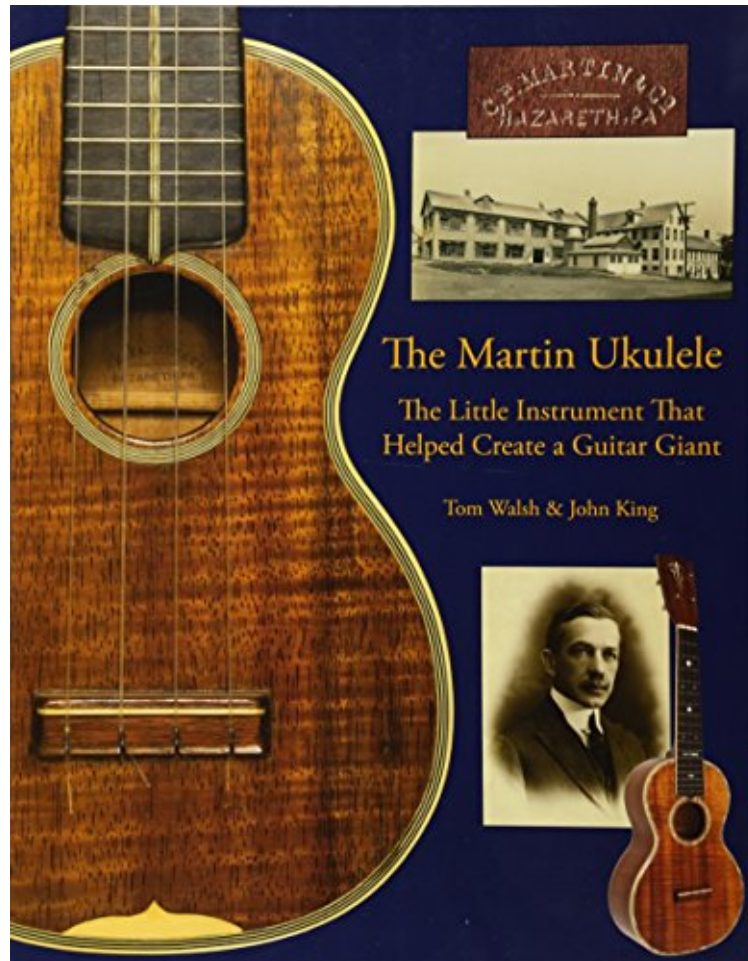


(Read free) The Martin Ukulele: The Little Instrument That Helped Create a Guitar Giant

The Martin Ukulele: The Little Instrument That Helped Create a Guitar Giant

John King, Tom Walsh

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John King, Tom Walsh : The Martin Ukulele: The Little Instrument That Helped Create a Guitar Giant before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Martin Ukulele: The Little Instrument That Helped Create a Guitar Giant:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. EncyclopedicBy WayneChicagoEvery Martin ukulele enthusiast needs to own this book. I was not expecting too much before buying it as there has never been a single source of in-depth information about Martin ukuleles. My eyes have now been opened to how beautiful a book can be.Started as a project of Messieurs King and Walsh, it wound up being a labor of passion for Mr. Walsh alone after the untimely loss of Mr. King.This book is larger than I expected with vivid photographs of famous Martin players, inscriptions on ukuleles, different types of Martin ukes, and even entries in Martin's handwritten documents. The book traces the introduction of the ukulele into Hawaii with Nunes and other Portuguese builders, and goes on to explain--step by

step--how Martins came to prominence with an instrument that is known for Hawaii and , yet, Martin is in Nazareth, PA. The book details the "first six" ukuleles commissioned from Martin by Bergstrom's Music in Oahu, and they were spruce topped! It is highly interesting to read, for instance, about the different music companies of the past that had special "signature" Martins created for them: Wurlitzer, Selmer, Ditson, etc. The book goes through the different types of Martins (O, 1, 2, 3, 5, and on and on) and when they were introduced, what makes them special, how to date a Martin, and such. The thick, glossy pages are a pleasure to hold, the non-fiction prose is well-written, and the photos, as stated, are spectacular. The price is exceedingly reasonable for the rich quality of this book. I find this book to be irresistible reading for ukulele enthusiasts, and in particular those who love Martins. There has never been a better book on the Martin four-string ukulele. This book is comprehensive and encyclopedic. It is destined to be an "iconic" book on the subject of Martin ukuleles. I'm pleased to have a first edition of many more printings to come over years ahead. Superb job from the late John King and Tom Walsh. Thank you for what can truly be seen as a Herculean effort to gather and document all this information. It's an amazing read and reference. 8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. A great big book for a great little instrument. By KC In the spirit of self disclosure, I own a 1920s S-1K so I'm a bit biased in anything I write about Martin ukuleles. I bought this book in advance of its publication because I was interested in learning more about the wonderful instrument that I own. Information about early Martin ukuleles is hard to come by, especially serial numbers, which makes dating an older Martin uke difficult. I bought the book because I was curious to see if I could pinpoint my instrument's date of manufacture. I wasn't. The fact remains that Martin didn't assign serial numbers to its ukes from about 1916 through the 1930s but with the wealth of other data and production information included in the book I was able to assign a range of possible dates which my instrument was made. Mission accomplished. But that's not why you should read this book. *The Martin Ukulele: The Little Instrument That Helped Create a Guitar Giant* is a thoroughly engrossing story of how a struggling company through good leadership, some risk-taking, experimentation, and just plain old luck, successfully rode a wave of popular music to create a company with lasting value. The book is authoritative without being pedantic or too narrowly focused. The writing is clear and concise and the illustrations are beautiful. There's just enough background information and uke history to support the Martin narrative without being overwhelming. I also loved the frequent use of documentation from the Martin archives- boy could Frank Martin write a good business letter! In sum, this is a great book for anyone who loves ukuleles, C.F. Martin Co., musical instruments, business, and just a good success story. Well done! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An important contribution to 'ukulele literature. By byron yasui I haven't yet completed reading the entire book, yet, but knowing both co-authors and their reputations and past work, I feel I can confidently give it the highest rating. I went on one trip to the Martin factory with Tom, Nuni, and John and saw firsthand the meticulous research that they did, taking a digital photo of each page of the account ledgers. By doing so, they could carry out further study at home and at their leisure in tracking the volume of 'ukulele sales from the very beginning of the company's 'ukulele production to the date of their final (of many) visits to the Martin archives. Not surprisingly, I was very impressed with what I have read so far, in the thoroughness of their research. Both co-authors are recognized and respected authorities in the field of 'ukulele history and now, of the Martin company and its track record of 'ukulele sales, among so many other details dealing with the 'ukulele, in general. I am not familiar with any other publication that focused on the 'ukulele and its connection to the Martin company.

The Martin Ukulele is a detailed look at the ukuleles built by the C. F. Martin Co. of Nazareth, PA, and at how the instruments' success forever changed the company that made them. Martin's ukulele-making led the small, respected builder of fine guitars and mandolins into an era of unprecedented growth in the 1920s and helped it become one of the most legendary manufacturers of high-quality guitars in the world. Drawing heavily from the extensive archives at the Martin factory, the book examines the company and its development, from production records, sales ledgers, and a vast collection of correspondence to hundreds of photos, including many of the rarest ukuleles the company produced. Extensive additional imagery chronicles the history of the popularity of the ukulele itself. The book is both a narrative about Martin's ukulele manufacturing history and a reference work detailing the numbers of each style of ukulele ever made by the company. It is an exploration from Martin's first attempt at production in 1907, to the peaks of ukulele popularity in the 1920s and '50s, to the disinterest that caused Martin to cease ukulele production in the 1990s, to the recent resurgence that has allowed the firm to again offer a wide assortment of new models.

About the Author Tom Walsh is an ukulele historian. He was a founding board member of the Ukulele Hall of Fame Museum in 1996. He had written many articles about the history and development of the ukulele.