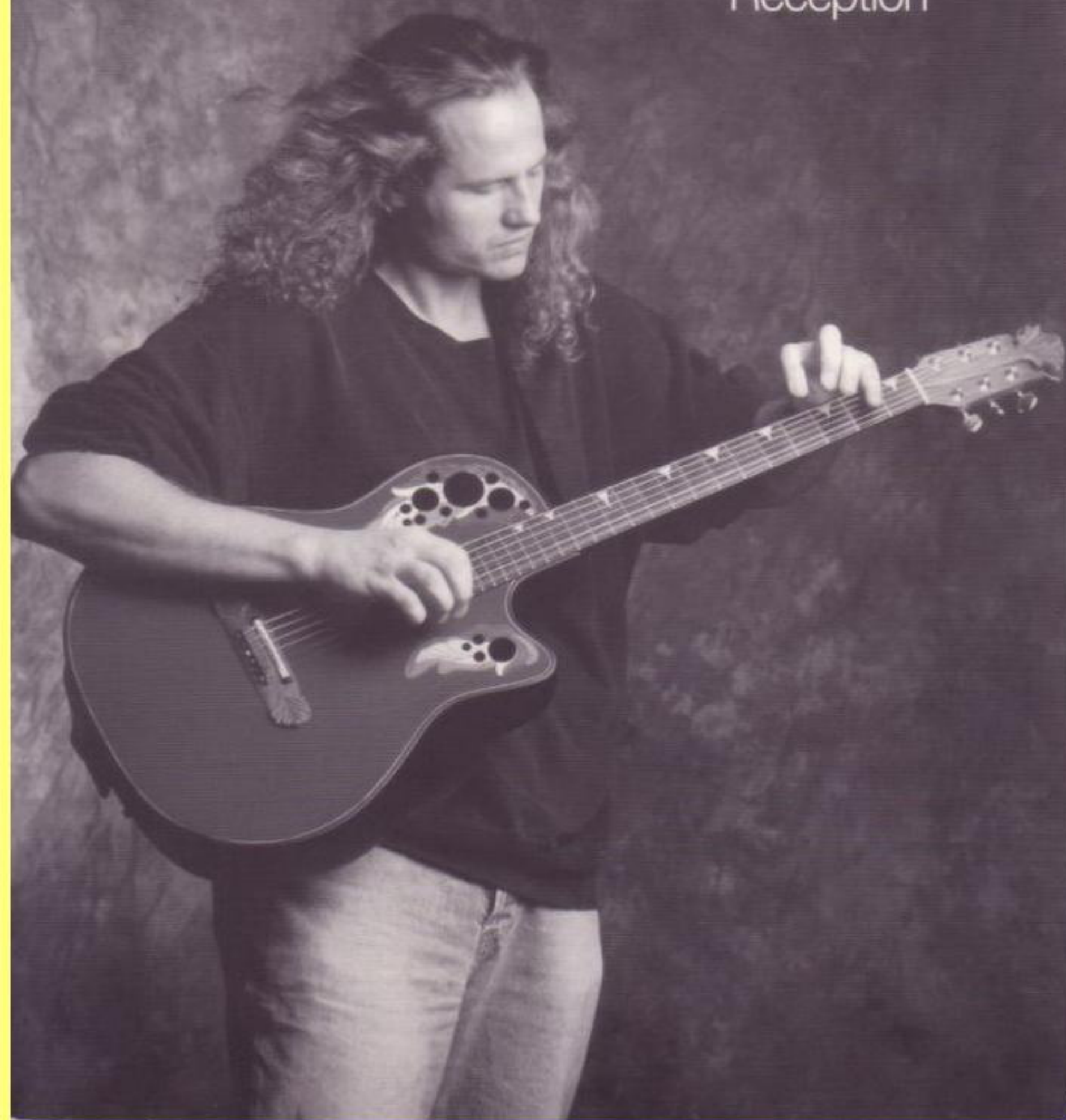


Ovation Instruments  
Celebrates **30** Years

Preston Reed  
Performs at  
Debate '96  
Reception





## 30 Years of Ovation Music

---

**T**he history of the Ovation guitar can be summed up easily: Build a better guitar, make sure the right people play it, and it will prove itself.

Thirty years ago, Charles H. Kaman, chairman and CEO of Bloomfield, Connecticut-based Kaman Corporation, was looking for ways to diversify beyond helicopters. Using aerospace technology, Kaman invented a more durable, better-sounding acoustic guitar.

Players took to the new "roundback" guitar immediately, and when jazz great Charlie Byrd said the new instrument "deserved an ovation," the guitar - and its maker - were given a name. In 1996, celebrating 30 years of continuous high quality and technical innovation, the Ovation roundback is considered among the finest guitars in the world, the choice of dozens of talented players over the years. Nearly one third of all the acoustic guitars made in the United States are Ovation roundbacks, manufactured in New Hartford, Connecticut.

Ovation Instruments, a division of Kaman Music Corporation, the largest musical instrument distributor in the United States, celebrates its 30th anniversary this weekend with four special performances by acoustic guitar impresario and international recording artist Preston Reed. Reed will perform a free public concert on the East Lawn of the Old State House Friday, October 4, at 1 p.m. He will also entertain hundreds of media and dignitaries gathered for the October 6 Presidential Debate in Hartford at a City Hall reception hosted by The Hartford Courant Saturday evening, October 5.

Reed will perform in the 2nd floor City Council Chamber at 7, 8 and 9 p.m. for the enjoyment of reception attendees.

*"Preston Reed is one of the most unique acoustic artists of our time, and it is truly appropriate, upon the occasion of Ovation's 30th anniversary, to have him entertain the citizens of Connecticut and its guests from around the world in honor of Hartford's hosting of the Presidential Debate,"* said Bill Kaman, president of Kaman Music Corporation. *"Just as Preston is changing the way people think about acoustic guitar music, the Ovation guitar changed forever people's ideas about acoustic and acoustic-electric guitars."*

The centerpiece of Ovation's celebration of its remarkable 30-year history is "The History of the Ovation Guitar," a comprehensive 126-page hard-cover book that documents the history of Ovation. The book is on sale in bookstores across the U.S. Ovation has also introduced a 30th anniversary limited edition guitar for collectors, part of the Ovation Collectors' Series begun 15 years ago.

And in concert with Reed's Hartford appearance, an Ovation Instruments display is part of the Old State House's "City of Firsts" exhibit which runs September 30 - November 30. The exhibit, part of the Debate '96 and Festival of Firsts activities, celebrates famous Hartford "firsts."

One of the cornerstones of Ovation's success has been its relationships with artists. Charlie Kaman, himself a professional level guitarist who



was once offered a spot in the Tommy Dorsey Band, put Ovation on the map in the '60s when Glen Campbell became the first musician of major influence to adopt the Ovation guitar. Over the years Ovation instruments have been played by some of the world's top performers, including Melissa Etheridge, Billy Joel, Elton John and others.

Ovation's Director of Marketing, David Bergstrom, recalls bringing six guitars to a rehearsal for Simon and Garfunkel's reunion concert in Central Park in the mid '80s. *"I introduced myself and said, 'I grew up playing Paul Simon on the guitar and I just wanted to bring some Ovation guitars down. If you get a chance to try them, you might like what you hear.' A month later in Central Park, the entire band, including Paul Simon, played Ovation guitars."*

*"Charlie Kaman did stuff like that in the early days," said Bergstrom. "Ran out with his new baby to people like Josh White and Glen Campbell. He put us on the map. And that's a key part of what we continue to do."*

In addition to Ovation guitars, Kaman Music manufactures and/or distributes Takamine and Hamer guitars, a wide variety of percussion instruments, educational materials and related musical products and accessories.

## **Preston Reed: A Genuine Original**

---

**C**onventional is not a word which comes to mind when enjoying the music of Preston Reed.

Reed, who performs courtesy of Ovation Instruments Saturday evening at a City Hall reception hosted by The Hartford Courant for hundreds of media and dignitaries gathered for Sunday's Presidential Debate at The Bushnell, doesn't so much play the guitar as he consumes it, making he and the instrument one with his physical, finger-picking style described by critics as "electrifying" and "groundbreaking."

Concertgoers throughout Europe and the United States have long enjoyed Reed's show-stopping, percussive guitarplaying, the stuff that knocks audiences on their heels. Said guitarist Al Di Meola after watching Reed perform his unique hands-on style of guitar pyrotechnics in early 1993, *"That was phenomenal. When you catch Reed live, you really begin to appreciate that he's got an approach to the guitar that's downright revolutionary."*

*"It has to be seen and heard at the same time."*

Reed will perform original material from his 10th and latest recording, *Metal*, available on Dusty Closet Records. Each cut on the CD was recorded in complete takes.

**Preston Reed will perform during Saturday evening's City Hall reception at 7, 8 and 9 p.m. in the City Council Chamber, 2nd floor.**



## Old State House Exhibit Features Ovation Guitars

---

**A** display of Ovation Instruments guitars is one of the features of the Old State House's current "City of Firsts" exhibit, part of the Debate '96 and Festival of Firsts activities and events.

The exhibit, which runs through November 30, celebrates 350 years of famous Hartford firsts, including groundbreaking products such as Ovation's roundback guitar, which revolutionized the guitar industry in the 1960's.

The Ovation display includes two classic Ovation models - the original 1966 Ovation roundback which was the first guitar to use aerospace technology and materials, and the 1977 Ovation Adamas, which was the first guitar to use carbon-graphite for a soundboard.

Ovation Instruments is celebrating the 30th anniversary of its famous roundback in 1996. In honor of the anniversary, Ovation has introduced a 30th anniversary limited edition guitar for collectors.

## Diversification is Hallmark of Kaman Corporation

---

**F**ounded in 1945 by Charles H. Kaman with just \$2,000 and some basic laboratory equipment, Bloomfield, Connecticut-based Kaman Corporation has grown to become a widely diversified company providing high technology products and services to industrial, commercial and defense markets.

Charles H. Kaman set out to solve the problems of helicopter flight, inventing a unique servo-flap rotor control system. Through its success, the company went on to build many more helicopters, setting records and achieving world firsts. In 1951, Kaman designed the world's first gas-turbine powered helicopter which became a technical landmark and major influence in the type of power supplied for the helicopter industry. The company later developed the first twin-turbine powered helicopter and, in 1960, the first all-composite main rotor blades.

Today, Kaman is active in a broad range of high technology endeavors. The company provides scientific research and systems development primarily for the United States armed services and governmental agencies, advanced technology products for the military and commercial markets; helicopters and related products; and aerospace subcontracting for defense prime contractors.

Kaman is also one of North America's largest industrial distributors, and in commercial markets, Kaman manufactures and provides an extensive range of products and services; virtually every commercial aircraft flying today incorporates one or more Kaman products.

The company has developed K-MAX, the world's first commercial helicopter specifically designed, tested and certified for external vertical lift applications.

As additional evidence of its wide diversification, Kaman is also a leader in the music industry. Kaman Music Corporation, the largest distributor of musical products in the United States, manufactures Ovation, Takamine and Hamer guitars, Trace Elliot amplifiers, Kaman musical strings, and KMD sound systems.

Kaman Corporation employs approximately 5,000 people at 200 locations in the United States, Canada, Europe and Australia.



On Cover: Preston Reed performs at Hartford City Hall during The Hartford Courant's Presidential Debate reception Saturday, October 5. Performances are at 7, 8 and 9 p.m.



Charles H. Kaman, founder of Kaman Corporation, was awarded the 1996 National Medal of Technology this year by President Bill Clinton.



Ovation is the common ground between rocker Richie Sambora, left, and jazz guitarist Al Di Meola.

Ovation Instruments has introduced this Limited Edition Elite guitar in honor of Ovation's 30th anniversary. A display of classic Ovation guitars is included in the Old State House's "City of Firsts" exhibit which runs through November 30.



Ovation Instruments, a division of Kaman Music Corporation, is pleased and honored to be part of Debate '96. In honor of Ovation's 30th anniversary, we are proud to present Preston Reed's performance for the enjoyment of Debate watchers visiting Hartford from around the world.

**Ovation**

---

**KAMAN**