

# Guitar Soundings

A PUBLICATION OF THE SEATTLE CLASSIC GUITAR SOCIETY

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## SPECIAL PDF EDITION 4

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, this issue of the SCGS Newsletter will be available in PDF format only. No printed copies will be created or mailed out due to the various business closures and social/physical distancing requirements aimed at mitigating the spread of the virus in Washington state.

### SCGS 2020–21

### *At Home Concert Series and other events!*



Sat., Nov. 14, 7:00pm, Michael Nicolella online concert

Tues., Nov. 17, 7:00pm, Zoom Open Mic online

Sat., Dec. 12, 7:00pm, SCGS Annual Holiday Concert online

Tues., Jan. 19, 7:00pm, Zoom Open Mic online

Sat., Feb. 6, 7:00pm, Elizabeth C. D. Brown online concert

Sat., April 10, 7:00pm, Ibison Guitar Duo online concert



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***“A bird does not sing because it has an answer. It sings because it has a song.”***

***– Chinese proverb***

**Dear Friends of SCGS,**

We hope that you are all staying safe and well! We appreciate your continued support as we promote the art of the classical guitar, and work to bring the community together through a shared love of music. We are excited to offer online programs and events that keep us connected even as we need to be physically distant.

This fall saw the debut of ***SCGS at Home***, a series of livestream concerts from extraordinary classical guitarists that you may enjoy from the comfort of your home. **Bokyung Byun** offered a stunning and diverse program in October, coaxing emotive interpretations with her fluid technique and gorgeous tone. The SCGS is thrilled to continue the series with Seattle’s own virtuosos **Michael Nicolella (November 14)** and **Elizabeth Brown (February 6,)** as well as an amazing guitar duo based in Austin Texas, the **Ibison Guitar Duo (April 10.)** These livestream, freewill donation concerts will be available with just a click on the SCGS website, [www.seattleguitar.org](http://www.seattleguitar.org). All concerts will be on **Saturday evenings, 7:00 pm PT**, and will be available to view for the following 22 hours.

The **SCGS Zoom All Members Meeting** in October showcased a beautiful program by **Mark Hilliard Wilson**, the director of the **Guitar Orchestra of Seattle**. It was an honor to introduce and interact with the special guest, composer **Quinn Mason**, who inspired this headline from Texas Monthly Magazine: “Why Quinn Mason, a 24 year Old Composer from Dallas, May be Classical Music’s Next Superstar.” <https://www.texasmonthly.com/the-culture/quinn-mason-composer-dallas-symphony-orchestra/>

A great way to catch up with fellow guitarists, share some of your favorite pieces, or simply listen and enjoy wonderful music, is to sign up for a **Zoom Open Mic!** Emcee **Ellen Wanless** will bring the warmth and intimacy of C&P Coffee Company’s *Unplugged* to your living room on **Tuesday evening at 7 pm, November 17**. Contact [scgs@seattleguitar.org](mailto:scgs@seattleguitar.org) to receive the link to perform and/or listen.

One of the favorite events of the year is the **Annual SCGS Holiday Fundraiser Concert**. Please join us online on **Saturday, December 12, 7:00 pm PT** to share music and celebrate the season. Your support and donations help SCGS continue to bring music, education, outreach, and community to all. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to a local food bank. The theme for this year’s concert is Hope, Joy, and Peace. There will be an opportunity for everyone to play in a **virtual guitar orchestra** with Mark Hilliard Wilson’s multi-level arrangement of “Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring” by J.S. Bach. You may also collaborate on this project by submitting images and/or texts inspired by something that brings you hope, joy, and peace. A few technical wizards behind the scenes will use the audio, visual, and text submissions to create a video for everyone to enjoy at the concert, celebrating community participation and a shared vision of hope for the new year. The music and the details about submitting an audio recording, visual image, and/or text message are on [www.seattleguitar.org](http://www.seattleguitar.org).

Please also visit [www.seattleguitar.org](http://www.seattleguitar.org) for more information about all these events and the online links.

On behalf of the SCGS Board, we are excited to share music and community with everyone. Thank you for being a part of our mission.

**With gratitude, Hilary Field, Executive Director, SCGS**

## SCGS 2020–21 AT HOME CONCERT SERIES



During this time of pandemic and ongoing social distancing, SCGS is still committed to bringing concert artists and guitar events to our membership and community. Until such a time in the future when it is safe to host concerts in local venues with live audiences, the next best thing is being able to see some great concerts and performers from the comfort of your own home. SCGS has started a new concert series called “SCGS At Home”. We hope you will join us online, enjoy the music and support these artists. For more information, obtain free-will donation tickets, and watch the live stream, please visit:

[www.seattleguitar.org](http://www.seattleguitar.org)

### MICHAEL NICOLELLA – NOVEMBER 14, 2020, 7:00 PM – ONLINE

SCGS is thrilled to bring Michael Nicolella, Seattle’s own guitar virtuoso, to our brand new online concert series!

With a repertoire spanning from J.S. Bach and Domenico Scarlatti to Jimi Hendrix and Elliott Carter, Michael Nicolella is recognized as one of America’s most innovative classical guitar virtuosos. Described by Classical Guitar magazine as: “one of the contemporary guitar’s most gifted stars” and by Guitar Player as a: “classical iconoclast (who) continues to push the boundaries of the genre as both a composer and player,” he has received wide critical acclaim for his performances, recordings and compositions. As a concert artist, Michael has performed throughout North America, Europe and Japan as solo recitalist, chamber musician and soloist with orchestra.

Nicolella blurs the lines between musical styles and disciplines. He is part of a growing trend in classical music to revitalize the role of the composer/performer. As a concert artist he frequently programs his own works for guitar in solo, chamber and orchestral settings. His most recent orchestral piece, “Flame of the Blue Star of Twilight” (for soprano, guitar and orchestra), received its premiere performance by the Northwest Symphony Orchestra with soprano Alexandra Picard. Known for his creative programming, he has introduced electric guitar into his “classical” programs and extended the repertoire and audience of his instrument not only with his own compositions and transcriptions, but also by premiering and commissioning works by some of today’s most exciting emerging composers. In reference to his abilities on the classical and electric guitar, noted guitar composer, scholar and critic John Duarte stated in

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an issue of "Gramophone" magazine that: "Others have 'crossed the track' in one direction or the other but none has done so with the technical and/or musical success as Nicolella, who, chameleon-like, achieves comparable distinction in both fields".

Michael's latest recording, a double album of his arrangement of the *Complete Bach Cello Suites* was described as a "monumental achievement" by *Soundboard* magazine and as "performances that show the suites in an entirely new light" by the *Seattle Times*. His previous four critically acclaimed releases were albums of contemporary music for classical and electric guitar. Three solo albums ("Ten Years Passed," "Shard" and "Push") all featured works composed by Nicolella (including an electric guitar concerto and a classical guitar concerto); as well as music written for Nicolella and recent masterworks. The album "Transit," is a 45-minute magnum opus written for Nicolella by composer John Fitz Rogers for electric guitar and computer generated sound. A frequent performer with the Seattle Symphony, Nicolella has also performed and collaborated with a wide range of ensembles and artists including: Northwest Symphony Orchestra, Seattle Opera, Symphony Tacoma, Seattle Modern Orchestra, Merce Cunningham Dance Company, violinist Gil Shaham, Broadway legends Bernadette Peters and Brian Stokes Mitchell, jazz vocalist Johnaye Kendrick and the Seattle Guitar Trio, which performed Michael's groundbreaking arrangement of Stravinsky's "Rite of Spring."

Michael is a graduate of Yale University, Berklee College of Music and the Accademia Chigiana in Siena, Italy. He is on the faculty of Cornish College of the Arts in Seattle.

"Since the passing of Andres Segovia the guitar world has needed an advocate ... perhaps Michael Nicolella is that person... an artist with eclectic tastes and a contemplative bent...extraordinary...powerful" – THE WASHINGTON POST

Please visit [www.nicolella.com](http://www.nicolella.com) for more information.

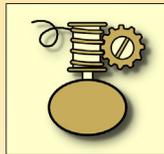


**Michael Nicolella**  
**Live Stream Concert Program**  
**Saturday, Nov. 14, 7:00 pm**

<b>Torre Bermeja</b> <b>Granada</b>	<b>Isaac Albeniz</b> <b>(1860-1909)</b>
<b>Homenaje (Pour Le Tombeau de Debussy)</b>	<b>Manuel de Falla</b> <b>(1876-1946)</b>
<b>La Fille aux Cheveux de Lin</b>	<b>Claude Debussy</b> <b>(1862-1918)</b>
<b>Désespoir Agréable</b>	<b>Erik Satie</b> <b>(1866-1925)</b>
<b>Sarabande</b>	<b>Francis Poulenc</b> <b>(1899-1963)</b>
<b>Prelude BWV 1006a</b> <b>Prelude BWV 1007</b>	<b>J.S.Bach</b> <b>(1685-1750)</b>
<b>Variations on a Theme by da Milano (2020)</b>	<b>Michael Nicolella</b> <b>(premiere performance)</b>
<b>Musica Ricercarta VII</b>	<b>György Ligeti</b> <b>(1923-2006)</b>
<b>Strawberry Fields Forever</b>	<b>Lennon/McCartney</b>

# Seattle Classic Guitar Society

ONLINE OPEN MICS



## zoom open mic nights

Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup> – 7:00pm

Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup> – 7:00pm

*If you are interested in performing, listening, or would like more information, please send an email to [scgs@seattleguitar.org](mailto:scgs@seattleguitar.org).*

## SCGS 2020 Annual Holiday Fund-Raising Concert Online

*Saturday, December 12th*

*7:00 PM - Online*



*SCGS will present a virtual/online hosted concert of video performances by SCGS members, Guitar Orchestra of Seattle and a video play-along that everyone can participate in. The theme for the SCGS 2020 Holiday Fund-Raising Concert is “Hope, Joy and Peace”.*

*For more details and how to participate, please see info on page 2 or visit:*

[www.seattleguitar.org](http://www.seattleguitar.org)

Below is the link to register for the holiday concert.

There will be an option to attend for free or to offer a freewill donation:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_m34wXNcWQ5q5oqv7578zdg](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_m34wXNcWQ5q5oqv7578zdg)

## COMPOSER CORNER - INTERVIEW WITH QUINN MASON

### Mark Wilson Interview with Composer Quinn Mason

**What are your influences?** As far as influences, the music of John Adams and Stravinsky are really inspiring to me right now. Adams, because of his complex, yet bright and accessible compositional style and Stravinsky because of his music eclecticism.

**What music did you grow up with?** A variety of music, mostly music from the '70's and '80's because of my mom. Classical music was something I discovered on my own.

**IN my day, there was the first record that you bought, did you have a first CD you bought or a influential download?** Not necessarily a single CD, but I listened to a lot of Herbert von Karajan's recordings with the Berlin Philharmonic when I was really young. The sounds that Karajan got out of the Philharmonic got me extremely interested in orchestral music and in conducting as well.



*Mark H. Wilson*



*Quinn Mason*

**Tell us about your compositional style.** I find that I like to make my music seem flowing and timeless like a stream of consciousness, which makes it feel more natural to listen to. I also have a great feel for rhythm, and I attribute that to my background in percussion and conducting.

**Do you have a favorite composer, or genre?** I'm inspired by all sorts of genres but I've found the Latin music genre to be very interesting, specifically the interplay between the instruments and the singers and the melodic variation the singers make use of it. Latin songs are a marvel of compositional invention and very inspiring musically.

**Tell us about your journey to become a composer. What made you want to become a composer?** I got started with composition when I was really young at 10 years old. As a young cellist, I would compose my own etudes instead of practicing the ones my teacher gave me and I would take them to her and ask them to play them for me. Being that young and hearing something I created for the very first time made a lightbulb go off in my head and made me want to try to write bigger, better works.

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**What is the role or purpose of a composer in 2020?** The present time is a great opportunity for varied forms of expression, and with music, it's a great time for different styles to be heard and accepted. Because of this, composers have the freedom to write about anything they please and it will find listeners and a home.

**What does your music say about 2020?**

My latest music is a reflection and contemplation on current events. I think deeply about these things as an introspective person, and I found that this is a great time to say what I am thinking in my music. It is my hope that my music from this year doesn't serve as a stark reminder of current events, but rather as a reflection of it that also looks forward to an optimistic future.

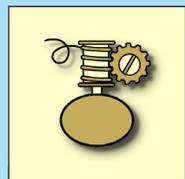
For more information about Quinn please visit his website and also check out this article about him in the Texas Monthly Magazine: "Why Quinn Mason, a 24 year Old Composer from Dallas, May be Classical Music's Next Superstar." <https://www.texasmonthly.com/the-culture/quinn-mason-composer-dallas-symphony-orchestra/>

Quinn Mason Website: <https://masonianmusic.wixsite.com/home>



## 2020 SCGS BOARD MEMBER ELECTIONS

Every two years, the SCGS membership votes on two Board member positions. The election ballots will be digital this year, and will arrive via email to all current members. Be sure to look in your email inbox for the election ballot, which will be easy to digitally fill out and submit anonymously to SCGS. These elections are in compliance with our bylaws, and serve to help us maintain our status as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Thank you for your support!



**4**  
CULTURE

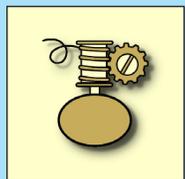
*Visit SCGS online at: [www.seattleguitar.org](http://www.seattleguitar.org)*

**SCGS Membership and Member Renewals available online now!**  
*(Go to the SCGS website and click "Join SCGS". It's quick and easy!)*

**Donate Online to SCGS!**  
*(Go to the SCGS website, click "Donations", and then click the "Make a Donation Online" button.)*

**Visit SCGS on Facebook!**  
<http://www.facebook.com/seattleclassicguitarsociety/>

**Follow SCGS on Twitter!** | <https://twitter.com/SeaGuitarSoc>



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### NEW RECORDING BY MAX SHAFFER

From Max:

I am very excited to be announcing my first album, “Lost to the World”, which features works from Albeniz, Mertz, Goss, and more! The album title is inspired by a poem by Fredrich Rückert (“I am lost to the world”) which captures the sentimental and evocative nature of the album. Across the five tracks on the album, the music offers a quiet contemplation to the listener while exploring a wide breadth of the classical guitar repertoire. The track listings include:

Elegy – Bryan Johanson

Mallorca – Isaac Albéniz

Fantasia on Themes from La Traviata – Julián Arcas

Elegie – Johann Kaspar Mertz

Watts Chapel – Stephen Goss

You may listen to the album on Spotify, Apple Music, or any major music streaming platform!

“Lost to the World” album links:

Spotify: <https://open.spotify.com/album/1z80MuLa1A65jxxwRg3VbY?si=PYzVSKxBRy-55zLE--te9g>

Apple Music: <https://music.apple.com/us/album/lost-to-the-world/1535326753>

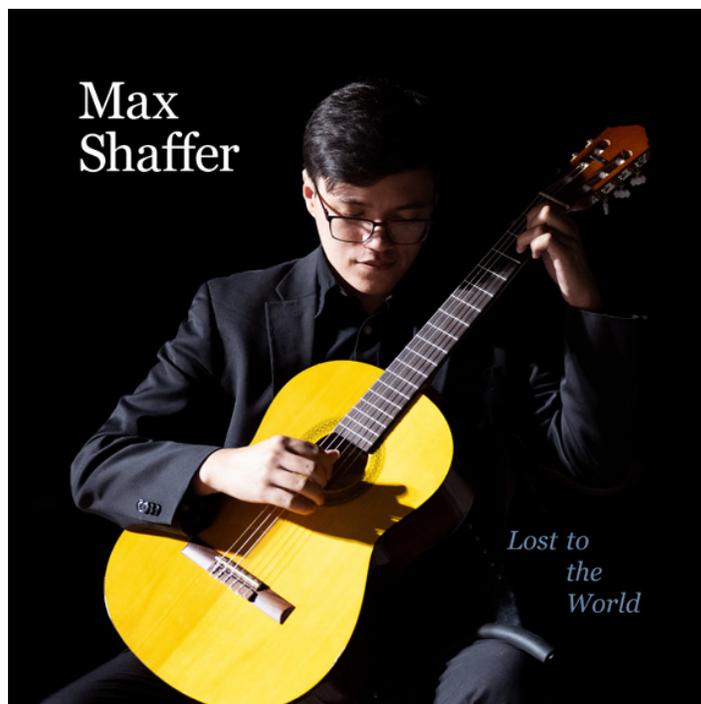
Music Video (Watts Chapel by Stephen Goss):  
<https://youtu.be/g11uKhO4aHE>

Max Shaffer Bio:

Max Shaffer is a classical guitarist noted for his emotionally evocative performances. He has received prizes in various competitions, most notably he was a finalist in the 2019 Northwest Classical Guitar Festival Competition. He has also been a featured performer in various guitar festivals and institutions around the United States, including the New Mexico Classical Guitar Festival, the Northwest Classical Guitar Festival, and he was featured in a recital series at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. A recent graduate of the University of Washington, Max currently resides in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Max Shaffer Website:

<https://www.maxshafferguitar.com/>



*Congratulations Max from your friends at SCGS!*

### NEW GUITAR SONATA PUBLISHED BY JEREMIAH LAWSON

From Jeremiah:

I've officially published Guitar Sonata No. 7 in D minor, homage to Blind Willie Johnson at SMP Press:

<https://www.sheetmusicplus.com/title/guitar-sonata-no-7-in-d-minor-homage-to-blind-willie-johnson-digital-sheet-music/21865871>

I also finished an analysis of Matiegka's Op. 31, No. 2 Sonata in A minor with plans to write about Op. 31, No. 3 soon.

<https://wenatcheethehatchet.blogspot.com/2020/09/analysis-of-matiegkas-six-sonates.html>



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## Events Calendar:

Events are also listed on our website: [www.SeattleGuitar.org](http://www.SeattleGuitar.org)

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*With the exception of online concerts and other online streamed events, all SCGS concerts and gatherings are currently canceled or suspended until such a time in the future when such gatherings are safe for groups to attend again.*

Saturday, November 14, 7:00 PM PST

SCGS - At Home Concert Series

SCGS presents Michael Nicolella in an online live-streamed concert. Visit the SCGS website for more info and concert links. SCGS website: [www.seattleguitar.org](http://www.seattleguitar.org)

Tuesday, November 17, 7:00 PM PST

SCGS Virtual Open Mic online via Zoom

If you are interested in performing, listening, or would like more information, please send email to Hilary Field at: [scgs@seattleguitar.org](mailto:scgs@seattleguitar.org) Visit the SCGS website for more info. SCGS website: [www.seattleguitar.org](http://www.seattleguitar.org)

Saturday, December 12, 7:00 PM PST

SCGS - 2020 Online Holiday Fund-Raising Concert

More details soon. SCGS will present a virtual online hosted concert of videos by SCGS members and Guitar Orchestra. Visit the SCGS website for more info and concert links. SCGS website: [www.seattleguitar.org](http://www.seattleguitar.org)

### **Every Sunday and 1st & 3rd Thursdays:**

“As Best You Can” Guitar Sessions are meeting by Skype every Sunday from 2:30 to 4:30 pm, and on the first and third Thursdays from 7:30 to 9:00 pm. All styles and genres of guitar music are welcomed! For more information and the Skype link, contact: [asbestyoucan@outlook.com](mailto:asbestyoucan@outlook.com)

### **Monthly:**

First Friday of the month, 6:00–6:30 PM, Seattle, WA  
Mark Hilliard Wilson plays music for meditation at St. James Cathedral every Friday throughout the year.

Cathedral’s Vimeo page: [vimeo.com/stjamescathedral](https://vimeo.com/stjamescathedral)

Facebook page: [facebook.com/stjamesseattle](https://facebook.com/stjamesseattle)

(If you are unable to participate at that time, the video will be archived for future viewing.)

### **More Classical Guitar Festivals, Events, etc.**

<https://www.thisisclassicalguitar.com/classical-guitar-festivals-competitions/>

<https://internationalclassicalguitar.com/>

### **DIVERSITY RESOURCES FOR MUSICIANS**

Diversity Resources by Ciyadh Wells

<http://www.ciyadhwells.com/resources>

Guitar Music by Black Composers

<http://guitarmusicbyblackcomposers.com/>

The Institute for Composer Diversity

<https://www.composerdiversity.com/>

Oxford Music Online

Women Composers by Time Period with Links

<https://www.oxfordmusiconline.com/page/women-composers-by-time-period>

Hildegard Publishing Company

Black Women Composers

[https://www.hildegard.com/resources.php?page=afro\\_american](https://www.hildegard.com/resources.php?page=afro_american)

Music by Black Composers

<https://www.musicbyblackcomposers.org/resources/living-composers-directory/>

Boulangier Initiative - Women Composers

<https://www.boulangierinitiative.org/>



## CLASSICAL GUITAR OPEN MICS

SCGS will host an online open mic via Zoom on November 17th. In the meantime, our traditional open mics are suspended until a time in the future when such gatherings are deemed safe.

### SCGS Virtual Open Mic online via Zoom

Tuesday, November 17, 7:00 PM PST

If you are interested in performing, listening, or would like more information, please send email to Hilary Field at: [scgs@seattleguitar.org](mailto:scgs@seattleguitar.org)

Upcoming online Open Mic dates:

Tuesday, November 17, 7:00pm  
Tuesday, January 19, 7:00pm  
Tuesday, March 16, 7:00pm  
Tuesday, May 18, 7:00pm

### West Seattle Unplugged!

An informal gathering of musicians in the cozy C&P Coffeehouse in West Seattle.

WHEN: 3rd Tuesdays, 7-9pm (except December).

WHERE: C&P Coffeehouse, 5412 California Ave. SW, West Seattle.

WHY: Practice Performing. Share Your Joy.

QUESTIONS?: Contact Ellen Wanless at: [wisteria@drizzle.com](mailto:wisteria@drizzle.com)

*Paid for by the Seattle Classic Guitar Society and the C&P Coffee Company.*

### EASTSIDE CLASSICAL GUITAR GET-TOGETHERS

Eastside Get-Togethers (open mics) are on the first Thursday of each month on the Eastside in Bellevue, WA. All levels welcome. For more information please contact: [nbonning@msn.com](mailto:nbonning@msn.com) or phone Nancy at 425-454-0186.

Submit items for the Newsletter & Events Calendar at: [SCGSNewsletter@hotmail.com](mailto:SCGSNewsletter@hotmail.com) Submission deadline for the January-February issue is December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020. For articles, space is very limited, no guarantee of inclusion, articles subject to approval first and editing.



### Seattle Classic Guitar Society

A nonprofit organization promoting the art of the classic guitar in the Puget Sound area.

Board of Directors:

Kindred Ritchie – Chair, acting President  
Bill Clements – Vice President  
Elizabeth Brown – Treasurer  
Julie Wieringa – Secretary & Communications  
Jessica Papkoff – Newsletter Editor  
Ellen Wanless – Volunteer Coordinator

Executive Director:

Hilary Field

For more information contact us at:

SCGS  
P.O. Box 30167  
Seattle, WA 98113  
E-mail: [SCGS@seattleguitar.org](mailto:SCGS@seattleguitar.org)  
Phone: 206-365-0845  
Website: [www.SeattleGuitar.org](http://www.SeattleGuitar.org)

Board meetings are monthly, 2nd Monday, 7-9pm. SCGS members may attend by contacting SCGS (see above) to confirm location.

Donations are gladly accepted and are tax deductible; SCGS is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

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Please share this Datebook (better yet, get your friend to join SCGS). Or, if you just disposes yourself of it, then recycle.



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P.O. Box 30167  
Seattle, WA 98113



## Seattle Classic Guitar Society *Membership Application*

**Yes! I want to help support the Classic Guitar in Puget Sound!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate if you are a new or renewing member and membership type. Memberships are for 1 year. Donations are greatly appreciated. All donations are separate from the membership amount and are fully tax-deductible. Donations and Memberships may also be made online at: [www.seattleguitar.org](http://www.seattleguitar.org).

**Membership:**

- New Member
- Renewal
- \$15 Student/Senior
- \$20 Individual
- \$35 Couple

**Donations:**

- \$50 Friend
- \$100 Contributor
- \$250 Benefactor
- \$500 Patron
- Other amount: \$\_\_\_\_\_

My employer will match my donation!

*(Please enclose matching gift form or use your employer's online process.)*

### **What does membership do for me?**

Membership in the SCGS gives you discounts on tickets to the International Concert Series, a one-year subscription to Guitar Soundings newsletter, notification of events via mail and email. Your support also helps us to bring the finest international artists to perform in the Seattle area, educational outreach in schools, open mics and support for local artists year after year.

Please send your check or money-order, made payable to SCGS, to:  
P.O. Box 30167, Seattle, WA 98113  
Email: [scgs@seattleguitar.org](mailto:scgs@seattleguitar.org) | Website: [www.seattleguitar.org](http://www.seattleguitar.org)