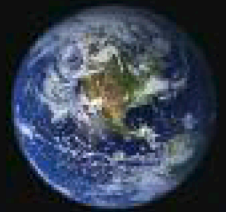


Martin & Co.
EST. 1833

Around The World



Finn Olafsson

Danish guitarist Finn Olafsson has been playing Martin guitars since his debut as a recording artist in 1970. He developed his unique fingerstyle technique with “steel claws” on Martin guitars in the 70s and in 1980 he recorded the first 100% instrumental acoustic guitar album ever in Denmark with Martin guitars only. Finn Olafsson played a D-45 on most of the tracks and a D-28 on the rest. The album was entitled “Acoustic Guitar,” and it is still being acknowledged as the quintessential acoustic guitar album in Denmark. Many guitarists have been studying and playing Finn’s guitar music since then and a lot of players have been inspired to follow suit and purchase Martin guitars.

Finn has recorded approximately sixty albums/five-hundred tracks with his Martin Dreadnoughts and he has performed at least a thousand concerts with his 1979 D-45.

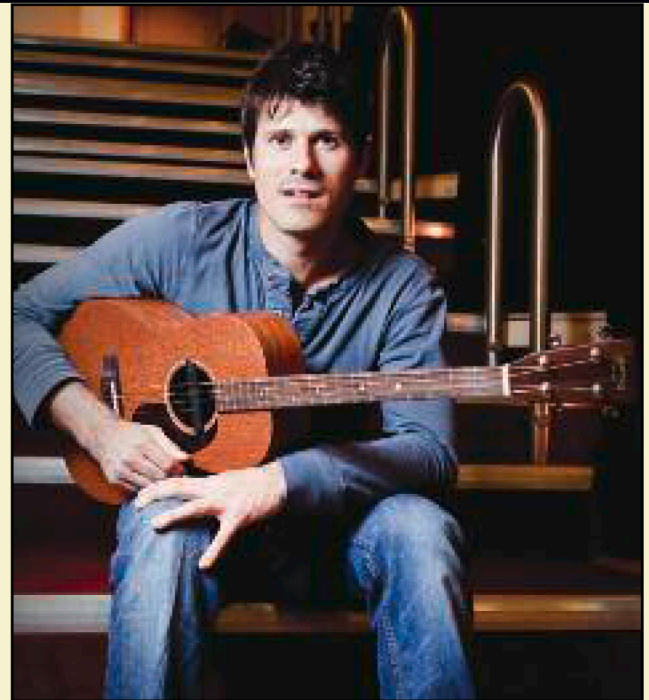
During the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s, only Martin Dreadnought models were readily available for purchase in Denmark. The 1970’s Dreadnought, which was the most common, was not the most obvious or optimum choice for a fingerstyle artist, but it was the model you could actually obtain. As a result, Finn collaborated with Danish luthier Ole Kehlet in 2004 to develop a new guitar model that was created for Finn’s particular fingerpicking style: The Ole Kehlet Grand Folk Finn Olafsson Signature Model. It’s a very nice guitar!

But old love never dies. In 2008, Finn Olafsson visited The Fellowship of Acoustics (TFOA) in Holland to buy two special Martin guitars: a 12-fret 00-28 Martin crafted with Adirondack spruce and Madagascar rosewood, and a pre-CITES Brazilian rosewood D-45 Deluxe.

“I have always dreamed of owning a Brazilian D-45, and I’ve always been very curious about the 12-fret 00s. They are hardly ever available in Denmark, or in Europe for that matter.” The two Martins inspired Finn a great deal and during the last couple of years he has acquired several other rare and unique Martins.

“I’m very impressed by the Martin guitars made during the past twenty years. They are extremely inspirational to work with. The 00s and OM’s especially, with their wider necks and wide string spacing, suit my particular playing style extremely well,” Finn explains.

As of today, Finn Olafsson has an arsenal of some twenty Martin guitars. They are simply the tools of his trade!



Seth Lakeman

England’s Seth Lakeman has become one of the UK’s most unique and vibrant talents with his lively tenor guitar and vocal performances. The recent successes of acts such as Mumford & Sons, Noah & The Whale, and Laura Marling have happened in the wake of Seth’s breakthrough, and while he’s far too modest to take any credit, there’s little doubt that he has been instrumental in helping acoustic folk music, in all its rich and deep diversity, enjoy a renewed popularity and a fresh commercial appeal.

“Wooden instruments are now cool,” he says. He should know. He’s a multi-instrumentalist, particularly adept on an assortment of guitars and fiddles.

In fact, a UK edition of Custom 5-15T Martin 12-fret tenor guitars was created in his name by Martin’s UK distributor Westside for sale to tenor guitar enthusiasts and Seth’s fans. He tunes his tenor open to GDGD, yielding a powerful open tonality. His most recent CDs are pictured below, but you’ll find much more at: www.sethlakeman.co.uk.

