recording “Stand,” featuring original folk songs. Not wasting any time, he’s now working on a second project “Fun With The Guitar,” an all guitar instrumental recording that features his two Martins: a 00-17 and a SPJC-16R. Find more at www.kenmickey.net

**The Kid In Black**

This is five-year old “The Kid in Black,” Valor Yost. Valor is from the town of Sheboygan, Wisconsin and is surely the youngest professional Johnny Cash impersonator in the world. He started teaching himself guitar at the age of two and he received his first little Martin guitar at age four! Valor has been featured in USA Today and The Chicago Tribune, on CNN and MSNBC.com, plus many other Wisconsin media outlets. He has had the great honor of singing with Johnny Cash’s sister Joanne Cash. Valor made his first debut at the age of four when he was pulled onstage from the audience at a Shawn Barker Johnny Cash tribute show. Valor shares his birthday of March 3rd with John Carter Cash, Jr.

To find out more about Valor, you can view his facebook page at The Kid in Black or on YouTube at channel Valor3305.
**Brothers In Arms**

It’s hard for any of us stateside to imagine what it is like for a serviceman to receive a package in the mail from halfway around the world. Sgt. Gary L. Newman received such a package and it made him feel that people back home had not forgotten about him. He and his brothers in arms above have thoroughly enjoyed the guitar, and even though Gary only knows a handful of songs, the little downtime that he does have has been filled with guitar playing, good times and plenty of memories.

**Medics With Martins**

Spc. Stuart Feichtinger (right) is a medic serving in Iraq. He sent us this shot of his compatriots, Spc. Wondolleck (gunner, left) and fellow medic PFC. Hare (center with guitar). The threesome is sharing the guitar. They love the sound and the action, but most of all the musical relief from the day to day military responsibilities.

**A Great Break**

Guy Johnson sent us this photo taken at Camp Victory, Baghdad, Iraq. On the left with the Little Martin Cowboy model is Guy’s son-in-law Sgt. Michael Heuertz, and SSG. Creighton Petro. Both are with the Army Reserves 561st Regional Support Group. Michael is on his second deployment to Iraq and this time, he’s a chaplain’s assistant. Last summer while training in Wisconsin, Michael was the only soldier allowed to have a guitar as part of his “music ministry.” He shared it with several others that were “missing their Martins!” Michael’s Cowboy guitar has been named “Highmileage” for good reason. He relays that “the guitars provide a great break for the soldiers,” and Lord knows they certainly can use a break!

**Team Tribal**

Team Tribal is an 11-man border transition team placed on the Iraq/Iran border to advise the Iraqi Department of Border Enforcement. The Team also assists an Iraqi battalion in controlling their part of the border, and preventing smuggling of bomb-making materials. In its down time, the Team shares a Martin LXM. “It really comes in handy around here,” says one of the team members. With no American music stations to dial in, it’s definitely make your own music with the LXM.
Martin Electrics

Rich Zoppo of Woodbridge, New Jersey loves his Martins. He has some special acoustics that include a Crosby, Stills & Nash Gerry Tolman Tribute edition, an OMC Aura, and an M3M George Martin, but it’s clear that Rich’s true passion lies with Martin electrics. These instruments, offered between 1961 through 1967, have become pretty cool and collectable lately. Even Kid Rock was seen playing one on a DVD with the Outlaws. The top row features four GT-75 models – two in black and two in red. The bottom row (left to right) depicts two sunburst F-55 models, an F-65 and a GT-70.

Grey’s Anatomy

Kevin McKidd (playing Owen Hunt) on “Grey’s Anatomy” is flanked by cast members Kim Raver (Teddy Altman) and James Pickins, Jr. (Dr. Richard Webber). Kevin made a cameo appearance with his Martin D-28 on a “Seattle Grace: On Call” webisode that was loosely tied to the Grey’s Anatomy episode airing that night.

Hollies Inducted

The Hollies were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame at the Waldorf Astoria, New York, on March 15, 2010. Allan Clarke, left, and Graham Nash, center, both founding members of The Hollies, performed their hit “Carrie Anne” with Pat Monahan of Train. As always, Graham Nash was in perfect form playing his Martin 000-40Q2GN Signature Edition guitar.
Friendship – Heart & Soul!

David M. Bailey sent us this great shot of his 12-fret HD-28VS from the jacket of his recent “Friendship” CD. Well-known as a survivor of a brain tumor that was to have killed him, David’s amazing story of hope has inspired thousands worldwide. He is a prolific guitarist and songwriter with a relentless tour schedule around the world in support of his multiple CD’s. Visit his website at www.davidmbailey.com.

An Eye For Composition

Fraser Hill is a member of the local camera club in Bulls, New Zealand. Their most recent topic was product photography and what better product could one choose to shoot than a medium gauge Martin pick..... with his 175th Year Anniversary Martin D-35 as a perfect backdrop. When he’s not taking great photographs like this one, Fraser is an avid bluegrass player (who knew that bluegrass was big in New Zealand?) and his “glorious” D-35 sounds even better than it looks!

Frampton’s Camel

Prior to his summer tour, Peter Frampton sent his Martin D-42 “Camel” prototype back for a check-up. After getting it back, he had this shot taken as part of the tour promo photography. Do you feel......

Shuggie The Snail!

“Shuggie the Snail,” the original Slowhand, checks out his master Doug Stellan’s Little Martin with careful attention to every detail. Doug hails from the UK where they take their music and their snails seriously. We concur he’s a handsome snail. Escargot anyone?
Performing Artist Series Meets With Success

The excitement generated by the Performing Artist Series introduction has been fantastic and continues to grow! We have produced a new Martin DVD entitled “Introduction to the Fishman® F1 Aura” to assist dealers and educate customers about this groundbreaking sound reinforcement system. This informative video will also now be included with each Performing Artist Series instrument sent out to Martin dealers and distributors, who will make every effort to ensure that the DVD stays with the instrument and ultimately ends up with the buyer of each instrument.

Streaming video from the DVD is available for immediate viewing online at: http://www.performingartistseries.com. Additionally, a PDF of the Fishman® technical manual listing all of the microphone images for each of the three different Performing Artist Series models is posted online at: http://www.martinguitar.com.

These online resources are a great resource and active destination for consumers interested in learning about the new Performing Artist Series. To see, hear and play one of the Performing Artist Series models – the GPCPA1, the OMCPA1, or the DCPA1 – visit an authorized Martin dealer near you.

Electrifying New Martin X Series

Given the continued success of acoustic-electric guitar sales in the marketplace, C.F. Martin & Co is proud to announce that all non-cutaway X-Series models will now feature Fishman Sonitone electronics as standard equipment at no up-charge, in addition to all acoustic-electric cutaway X Series models that currently feature onboard Fishman Presys Plus electronics. The X Series Guitars feature patented high pressure laminate (HPL) back and sides with either a solid Sitka spruce or high pressure laminate (HPL) top, patented mortise and tenon neck construction and professionally installed Fishman electronics. All non-cutaway X Series models feature proven Sonicore pick-up technology with the Fishman Sonitone system, featuring “easy access” volume and tone controls conveniently and strategically located just inside the sound hole. All cutaway X Series models are equipped with the Fishman Presys Plus onboard electronics system with onboard digital chromatic tuner, volume and tone shaping controls and pop-up battery access. All X Series guitars are now stage ready, “just plug them in and play.” With the recent re-launch of our affordable 1 Series and the all new Performing Artist Series, this X Series upgrade affirms our commitment to providing an affordable and competitive option to players dedicated to live performance.
Senator Casey Visits Martin

On Wednesday, January 6, 2010, Senator Robert P. Casey, Jr., United States Senator for Pennsylvania, visited Martin Guitar. Senator Casey was elected to the US Senate in November, 2006 and serves on five Senate committees: Foreign Relations; Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry; Health, Education, Labor and Pensions; the Special Committee on Aging and the Joint Economic Committee. He is also the Chairman of the Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Near Eastern and South and Central Asian Affairs. This was the first time that a United States Senator has ever visited Martin Guitar.

The Senator, members of his Staff, and members of the media were personally given a tour of the museum and factory by Chris Martin. The tour was followed by a presentation of gifts to the Senator, which included the two-book set *Martin Guitars: A History, and Martin Guitars: A Technical Reference*. In addition, a framed and signed poster of the Martin Origins Dreadnought artwork was presented, and will be on loan to the Senator for the duration of his career as United States Senator. The poster will be displayed at the Senator’s Lehigh Valley office in Allentown, Pennsylvania.

Senator Casey gave a PowerPoint presentation entitled “Creating Jobs and Promoting Economic Growth” for ten Lehigh Valley community and business leaders, which included Chris Martin (Martin Chairman and Chief Executive Officer) and Keith Lombardi (Martin President and Chief Operating Officer). Feedback regarding the presentation and an exchange of ideas on how to stimulate the economy then followed. A number of guitars from Martin’s core line, which included a DC-1E, DC-160GTE, D-28, D-42, and D-100 Deluxe, were elegantly displayed in the Visitor’s Center conference room where the jobs forum took place. At the conclusion of the forum, the Senator personally thanked Chris Martin and the employees of Martin Guitar for their hospitality.

Gus Takes To The Stage

Since its introduction in January of 2010, Martin’s new GPCPA1 Performing Artist Series model has achieved tremendous success and popularity, both domestically and internationally. In fact, even Gus, the second-most famous groundhog in Pennsylvania, is playing one in a new television commercial. Gus represents the Pennsylvania Lottery in promoting instant-win scratch off tickets to all Pennsylvanians age 18 and over. He has recently formed a rock band to promote the Pennsylvania Lottery’s new “Win for Life” games. The television commercial began frequent airing in early May of 2010.

An actual GPCPA1 was used to capture the audio portions of the project and four other Martin guitars were used on the set, including an acoustic bass, two acoustic-electric guitars and a vintage inspired Dreadnought model. It was especially fitting that Gus, in representing Pennsylvania, would be playing a Martin guitar headquartered in his home state.
Introducing The D-18 1955 CFM IV

55 Years In The Making

Just Like Its Namesake

Like the recent D-28 1955 CFM IV, the D-18 1955 CFM IV commemorates the 55th birthday and ongoing contribution of Christian Frederick “Chris” Martin IV to the company that bears his name.

But this is not just the mahogany version of the D-28 1955 CFM IV.

Since its introduction in 1935, the D-18 has been one of the major stalwarts of the Martin line, and for many years outsold the more costly D-28. In 1955, the year of Chris Martin’s birth, Martin sold 1,103 D-18s versus 806 D-28s.

Prized for its bright treble, crisp midrange and clear bass, the D-18 is a favorite of many bluegrass, folk and country musicians. Its strong, loud voice is meant to be heard and hold its own over banjos, mandolins, steel guitars – and, yes, raucous rock n’ roll. It’s also an excellent recording guitar, offering exceptional balance and distinct articulation.

Elvis Presley played a 1942 D-18 during his early career (it can be heard on all of his Sun recordings, including the classic “That’s Alright Mama”). Hank Williams also played a D-18 that he rotated with his D-28 (Hank’s 1947 D-18 is now owned by the Martin company and is on permanent display in the Martin Museum). Oh, and you remember that great rockin’ guitar intro on Eddie Cochran’s “Summertime Blues?” That’s a D-18, too.

In creating the D-18 1955 CFM IV, we carefully replicated D-18 specs in place during 1955. This includes a Sitka spruce top with non-scalloped X-braces, a small maple bridgeplate, an elegant old style 18 rosette, tortoise body binding and pickguard, cedar ribbons, cloth reinforcement strips, ebony bridge (with long bone saddle) and fingerboard, a bone saddle, a rounded headstock (from template wear) with old style C. F. Martin & Co. scroll decal and other authentic 1955-specific details.

So choosing the D-18 as the other half of the CFM IV 1955 celebration set was a natural.

But we’ve also added some very special features including back and sides of rare – and very beautiful – Quilted Mahogany (dark stain), adjustable 14-fret neck (with two-way truss rod), enclosed “Kluson style” tuning machines, figured Madagascar rosewood back strip and head plate veneer (similar in look to the original Brazilian rosewood headplate), and a small paper label signed by C. F. Martin IV in numbered sequence. The guitar is finished in premium high-gloss polished lacquer.

Only 55 of these superb instruments will be offered, delivered in our highest grade Cabernet plush, 5-ply, hard shell case. And if you already own the D-28 1955 CFM IV, the D-18 1955 CFM IV will make a perfect matched set.

The D-18 1955 CFM IV – another extraordinary Martin collectable – 55 years in the making.

Chris Martin was not only born in 1955, but he’s turning 55 in July of 2010. During his 55th birthday year, C. F. Martin & Co. is offering the D-18 1955 CFM IV Birthday Edition model that like its D-28 1955 CFM IV predecessor (issued in January of 2010) is limited to just 55 special guitars!
D-42 Blackwood NAMM Show Special

Once again, Martin has produced a NAMM Show Special guitar which truly lives up to its "special" designation – the D-42 Blackwood. Backs and sides of this exquisite instrument are crafted of flamed Tasmanian Blackwood, a close relative of Hawaiian Koa both in looks and tone, and which grows primarily on the island of Tasmania off the southeast coast of Australia. Its tone is clear and bright and highly reflective, a perfect match for the D-42’s Adirondack (Red Spruce) top, prized for its resonance and big, open bass voice. Top braces, also Adirondack, are carefully scalloped and tapered. The small maple bridgeplate is typical of Golden Era 30s Martins. As a special touch, European flamed maple is used for the top binding, fingerboard binding, heelcap and endpiece. The entire top perimeter and fingerboard extension are inlaid with colorful heart abalone pearl as is the style 45 rosette. A polished and beveled Delmar tortoise pickguard accents the pearl binding. Ebony fingerboard (inlaid with Golden Era snowflake, cats eye & concave squares) and bridge (with long bone saddle). "Alternative" flower pot headplate inlay. Only 10 of these unique guitars will be offered. Orders will be taken only at the Summer NAMM Show.

00-15M

In response to increasing customer requests, the new 00-15M adds to the previously released D-15M and 000-15M models and offers an authentic blues-type guitar reminiscent of small bodied Martins of the 1930’s. Favored by legions of blues players, these mahogany-bodied guitars have a warm tone and clear voice all of their own. The 00-15M is further enhanced tonally by Martin’s A-frame Sitka bracing. A single ring wood fiber rosette is used in keeping with the old 30s tradition. The genuine mahogany 25.4” scale neck has a solid headstock with vintage-style Gotoh tuners. Fingerboard and "belly" bridge are East Indian rosewood. Nut and compensated saddle are bone. This beautiful, soulful guitar is finished in satin lacquer over a rich dark-stained body. All you need to add is the blues.
Tenor Martin Honors Kingston Trio’s Nick Reynolds

It is hard to believe Nick Reynolds left us on October 1, 2008. A founding member of the Kingston Trio, his fine voice, original playing, energetic stage presence and irrepressible sense of humor were integral elements of the Kingston Trio's success for two decades. Away from the limelight, he was gentle, gracious and accessible, with an obvious enthusiasm for life in everything he did. Like the music he helped create, he was uniquely memorable, which makes his passing such a shock.

When Nick Reynolds joined Bob Shane and Dave Guard to form the Kingston Trio back in 1957, “folk” (for lack of a better word) music was at a low ebb, devastated both by the “Red Scare” and the advent of rock & roll. The combination of Bob’s warm baritone, Nick’s and Dave’s rich harmonies, the threesome’s prowess on guitar, tenor guitar and banjo respectively, and their spirited, wholesome style changed the musical landscape forever. Beginning with “Tom Dooley,” the group’s first hit single, the Kingston Trio made traditional acoustic music cool again. Additional hit singles like “M.T.A.” (on which Reynolds sang lead), “A Worried Man” and “Tijuana Jail,” sold-out concert appearances and huge album sales – 14 of its albums reached the “Top 10” – turned the Kingston Trio into one of the major musical forces of the era. The group was so popular in late 1959 that it had four “Top 10” albums simultaneously, a feat never surpassed and only equaled by the Beatles. It also inspired and paved the way for other artists, including Bob Dylan, Joan Baez, Peter Paul & Mary and many others.

Nick Reynolds remained a member of the Kingston Trio until it broke up in 1967. He then retired and moved to Port Orford, Oregon where he raised a family and became a rancher, antique dealer and movie theatre owner. He also took time to collaborate with fellow former Trio member John Stewart (who replaced Dave Guard in 1961) and Fleetwood Mac’s Lindsey Buckingham on one album, 1983’s Revenge of the Budgie (Budgie being his nickname within the Trio).

He returned to his hometown of San Diego in 1985 and three years later joined Bob Shane and George Grove in a reconstituted Kingston Trio, with which he remained until his retirement in 1999. In recent years, he joined John Stewart – now sadly also gone - at an annual Trio Fantasy Camp that enabled campers to perform with them and be, for one or two songs, a member of the Trio.

In 1997, the Martin Guitar Company honored the Kingston Trio on its 40th anniversary with a Kingston Trio Limited Edition set – guitar, tenor guitar and banjo (by Vega) – that included labels signed by members Bob Shane, Nick Reynolds and George Grove, plus former member John Stewart. However, only 34 sets were produced. Now Martin honors Nick Reynolds as an individual with the introduction of the 0-18T Nick Reynolds Commemorative Custom Artist Edition tenor guitar.

For those unfamiliar with tenor guitars, these four-string beauties were created back in the late 1920s to enable banjo players of the era – of which there were many – to transition to guitar. Built with a small body, short scale and fast, narrow neck, the tenor guitar soon found its way into genres from country to jazz, and eventually - thanks to Nick Reynolds – into folk. Originally tuned in fifths like a tenor banjo, usually CDGA, the tenor guitar offer a range of tuning possibilities, including guitar tuning (DGBE), octave mandolin tuning (GDAE) and a variety of open tunings.

The Martin 0-18T Nick Reynolds Commemorative Custom Artist Edition encompasses many of the elements of the original 0-18T that Martin discontinued in 1989. This classic tenor guitar features premium solid tonewoods throughout: a top of Sitka spruce with ¼-inch non-scalloped braces, back and sides of genuine mahogany, and a neck carved from solid mahogany. Old Style 18 appointments abound, from the rosette and five-layer black/white top purfling to the tortoise brown body binding and Delmar™ tortoise brown endpiece. The finish likewise emulates the original: straw aging toner on the top, dark stain on the back and sides, and Martin’s flawless polished gloss lacquer on the body. Also stained dark to match the body, the neck receives a satin finish.

The East Indian rosewood headplate provides a warm background for the familiar “C. F. Martin” gold decal. The headstock is also fitted with classic Grover Rotomatic enclosed chrome tuners. In a departure from Style 18 appointments, the fingerboard and bridge are crafted from black ebony. Abalone pearl position markers of diminishing size at the 5th, 7th and 9th frets lead to Nick Reynolds signature in mother of pearl between the 19th and 20th frets. The nut and compensated drop-in saddle are both genuine bone. A black ebony heelcap, and beveled and polished black pickguard, complete the appointments.

Each Martin 0-18T Nick Reynolds
The Nick Reynolds Tenor Guitar  
A Long Time In The Making  
by Bill Bush

Nick Reynolds was a great friend of the Martin Guitar Company. As a co-founder of the enormously popular and influential Kingston Trio, Nick and fellow Trio Martin players Bob Shane, Dave Guard (and later, John Stewart) caused a tidal wave of demand for Martin guitars, the effects of which are still felt today.

What’s more, Nick singlehandedly sparked a resurgence of interest in tenor guitars worldwide and Martin tenors in particular, resulting in a record number of 0-18T sales in the 60s, 70s and well beyond. So honoring Nick as an individual has been in the works at Martin for a long time.

As early as 2000, Dick Boak and I had discussed the possibility of a Nick Reynolds Custom Artist Edition. Nick loved the idea, and specs were drawn up based on his ideas as well as details from his 1963 0-18T (#191378) that he had given me years ago. This included Grover Rotomatics, Nick’s favorite tuners, that he had fitted soon after buying the guitar new from Harmon Satterlee in San Francisco.

Unfortunately, the project then hit a production snag. By the early 1990s, Martin had stopped building tenor guitars. Those tenor guitars that were produced as part of the 1997 40th Anniversary Kingston Trio Limited Edition Set used tenor necks that had been in storage since the 1970s and 80s. Martin had not retooled for tenor necks since then. As a result, the Nick Reynolds project was put on indefinite hold.

Then, in early 2008 Dick Boak called with great news that Martin had recently retooled for tenor necks and that Nick’s tenor guitar project was again underway.

Nick Reynolds passed away on October 1, 2008, and never saw the prototype of his guitar. But I’m grateful that a few months before he died we could tell him that the Nick Reynolds Commemorative Custom Artist Edition O-18T Tenor would soon be a reality.

He was genuinely touched. And in his typically gracious manner asked me to thank Dick Boak and everyone at Martin. To this, and on behalf of legions of fans, singers and musicians who were inspired by his immense talent and humanity, I can only add:

Thank you, Nick – for everything.

Bill Bush is a music journalist and advertising writer/creative director. He is a longtime friend of and advocate for The Kingston Trio, and an acknowledged expert on Buddy Holly, and early folk and rock ‘n roll music. His book on The Kingston Trio will be published by Scarecrow Press in 2011.

Commemorative Custom Artist Edition guitar bears an interior label that combines Nick Reynolds’ facsimile signature with the actual signature of Leslie Reynolds, Nick’s widow. A special tenor Geib™ style hardshell case is included with each guitar. Authorized C. F. Martin dealers are now taking orders for the open-ended 0-18T Nick Reynolds Commemorative Custom Artist Edition (including left-handed instruments, which may be requested at no additional cost). In the near future, a list of participating Martin dealers will be posted at: www.martinguitar.com.

Nick Reynolds single-handedly re-popularized the tenor guitar! Above is the original 1963 Martin 0-18T Tenor (Serial #191378) that Nick purchased new from Harmon Satterlee in San Francisco. Photo courtesy of Bill Bush.
The Old Cobbler Shop

The year was 1966. Larry Patterson had bought his first Martin the previous year – a 000-18. No Dreadnoughts were available anywhere in Nashville. It was great news to learn that a local shoe repairman in Erin, Tennessee had one for sale. The asking price of $125.00 seemed high to a young man with a wife and two children; however, Larry was determined to come by the money somehow and obtain his D-28.

With help from his father, the money was borrowed and he went to the cobbler’s house to make the purchase. The cobbler tried to back out on him, but when six twenties and a five presented themselves under his nose, he said “boy, I’ll sell it to you, but I sure do hate to.”

The D-28, Serial #75376, was made in 1940. In 1968, the guitar returned home to Nazareth for much needed fretwork, a new nut, bridge and bridge plate. It saw regular service for the next 24 years in church musicals, general picking and grinning, and in a bluegrass band. In 1992, Larry made the difficult decision to trade his D-28 for a new D-45 and a bundle of cash. An old friend departed, but with fond memories and a new friendship begun!

Vanya Green

When Vanya Green started looking for a portable guitar to play with patients at Mattel Children’s Hospital UCLA, she knew she wanted to get a Martin. For years she’s had a 000-15 and uses it to write and perform a blend of acoustic rock and world music. It has accompanied her on performances across the country, to Spain, Greece, Turkey and the Middle East.

As a Board Certified Music Therapist, Vanya now brings the LXME Little Martin to the bedside of kids from infants to young adults at UCLA. The small-bodied guitar is perfect for portability and for making personal connections – to feel as little separation as possible between the child and the music. Little hands also love strumming the guitar as she holds down the chord fingerings and sings with patients, some of whom are at the hospital for months or years at a time.

For more information on Vanya’s music, her research of world music in Spain, Greece, Turkey, and Israel, and her work to bring music songwriting and recording to kids, please go to www.vanyagreen.com.

Alexandra Kelly

Alexandra Kelly is a fresh voice on the acoustic driven pop/rock music scene. The 19 year-old recording artist and singer/songwriter never goes anywhere without her custom made Martin OM-28V cutaway. The extraordinary guitar bears her signature in the fretboard and a beautifully crafted mother of pearl copy of her silver rose ring on the headstock. Alexandra says “Touring the Martin factory, meeting Dick Boak and the people who love working there, was a great experience. My guitar turned out better then I could have imagined and sounds as good as it looks!” Catch up with Alexandra, listen to her music and preview her new studio album “It’s Complicated,” at: AlexandraKelly.com.
Wayne Francis
Prince Edward Island’s Wayne Francis is, among other things, the webmaster for a Gordon Lightfoot website that is arguably the most complete source of information for the Canadian singer/songwriter. Through Wayne’s appreciation for Lightfoot’s sound, he was drawn to his own 1983 Martin D-35 which he has used to produce two independent releases with a third on the way. Check out Wayne’s activities at www.reverbnation.com/waynefrancis.

Keith Kenny
Keith Kenny has been performing with his Martin DX-1 for the past nine years. The 25-year old New Jersey native customized his Martin by installing a magnetic pickup for an “electric” sound, and a piezo pickup for a natural acoustic tone. His latest CD “Limit is the Sky” features his Martin guitar. For more info, visit www.keithkenny.com.

Taking The Cake
That’s Charlie Mars’ guitar cake made and presented to him by his friend Clara Gold at his show at “Jammin’ Java” in Vienna, Virginia. It was a great show and a fantastic decoration job with some incredible Martin inspired detail. Charlie is quite an entertainer – warm, funny and talented. Check out Charlie’s incredible website at: www.charliemars.com.

Andy Phipps
Richmond, Virginia’s Andy Phipps bought his Martin D-21 “brand-new” in 1969 and he has been playing it for the last forty years. After a busy period in the 1970’s playing coffeehouses and clubs, Andy settled down and raised a family, but he still manages to find time to play at family gatherings or just for his own enjoyment.

Michael Peter Smith
Michael Peter Smith, writer of such classic Americana songs as “The Dutchman” and “Spoon River,” relies on his 1973 Martin D-35 for the confidence he needs in performance and in the studio. He got it for free at a store in Detroit going out of business. He’s never felt secure with any other guitar brand. All of Michael’s most recent info can be found at: www.michaelsmithmusic.com.
A Fairy Tale Wedding

John Lloyd of White Hall, Arkansas bought his first Martin guitar from a pawnshop when he was a freshman in college, but he always dreamed of having a Martin Dreadnought. He resigned himself that his 00-17 would be the only one he’d ever have when he met a wonderful woman. On the day of their wedding, John gave his bride Joy a diamond necklace and she presented John with his dream Martin, a herringbone HD-28. And they lived happily ever after!

Kevin Short & Pat Donohue

Kevin Short, a criminal defense lawyer in Minneapolis and longtime D-35 owner, bought an OM-30 Pat Donohue Custom Edition model in 2008. Kevin didn’t realize at the time that his high school buddy, Pat Donohue, would be joining him in the recording of his first CD – Cotter’s Tunes. Pat plays his PD Martin on 10 of the 11 cuts and Kevin plays his on 4 cuts, with his D-35 on all of the rest. Pat and Kevin guess that their April 2009 recording session was the first “two PD Martin recording session” on the planet. All of the proceeds from Kevin’s CD are going to the college fund for the children of Kevin’s law school classmate who died of a heart attack in late 2008. Find this special CD at: www.cotterstunes.com.

Susie Glaze & the Hilonesome Band

Broadway actress and singer, award-winning recording artist and critically-acclaimed bluegrass powerhouse vocalist, Susie Glaze is a primary voice on the California bluegrass scene. A native Tennessean, Susie grew up in the shadow of the Grand Ole Opry, immersing herself in the craft of country and bluegrass.

After Susie’s Broadway debut in the role of young Southern matriarch Mary Jane Wilkes in the original Roger Miller musical play “Big River,” she began researching the works of the pioneering artists who developed country, folk and bluegrass music in America’s early years. After relocating to Southern California and joining the bluegrass group “The Eight Hand String Band,” Susie debuted as a recording artist with the group’s 2000 release “The Simple Truth” and won the Los Angeles 1999 Topanga Banjo and Fiddle Contest’s award for Traditional Singing. In 2003, The Hilonesome Band was formed with Susie and her husband, mandolinist Steve Rankin, to debut and showcase the work of Santa Clarita songwriter Rob Carlson. Susie’s Traveling Band, with Steve and Rob, maintains a steadfast commitment to their music and can be seen throughout California and bluegrass festivals nationwide.

In addition to her charisma and vocal strength, Susie is an adept guitar player. In the photo above, she’s holding her Martin herringbone HD-28 that has a unique provenance. During the filming of “The Flintstones” movie, acclaimed producer and director Steven Spielberg gave actor John Goodman (who played Fred) the special Martin guitar. Although he appreciated the gift, he simply wasn’t using it, but John knew that his friend Susie could put it to much better use. She certainly has!

For their purely acoustic sound, the band relies on Martin Marquis medium and light gauge strings, as well as Martin mandolin strings.

For more information about Susie and The Hilonesome Band, go to: www.susieglaze.com.
Portugal’s High Flying Bird

Bruno Lopes (aka High Flying Bird) is a popular guitarist and musician in Portugal and he’s an avid fan of Martin guitars! He likes the practicality and value of Martin X Series models and he owns three that he uses in recording sessions and live shows: a DX1R, a 000X1 and more recent the 00X1 Java Mahogany. Learn more about Bruno on his webpage at: www.myspace.com/hfbird.

Colombia’s Santiago Cruz

Colombia’s top singer and songwriter, Santiago Cruz, is a huge fan of Martin guitars. He’s shown above playing his DC-15 Dreadnought during the recording of his video “Baja la Guardia,” which is now being aired on the most popular Latin video channels. This recording, Santiago’s first single from his album “Cruce de Caminos,” remains in Colombia’s Top 10 after a record breaking 36 weeks! You can watch the video at: www.youtube.com/santiagocruzvideo.

Craig Thatcher In Hong Kong

Blues guitarist Craig Thatcher’s demonstrations of Martin’s new Performing Artist Series models at the Anaheim NAMM Show in January of 2010 were so well received that many requests for in-store clinics with Craig came in from domestic Martin dealers. As a result, Craig has been enlisted for an array of clinics throughout the USA. His regular touring schedule with acclaimed singer Simone (daughter of Nina Simone) took him to Hong Kong in April. Martin’s distributor in Hong Kong, Tom Lee Music, was excited to hear about Craig’s visit and took full advantage of his travels by scheduling a clinic and concert at their headquarters on Craig’s off-day. The event was well attended, entertaining and informative. In particular, the reaction worldwide to the new Performing Artist Series models is extremely positive, as is everyone’s appreciation of Craig’s personality and mastery of the guitar.

Vanishing Ukes In New Zealand

Dan White of Hamilton, New Zealand owns quite a few Martin guitars and ukuleles, but the one he seems to gravitate to the most is his little “S-O” soprano uke. The problem is that every time he goes to look for it, it’s missing in action. His kids are the culprits! Dan’s son is caught red-handed playing it above with his cousins at a family party. Dan confesses that he really doesn’t mind that much, as his son already plays much better than he does!
Buffett’s Long Road

What an incredible journey Jimmy Buffett has had, reinventing himself at every turn – singer, songwriter, best-selling author, restauranteur! In the simpler days of 1974, rock photographer Sherry Rayn Barnett captured Jimmy at the legendary Troubadour Theater in West Hollywood. One steadfast consistency is Jimmy’s love of Martin guitars. It looks like a D-28 in this shot!

The Indigo Girls

Amy Ray (left) and Emily Saliers (right) of the Indigo Girls are always in perfect tune, thanks in part to their longtime friend and guitar technician Lisa “Sully” Sullivan (center). This photo, taken on April 13, 2010 at the Belly Up Apsen in Aspen, Colorado, reveals that these veteran performers are still enamored with their Martin guitars – with four onstage at once! (left to right: a Martin D-28, a black J-40BK, a standard J-40 and a D-42).

Get Lucky

Mark Knopfler (left), of Dire Straits fame, toured with his solo band in support of his newest album “Get Lucky.” Joining him for the tour was famed Hot Rize instrumental and vocal wizard Tim O’Brien. Martin’s Dick Boak caught their terrific show at the beautifully restored United Palace Theater in New York City where the pair posed on stage with their respective signature edition guitars: Mark’s 000-40MK “Ragpicker’s Dream” and Tim’s long scale 14-fret 00-18 model. One would be hard pressed to find two finer guitar players than these musical veterans!

Fur Peace Ranch

Hot Tuna’s Jorma Kaukonen is a major force in acoustic guitar music. He not only keeps an aggressive tour schedule – both solo and in an assortment of collaborative bands. He also gives back! His guitar instruction workshop and school, The Fur Peace Ranch, is a critical destination for professional and amateur guitarists alike. It is an extreme honor for all of us at Martin to have Jorma so fervently loving and playing his M-30 Signature Edition Martin guitars!
Tommy and Kathy Green of Oceanside, California sent this photo that was taken at their weekly ukulele jam session at the Oceanhouse Restaurant in nearby Carlsbad. These are ALL Martin ukulele players! Every Thursday night the group leader, Pat Enos, and sometimes Bill Tapia, teach and strum along with them. At the tender age of 102, Bill is the oldest performing ukulele player in the world. The Ukulele Society of America now has more than 400 members nationwide and they usually have from 50 to 70 players at the California chapter every week. As you can see, this amazing group loves, owns and plays a lot of Martin ukuleles – from early 0 sopranos to B-51 baritones, #1T tenors, #1C concerts, 10-string tetrapipes, to the new S0, 5K, 3K, Daisy and #3M models. This group has an example of almost every Martin ukulele ever made. The club plays mostly Hawaiian music for the first two hours, then they have an open mike where just about anything goes – from Tin Pan Alley, George Formby, Johnny Cash, Beatles, Elvis…. you name it! Martin ukuleles define what a ukulele is and are almost always at the forefront!

Randy Sparks (left), has been the driving force and the core of the New Christy Minstrels for nearly five decades. Randy’s concept was to form a “big folk” band where everybody sang and played. With 14 musicians in the original group, the sheer numbers blended with the powerful sound of Martin guitars and 5-string banjos made the group unique. Included among the more than 300 talented performers that have played in the band over the years are Barry McGuire, Kenny Rogers and Kim Carnes. Randy has stayed busy and launched a significant comeback for the group. Most recently, in collaboration with Nicholson Music in Folsom, California, the Martin Custom Shop has been producing an assortment of individualized New Christy Minstrel® guitars. As Randy likes to say: “We’re old, but still exciting!”

Ukulele Society of America – California Chapter!

The New Christy Minstrels® Then & Now

Then & Now
Brandi Carlile

Brandi Carlile wows the house during her January 2010 performance at the Wheeler Opera House in Aspen, Colorado. She’s toured with many Martin signature artists like Ray LaMontagne, Johnny Lang, Indigo Girls and Shawn Colvin and her last two CDs have been produced by T. Bone Burnett and Rick Rubin respectively. Her musicianship and popularity expand with every show. We’re proud to see her “brandishing” a well-worn Martin 000-18!

Bruce McFarland

Philadelphia area singer, songwriter and guitarist Bruce McFarland is shown here with his trusty D-35 that he has gigged and recorded with for nearly forty years. Bruce, who maintains a regular schedule of appearances in Southeastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey, recently re-released his mid-1980’s CD “One Way Ticket” and is finishing up production of his new CD. For more on Bruce’s schedule and recordings, see: www.brucemcfarland05.com.

A Guitar For Elvis – Solid Air Records

Inspired by Martin’s D-28 Elvis Presley edition (complete with leather cover), Solid Air Records artists have come together over an instrumental guitar tribute to the Memphis icon. This collection includes Laurence Juber’s masterful rendition of “Suspicious Minds” plus tracks from Martin signature artists Pat Donohue, Kenny Sultan, and Elliot Easton. This is a must for all fans of world-class acoustic guitar music!

Chameleon – Tim O’Brien

IBMA and Grammy Award winning Martin Signature Artist Tim O’Brien continues to shine as a luminary in contemporary bluegrass and acoustic music. With a style that combines stark tradition with fresh ideas, Tim plays a multitude of instruments on the CD including the vintage 1937 Martin 00-18 that inspired his signature edition model. His guitar mastery perfectly complements his vocal delivery.

Draw The Line – David Gray

From the chart-busting success of White Ladder to this, his eighth and most recent release, David Gray has crafted his delicate ballads and masterful anthems using Martin Guitars. With a gang of them, including a D-42 and several of his Custom 000C David Gray models, Draw the Line blends them beautifully with piano to support the brilliant soaring vocals. The final track features a duet with Annie Lennox.

Women & Country – Jakob Dylan

Vintage Martins ring out as a true original voice returns with his 5th album since the Wallflowers took the nation by storm in 1992. Each song is memorable as T Bone Burnett’s brilliant production unfolds. Layers of texture, harmony and warmth grace each track, making it impossible to play only one time through. The CD features Neko Case and Kelly Hogan on harmony vocals with Jakob shining on his Martin D-28.

Aaron Nigelsmith – Everyone Loves To Dance

Aaron Nigelsmith, the creator of “FUNdamentals of Music and Movement,” offers this interactive children’s album that uses reggae as a backdrop to introduce young children to the joy and fun of music. Joined by Ziggy Marley, Aaron strums his D-15 on cleverly crafted tunes that express the value and importance of dancing and singing. Endorsed by PBS, this CD is ideal for parties and group activities.
Peter Himmelman

Multi-faceted Peter Himmelman is a critically lauded rock troubadour, a Grammy nominated creator of children’s music, and an Emmy nominated film and television composer. He broadcasts a live rock and roll variety show from his home studio, as seen here with his hand-embellished Little Martin. Read his fascinating bio at www.peterhimmelman.com.

Mark Farner

Mark Farner is the engine that took the original Grand Funk Railroad, one of rock music’s most successful groups, to the top of the charts. As their lead vocalist, lead guitarist and principal songwriter, the group made a beeline to rock stardom following their show-stealing performance before 180,000 people at the Atlanta International Pop Festival in 1969. Among the group’s most successful songs is the classic Farner anthem “I’m Your Captain” (a.k.a. Closer To Home). Rock photographer Lynn Goldsmith captured this shot of Mark in 1977 proudly holding his Martin 000-18. We suspect a lot of songs were born on that guitar! Learn more about Mark’s legacy at: www.markfarner.com.

The Gangster Is Back!

The man some people call Maurice has released his new album “Bingo!” on his new label: Space Cowboy Records – co-produced by Steve Miller and engineer Andy Johns (Rolling Stones, Led Zeppelin), and recorded at George Lucas’ infamous studios at Skywalker Ranch. His many Martin guitars blend in with the electric mix. This is classic Steve Miller, always at his best. And the album cover is the best we’ve seen in decades!

Ken Will Morton

Music has become the lifeblood of Ken Will Morton. An accomplished singer, songwriter and guitarist (he’s playing a Martin D-15), Ken Will is based in Athens, Georgia. With seven releases under his belt, his songwriting and unique voice have been praised by the broad music media. His new CD “True Grit” was produced by Mark Ambrosino, a renowned percussionist and producer. The CD is receiving great reviews and radio play on Americana and AAA stations.
Sealing The Deal
Anders Holm of Charlotte, Vermont is a full time surgeon and part time songwriter/musician. He always carries his Backpacker that his wife bought for him while she was still his girlfriend. Her purchase sealed the deal and he knew she was the woman for him. Anders proposed soon thereafter.
True to its name, the Backpacker accompanies his mountain bike excursions to remote ocean spots on the eastern coast of Long Island where its the guitar, the ocean and the music. His Backpacker has taken some dings and scrapes along the way but it’s the tone that counts, but most importantly, it helped him find his wife!

Mark LaVigne
Mark LaVigne, a member of the guitar/vocal band the Coyotes, escapes with some old buddies on a ski weekend at Panorama, BC in the Selkirk Mountain range. The Backpacker provided lots of après ski fun without getting kicked out of the condo. Distance Mark traveled with the guitar to get there: about 4,000 kilometers. Vertical drop at Panorama: 4,000 feet. Elevation: 3,800 feet above sea level. Whoa!

Ryan Bell
Last fall, while Ryan Bell was running errands in Bozeman, Montana, he walked past a front porch crowded with guitar-playing Montana State University students. They sat on couches jamming to a never-ending Grateful Dead tune. One instrument in particular caught his eye. He recalls it looked like a cross between a cricket mallet and a ukulele.
“It’s a Backpacker Guitar,” the player said, handing it over.
Like most musicians, Ryan enjoys playing music anywhere (especially around a campfire), but after an ill-fated attempt at packing a guitar on a pack horse, he’d given up hope of playing in the backcountry. As he strummed the pint-size Backpacker, a new realm of possibility opened up.

Turns out, Backpacker owners are fanatical about their portable guitar exploits, writing Martin many dozens of letters and e-mails each year. Among other exotic travels, Backpackers have journeyed up Mount Everest, down whitewater rivers and even into space. Between servicemen in Iraq and hippies in Nepal, the guitars have been pretty much everywhere. Except, Ryan soon found out, in the backcountry, slung on the side of a saddle. In that spirit, Ryan joined by a friend, tossed the Backpacker into the horse trailer and headed into the mountains. He tried few different methods of securing the guitar on horseback. First, he tried slinging it over his shoulder by the carrying strap on the guitar’s gig bag. That worked fine for short stints in the saddle, but for a longer ride he tied the guitar and gig bag to the cantle, though you’ve got to throw your leg wide when mounting, and be careful not to side-swipe any trees. Finally, he loaded it onto a pack animal; the guitar travels well stashed in a pannier or thrown on as a top load.

While the Backpacker is portable and relatively durable, it is not indestructible! The backside of Ryan’s Backpacker developed a crack, either from being tied down too tightly with a lash rope or his overly zealous dog jumping on it while in the back seat of the truck. Regardless, it played great and as Ryan explained: “It sounds a whole lot better than playing air guitar around the campfire!”
Eric Clapton’s Leather Cover

After reading about the masterpiece leather cover created by Al Shelton for the Martin Museum (Sounding Board – Volume 28, Page 39), Eric Clapton asked his guitar technician Dan Dearnley to contact Martin’s head of Artist Relations Dick Boak to inquire about the possibility of having a special 000-sized cover custom made for Eric. Dick contracted master leather artist Chuck Smith, who had helped Al Shelton complete the final stages of the museum cover. Excited about the project, Chuck created initial designs incorporating engraved silver supports, a stained ostrich-skin back panel, unprecedented stitching and hand-tooling that included Eric’s signature on the front panel. Though fully removable, the cover was constructed around one of the 000-28EC Eric Clapton signature models. The incredible result is seen above, completed by Chuck in the early winter of 2010. ✤
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