



## **FENDER® CUSTOM SHOP TAPS PEARL JAM'S MIKE MCCREADY FOR LIMITED EDITION MODEL OF HIS FAMOUS 1960 STRATOCASTER® GUITAR**

**FENDER'S MASTER BUILDER VINCENT VAN TRIGT DISASSEMBLES AND RECONSTRUCTS MCCREADY'S GUITAR, CREATES A NEARLY IDENTICAL COLLECTOR'S ITEM TIMED TO 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BAND'S DEBUT ALBUM, TEN**

**HOLLYWOOD, CALIF. (April 8, 2021)** - Fender Musical Instruments Corporation (FMIC) and the Fender Custom Shop today announced the Limited Edition Mike McCready 1960 Stratocaster® in the artist's first-time collaboration with the iconic guitar brand. The Rock & Roll Hall of Fame alum partnered with one of Fender's world-renowned Master Builders, Vincent Van Trigt, to disassemble his famous vintage Stratocaster® in order to account for every spec, detail and iconic scratch. With 2021 marking the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Pearl Jam's debut album Ten, the limited 60-piece run celebrates the impact of the legendary rock band. The collector's edition promises Pearl Jam fans a nearly exact replica of the guitar McCready has used to wow audiences for decades.

"Once I could afford a quality guitar, I immediately went for the vintage Stratocaster®. It was my dream guitar because of my love for Stevie Ray Vaughan, and as my musical aspirations were coming true I had to have it," said Mike McCready. "It was the first significant guitar that I bought, never thinking I could ever own one before Pearl Jam happened. My favorite feature is the playability of the neck. It's so worn in and easy to play. It's got the best neck and fretboard of any of my guitars. I also love how light it is. I actually picked up the prototype thinking it was the original a couple of times which shows me how meticulous and caring Master Builder Vincent Van Trigt and the whole Fender team has been throughout this process."

McCready's purchase of the original vintage guitar was inspired by his idol, wanting to get his hands on Vaughan's 1959 Stratocaster®. His love for the model went so far as getting the year memorialized with a tattoo on his wrist. In deconstructing the guitar, Van Trigt uncovered a long held secret kept from McCready - his beloved '59 Strat® was actually constructed in 1960. It was discovered decades ago by Pearl Jam's long-time luthier after working on the guitar and finding date stamps on the neck. Recognizing McCready's pride in the specific model, the luthier and Pearl Jam's equipment manager let him believe for 28 years that it was built in 1959, only revealing the secret in order to create the perfect Fender® guitar replica.

"It was an honor to deconstruct and recreate Mike's vintage 1960 Stratocaster®" said Vincent Van Trigt, Master Builder at Fender Custom Shop, "He plays an esteemed model, and the unique story behind its history gives even more character to the road-worn guitar we aimed to recreate." Complete with a lacquer finish, flat-sawn flame maple neck and flat-lam rosewood fingerboard with 21 vintage frets, the well-loved guitar became a centerpiece for McCready's iconic solos on tour and was used to record classic Pearl Jam hits like *Daughter*, *In My Tree*, *Nothing As It Seems*, and *Superblood Wolfmoon*. The custom hand-wound pickups wound by Josefina Campos herself, "treble bleed" tone capacitor and synchronized tremolo with Callaham bridge block allow for McCready's signature blues and classic rock sounds to shine through, inspired by his music idols like Jimi Hendrix, Pete Townshend and Keith Richards.

“Mike McCready is a bonafide rock n’ roll legend, and it was a privilege to recreate his all-time favorite guitar,” said Mike Lewis, VP of Product Development at Fender’s Custom Shop. “When considering the partnership, we knew we had to get Vincent Van Trigt on the case. He worked on the Vaughan Brothers 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Strat® set, so he was the natural choice to create an exact copy of Mike’s time-worn Strat® for his fans to collect and enjoy. Pearl Jam has been inspiring us at Fender, and not to mention audiences around the world for 30 years, and we couldn't think of a better way to honor the legacy of this legendary rock guitarist.”

The Fender Custom Shop Limited Artist series celebrates the storied guitars of legendary musicians by building recreations of their instruments in exacting detail. Based on close examination of the original guitars, every nuance is noted and incorporated into the build. Reverse-engineering the model, vintage, wood, hardware, electronics, finish and player customizations are all vital to the process. Most importantly, the player’s wear patterns are recorded: every nick, scratch, gouge and bump are vital to the authenticity of the recreation—they are mapped and documented with precision.

Learn more about Fender’s first ever collaboration with Mike McCready as Master Builder Vincent Van Trigt sets out to recreate the Pearl Jam guitarist’s beloved Strat. With a Relic lacquer finish, flat-sawn maple neck and custom Josefina hand-wound pickups, this Strat is a faithful tribute to McCready’s road-tested favorite, down to every last scratch. Additional info on the Limited Edition Mike McCready 1960 Stratocaster® and product descriptions available [here](#). Product photos and images of Mike McCready with his signature Stratocaster® can be found [here](#).

For technical specs, additional information on new Fender products and to find a retail partner near you, visit [www.fendercustomshop.com](http://www.fendercustomshop.com). Join the conversation on social media by following @Fender @FenderCustomShop.

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**Limited Edition Mike McCready 1960 Fender Custom Shop Stratocaster® - \$15,000.00 USD, £13,399.00, €14,999.00, \$21,999.00 AUD, ¥1,750,000 JPY**

In this first-time collaboration between Fender and McCready, the Fender Custom Shop is honored to re-create this incredible instrument in exact detail, and in doing so a long held secret about the guitar's lineage was forced to be revealed to its owner: the Strat® was actually constructed in 1960, not 1959 as had long been believed. For this limited 60-piece Masterbuilt run, the Custom Shop's Vincent Van Trigt carefully disassembled the guitar in order to note and measure every detail, curve and scratch - and there are plenty of scratches, thanks to McCready's exuberant style! The recreation features an ultimate Relic® lacquer finish on a two-piece select alder body, a flat-sawn flame maple neck with a 1960 "oval C" profile and a flat-lam rosewood fingerboard with 21 vintage frets. Custom Josefina hand-wound pickups matched to the originals are connected to a five-way switch and vintage wiring, including a "treble bleed" tone capacitor. Other features include a three-ply vinyl pickguard, vintage-style synchronized tremolo with Callaham bridge block, vintage-style tuning machines, bone nut and wing string tree with metal spacer. Includes deluxe hardshell case, strap, polishing cloth, McCready case candy kit and certificate of authenticity

#### **ABOUT FENDER CUSTOM SHOP:**

Since 1987, the Fender Custom Shop and its esteemed builders have astounded players and collectors worldwide with marvels of creativity, ingenuity and artistry. From its humble Southern California beginnings, the Fender Custom Shop has grown to become the world's preeminent maker of highly collectible, custom instruments operating in Corona, Calif. Known as the "Dream Factory," the Fender Custom Shop is also home to an honored group known as the Master Builders – some of the most-skilled luthiers in the world – who craft Fender's legendary instruments and push the boundaries of possibility. The distinguished Master Builders make dream guitars a reality for players – from Eric Clapton, Jeff Beck, H.E.R. and Jimmy Page to collectors, working professionals and guitar enthusiasts. As the epicenter of innovation at Fender and the pinnacle of the brand, ideas and production techniques devised in the Fender Custom Shop for both Masterbuilt and Teambuilt guitars go on to inspire and influence Fender's other production line models.

#### **ABOUT MIKE MCCREADY:**

Pearl Jam's Mike McCready has earned his place among the giants of rock 'n' roll guitar. Best known for playing a '59 Strat® guitar, his searing leads are steeped in blues and classic

rock reminiscent of Jimi Hendrix, Pete Townshend and Keith Richards, and his peerless work on hits, including *Yellow Ledbetter*, *Even Flow*, *Nothing As It Seems* and countless others, helped pave the way for Pearl Jam's 2017 induction into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. McCready's guitar work in Seattle supergroups Temple of the Dog and Mad Season also featured instantly recognizable Strat® riffs, such as those heard on "Hunger Strike" and "River of Deceit". Inspired by Stevie Ray Vaughan, McCready set out early on to acquire his own '59 Strat®, and, serendipitously, with his first ever vintage guitar purchase, he found "the one" that has been his primary Fender instrument ever since. Now some 28 years later, McCready's iconic Strat® can be heard featured on tracks *Superblood Wolfmoon* and *Dance Of The Clairvoyants* from Pearl Jam's most recent studio LP, *Gigaton*.

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## ABOUT FENDER

Since 1946, Fender has revolutionized music and culture as one of the world's leading musical instrument manufacturers, marketers, and distributors. Fender Musical Instruments Corporation (FMIC)—whose portfolio of owned and licensed brands includes Fender®, Squier®, Gretsch® guitars, Jackson®, EVH®, Charvel®, Bigsby®, and PreSonus® – follows a player-centric approach to crafting the highest-quality instruments and digital experiences across genres. Since 2015, Fender's digital arm has introduced a new ecosystem of products and interactive experiences to accompany players at every stage of their musical journey. This includes innovative apps and learning platforms designed to complement Fender guitars, amplifiers, effects pedals, accessories, and pro-audio gear, and inspire players through an immersive musical experience. FMIC is dedicated to unlocking the power of musical expression for all players, from beginners to history-making legends. In 2026, Fender celebrates 80 years of giving artists “wings to fly,” carrying on the vision of its founder, Leo Fender, and connecting players through a shared love of music.

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