



**Martin & Co.**  
EST. 1833

**The 0-18T Nick Reynolds  
Commemorative Custom Artist Edition**

# 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 back-ground 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 a 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 re-tooled 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 re-tooled 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](http://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.

## 0-18T NICK REYNOLDS COMMEMORATIVE CUSTOM ARTIST EDITION – SPECIFICATIONS

MODEL: 0-18T Nick Reynolds Commemorative Custom Artist Edition

CONSTRUCTION: Dovetail Gloss

BODY SIZE: 0 Size 14-fret Tenor

TOP: Sitka Spruce

ROSETTE: Old Style 18, Single Black Inner and Outer Rings

TOP BRACING PATTERN: Standard 0-18T Pattern

TOP BRACES: Sitka Spruce

BACK: Genuine Mahogany, 2 Piece

BACK PURFLING: Style 18, Plain Black Fiber

CAUTION STAMP: None, "C. F. Martin & Co., Nazareth, PA"

Stamping Between 1st & 2nd Back Braces

BLOCK TO READ: (Laser Etched Martin Logo)

Nick Reynolds

0-18T Tenor

Serial Number

SIDES: Genuine Mahogany

RIBBON: Spanish Cedar

END PIECE: Tortoise Color, No Inlay

BINDING: Tortoise Colored

SIDE INLAY: None BACK INLAY: None

NECK: Genuine Mahogany

NECK SHAPE: Standard 0-18T Tenor Shape

TRUSS ROD: Two-way Adjustable

HEADSTOCK: Solid 4-String Tenor Profile, Unbound

HEADPLATE: Madagascar Rosewood With Old Style Large Decal

HEELCAP: Madagascar Rosewood

NUT: Genuine Bone

FINGERBOARD: Black Ebony

SCALE LENGTH: 23" Scale Compensated to 23.100"

# OF FRETS CLEAR: 14 # OF FRETS TOTAL: 20

FINGERBOARD WIDTH AT NUT: 1 1/4"

FINGERBOARD WIDTH AT 12th FRET: 1 1/2"

FINGERBOARD POSITION INLAYS: Old Style Abalone Dots

.187" at 5th, .156" at 7th, .109" at 9th

Nick Reynolds Signature Between 19th & 20th Frets

SIDE POSITION DOTS: White, Single at 3rd, 5th, 7th, 10th, 12th, 15th, 17th.

FINGERBOARD BINDING: None

FINISH BODY: Polished Gloss Nitrocellulose Lacquer

FINISH TOP: Aging Toner (Do Not Mask Rosette Or Inlay Lines)

FINISH NECK: Satin

BRIDGE: Black Ebony

BRIDGE STYLE: Belly Bridge, 4-String Tenor Shape

BRIDGE SPACING: 1 3/8"

SADDLE: Genuine Bone, Drop In Long Saddle

TUNING MACHINES: Grover G-102C Rotomatic, 18 to 1 Ratio

STRINGS: Recommended Tenor Guitar Tuning – Bass to Treble (C, G, D, A)

C (.030" wound), G (.023" wound), D (.014" plain), A (.010" plain)

BRIDGE & END PINS: Black With White Dot

PICKGUARD: Delmar® Vintage Tortoise Colored, Beveled & Polished

CASE: Geib Style™ #515 Hardshell Case, Sized For 0-18T Tenor Size

INTERIOR LABEL(S): Two Labels, One signed by Leslie Reynolds and numbered in sequence without total. The second photographic memorial label includes a white dove of peace.

ELECTRONICS: Optional At An Additional Charge

NO CHARGE OPTIONS: Lefthanded At No Additional Charge



*"Martin's tenor guitar tribute to my husband is very beautiful...."*

*Nick would be so pleased...*

*Thanks to everyone at Martin for making this happen."*

**Leslie Reynolds**



**SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE**

**\$3899.00**

**This model may be ordered  
through your local  
Authorized Martin Dealership**



*The Martin Archives contain many great images of Nick Reynolds: Upper left: Nick loved the color of a red Ferrari and of course, the striped shirt was a staple of the Kingston Trio. Upper right: In the studio with Dave Guard and Bob Shane recording with three Martin guitars! Lower left: Backstage with a proud C. F. Martin III at a Princeton University concert. Lower right: An older and serious Nick Reynolds captured by his great friend and bandmate John Stewart.*

