



Guitar Soundings

A publication of the Seattle Classic Guitar Society

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2010-11 INTERNATIONAL CONCERT SERIES CONTINUES WITH

MICHAEL NICOLELLA

All performances take place at the Illsley Ball Nordstrom Recital Hall at Benaroya Hall

MICHAEL NICOLELLA - SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2010, 7:30 PM



With a repertoire spanning from J.S. Bach to Jimi Hendrix, Michael Nicolella is recognized as one of America's most innovative classical guitar virtuosos. He has received wide critical acclaim for his performances, recordings and compositions. As a concert artist, Michael has performed throughout North America and Europe as solo recitalist, chamber musician and soloist with orchestra.

Known for his creative programming, Michael 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 April 2009 his latest major work "La Vals Eterna" for classical guitar ensemble was premiered at the Schwob School of Music, Columbus State University, as part of a composer in residency with the Carson McCullers Center for Writers and Musicians. In November, 2008 "Guitar Trio" was premiered by the Seattle Guitar Trio. In 2006-2007, Michael was composer in residence with the Northwest Symphony Orchestra, which culminated in the 2007 premiere of "Ten Years Passed" for electric guitar and orchestra. Other recent premiers include: "Tocatta and Fugue" for solo classical guitar - premiered by Michael Partington and "Guitar Concerto" for classical guitar and orchestra - premiered by the Seattle Creative Orchestra with Nicolella as soloist, both at Benaroya Hall in Seattle.

His newest CD, *Shard*, features his composition for classical guitar and orchestra, *Guitar Concerto* performed with the Northwest Symphony Orchestra led by conductor

(continued on page 2)

PURCHASE TICKETS IN ADVANCE!

Tickets may be purchased through the Rosewood Guitar: 206-297-8788.

2010-2011 INTERNATIONAL CONCERT SERIES

Michael Nicolella - Sat. Dec. 4, 2010, 7:30 PM
Duo Melis - Sat. Mar. 12, 2011, 7:30 PM
Marcin Dylla - Sat. May 7, 2011, 7:30 PM

2010-2011 FRYE ART MUSEUM GUITAR SERIES

Isaac Bustos - Sat. Nov. 13, 2010
Jon Mendle - Sat. Jan. 29, 2011
Meredith Connie & Erica Coutsouridis - Sat. Feb. 12, 2011
Lynn McGrath - Sat. April 16, 2011

Concerts start at 2pm, free tickets available at front desk at 1pm.

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Anthony Spain, along with music of Reich, Carter, ter Veldhuis, DeLaurenti, Mesler and Kohl. The album was described in Frets magazine as “an exciting textbook on how to honor classical tradition and kick it in the ass at the same time.”

Michael’s education ranges from undergraduate studies at Berklee College of Music, where he studied improvisation with jazz greats Gary Burton and Billy Pierce, to Yale University where he received his Master of Music degree, to post-graduate studies at the Accademia Musicale Chigiana in Siena, Italy, as a scholarship student of Oscar Ghiglia. Michael currently resides in Seattle where he is on the faculty of Cornish College of the Arts.

MICHAEL NICOLELLA - MASTER CLASS - DECEMBER 5TH, 10:00 AM

Michael Nicolella will be conducting a Master Class on December 5th at Cornish College of the Arts in the Poncho Concert Hall. We will be scheduling 3 to 4 performers and if interested, please send an email to Virginia Ryan at v_ryan8@q.com (note underscore between v and r) along with a bio and information regarding the piece that you’d be playing before November 12th. Selected players will be notified by November 22nd.

Also, for those interested in auditing the class, there’s a \$12.00 fee. Parking is free and located around the corner from Cornish on Boyston under a condo building.

2010-2011 FRYE ART MUSEUM CONCERT SERIES BEGINS!

ISAAC BUSTOS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2010, 2:00 PM



Born in Managua, Nicaragua Isaac Bustos began playing popular Latin-American music on the guitar by ear at age 11. By age 12, he was accepted into the *Conservatorio Nacional de Musica* in Managua where he received top honors in guitar performance. Isaac immigrated to the United States with his family in 1988 and continued his studies with Juan Mercadal, Carlos Molina and Rene Gonzalez. An extensive performance career has taken Bustos to Canada, Central America, Europe and all over the US. He has gained critical acclaim and is quickly becoming recognized as one of the top young guitarists of his generation. “Soulful and virtually flawless,” hails the *Portland Oregonian* and the *Boston Globe* writes, “In warm, round tones, the notes of Bach cascaded from the guitar, every note correct and played without hesitation.” He has made several Radio and Television appearances and has been invited to perform in the Portland Guitar Festival, the St. Joseph Guitar Festival, the Eastfield College Guitar Festival, Texas Guitar Festival, and the Classical Minds Festival. Isaac has appeared as soloist with the Orchestra of New Spain, The Baytown Symphony Orchestra and the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Maestro JoAnn Falletta. Bustos has performed in several premieres of new music for guitar. Most recently,

works by composers Peter Askim for solo guitar, Andrew Dickinson for four guitars, a work for two guitars and electronic sound effects by Jeremy Cumbo and “*After Sylvius*” a solo guitar work written for Isaac by composer/guitarist Frank Wallace. Isaac is currently on faculty at Texas A&M University Department of Performance Studies.

SCGS ANNUAL HOLIDAY FUND-RAISING CONCERT – SATURDAY, DEC. 11TH AT 6PM

Mark your calendars and join us for the Seattle Classic Guitar Society Annual Holiday Fund-Raising concert on Saturday, December 11th at 6:00 PM at the Seattle Mennonite Church (3120 NE 125th Street, a block east of Lake City Way). Parking is behind the church. This concert is a fund raiser for the non-profit Seattle Classic Guitar Society.

Featuring amateur, semi-professional and professional players, this concert offers the opportunity for all to share their love of the classical guitar in performance or in rooting for the performer. No matter what the experience level, the performances at the Holiday concerts have always reflected the joy and hard work that these classical guitarists put into their music.

As in previous years, the Guitar Society is also using this event to support Northwest Harvest with a food drive. The suggested donation for admission is \$10 or \$8 with the donation of a non-perishable food item for Northwest Harvest.

Come and join the festivities of the season!!!!

ANNOUNCING THE NEW SEATTLE CLASSIC GUITAR SOCIETY WEBSITE!

The SCGS website has been completely redesigned and updated. The new website will include up to date information on both the International Guitar Series and the Free at the Frye Concert Series. Artist biographies, web links, and ticket information are all available. The site also includes a calendar of events, open mic information, links to area teachers, links to sponsors, member articles, contact information, an historical overview of the Society, and information about the Guitar Orchestra of Seattle. Soundings newsletters past and present can be downloaded, as can membership and donation applications. The new website will be updated regularly, including the Calendar of Events, so please bookmark it and check back often. Featured articles written by Society members and an online photo album will also be added over the coming months. The SCGS website address remains unchanged. Visit the new site today at: <http://www.seattleguitar.org>



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Seattle Classic Guitar Society

W E L C O M E



Announcing the 2010-2011 International Guitar Series

Interview – Meet Naeim Rahmani

I first met Naeim three years ago, when he was performing in a Master Class for Eduardo Fernandez. Actually, that's not quite right: I met a nice young man named *Ali*. Same person, different name. Naeim and I met recently at a coffee shop for an informal interview and a nice cup of mocha (me) and a drip coffee with milk in it (him) – and he told me about the name change. “Why?” I asked. He explained that “Ali” is on all of his official documents – birth certificate, passport, driver's license, social security – and it made sense to use it when he first came to this country. But it's not his preferred name; it never felt quite right. His family, friends, and co-workers all know him by “Naeim”. He chose his graduation from the University as a good time to change.

He bought me coffee after a quick struggle between us for who was going to treat. He won easily with his quick classical guitar reflexes and fingers honed through many hours of practice; the charming grin also helped his cause. We sat down to talk. “Why guitar, and how long have you played?” I began. Easy question. Right? Not really. Naeim is



from Isfahan (famous for its ancient architectural ruins) in Iran (famous for *other* reasons.) Due to difficulties getting an education, he left Iran at the age of 17, spent two years in Turkey, and then came to the US. He studied English and earned his A.A. at Edmonds Community College. It was during this time, in 2006, that he began his studies in classical guitar with Michael LeFevre. I was amazed to learn that he started from absolute scratch – he couldn't read a note of music and had never played an instrument before. He hadn't even grown up listening to Western classical music. He quickly dropped his previous plans of studying Optometry in favor of classical guitar. He was admitted into the Music program at the UW, and earned his Performance Degree with Michael Partington. He graduated this past June.

Whew. What a story. I fumbled with my notebook, thinking about how hard he must have worked and how very much he must have wanted to play classical guitar. I was impressed. “So,” I continued, “what do you find most challenging? Most interesting? What is your favorite part of playing classical guitar?” He sipped his coffee. He said the most challenging thing was learning to play as part of an ensemble. He shuddered and then laughed. “It was so frustrating and embarrassing at first! I had no idea at all how to play with other people.”

His favorite thing is performing. He loves being on stage. Does he ever get nervous? “Sure. It never goes away. I try to find the “Zone”.. The more I perform, the more I find ways to deal with the nervousness.” He also mentioned that he is very careful about the pieces he chooses to perform: he likes a challenge, but above all he strives to make the music *musical*.

Plans for the future? He has applied for a Fulbright scholarship in France; he is also looking at several grad schools. His dream? He'd love to be a touring performer. His current endeavor? He is working on building his teaching studio and is actively looking for students. (Please visit his website, www.naeimrahmani.com, for more information.)

Thank you Naeim for the interview! I very much enjoyed hearing your story.

For all of you who remember my promise from the last article: I asked Michael Partington how many hours he practices a day. He very kindly wrote this in response: “... The real answer is... 3 to 5 hours a day. If I'm being good... it does depend on what's going on for me, learning new rep, preparing for concerts or a recording.” Thanks, Michael.

– Evelyn Arvey

Events Calendar:

Events are also listed on our website: www.SeattleGuitar.org

Friday, November 5, 8:00 PM, Kirkland, WA

Elizabeth C. D. Brown, solo lute & baroque guitar, performs "Women of Good Courage," exploring the lives and music of three extraordinary women from the 17th and 18th centuries: Elisabeth-Claude Jacquet de la Guerre, Princess Elisabeth von Hessen and Queen Anne. Featuring music by de la Guerre, Dowland and Purcell. Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church, 308 4th Ave S, Kirkland. Tickets: \$20 general, \$15 seniors, \$10 Students. For information call: 206-325-7066 or visit www.earlymusicguild.org

Saturday, November 6, 7:30 PM, Shoreline, WA

Elizabeth CD Brown, solo lute & baroque guitar, performs "Women of Good Courage." (See November 5 program description.) Shoreline Unitarian Universalist Church, 14724 1st Ave NE, Shoreline. Tickets: \$15/10. For more information visit: www.elizabethcdbrown.com

Friday, November 12, 2010 7:30 PM Hampton, CT

Michael Nicoella in concert on the North Meadow House Concert Series; North Meadow Farm, 158 East Old Route 6, Hampton, CT Cost: \$20.00 For ticket reservations, please contact: markmdavis@yahoo.com

Saturday, November 13, 2:00 PM, Seattle, WA

Isaac Bustos in concert on the Frye Art Museum Guitar Series sponsored by the Seattle Classic Guitar Society. Arrive early to get a free ticket at the main desk. Tickets are given out at 1pm. 704 Terry Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104-2019. (206) 622-9250

Sunday, November 14, 3:00 PM, Tacoma, WA

Elizabeth CD Brown, lute with the vocal quartet Canonici, performs "Sacred and Profane," featuring music by Ockeghem and Dufay. Grace Lutheran Church, 6202 South Tyler Street, Tacoma. Tickets: \$15 general, \$12 seniors/students. For information: www.canonici.org.

Sunday, November 14, 2010, 4:00 PM, New York, NY

Michael Nicoella in concert on the Second Sundays Classical Guitar Concert Series at the Roger Smith Hotel, 501 Lexington Ave., at 47th Street, New York, NY

Tuesday, November 16, 2010, 12:15 PM, Boston, MA

Michael Nicoella in concert at King's Chapel at the corner of School and Tremont Streets.

Friday, November 19, 7:30 PM, Seattle, WA

SCGS Open Mic at MCNW (Music Center of the Northwest), 901 North 96th St., in the Baptist Church.

Sunday, November 21, 3:00 PM, Tacoma, WA

The PLU Guitar Orchestra and Ensemble, under the direction of Elizabeth CD Brown, performs music from the Mediterranean. Featuring works by Albeniz, Granados, Carulli, Tárrega, Satie and Theodorakis. Mary Baker Russell Music Center: Lagerquist Concert Hall. Tickets: \$8-general, \$5-senior, \$3-alumni, complimentary-18 and under. Information: 253-535-7787 or www.plu.edu/music

Sunday, November 21, 3 PM, Tacoma, WA

Michael Partington will perform Rodrigo's Concierto de Aranjuez with the Tacoma Youth Symphony, directed by Paul Cobbs. For more info visit www.tysamusic.org

Saturday, December 4, 2010, 7:30 PM, Seattle, WA

Michael Nicoella in concert on the Seattle Classic Guitar Society International Series, 7:30 pm at Illsley Ball Nordstrom Recital Hall, Benaroya Hall, 3rd and Union, downtown Seattle. Works for classical guitar by: Paganini, Bach, Beaser, Nin-Culmell, Castlenuovo-Tedesco and Nicoella. For information and advance tickets contact the Rosewood Guitar, 206-297-8788.

Saturday, December 4, 8:00 PM, Seattle, WA

Michael Partington will perform with Cantaré Vocal Ensemble, St Mark's Episcopal Cathedral, 1245 10th Ave E. For more info visit www.cantarevocalensemble.com

Sunday, December 5, 2010, 10 AM, Seattle, WA

Michael Nicoella masterclass at Poncho Recital Hall - Cornish College of the Arts, 710 East Roy Street, Seattle, WA 98102 as part of the Seattle Classic Guitar Society International Series. For information contact the Rosewood Guitar, 206-297-8788.

Sunday, December 5, 2:00 PM, Seattle, WA

Michael Partington will perform with Cantaré Vocal Ensemble, St Mark's Episcopal Cathedral, 1245 10th Ave E. For more information visit www.cantarevocalensemble.com

Tuesday, December 7, 7:30 PM, Seattle, WA

Elizabeth CD Brown, lute and baroque guitar, and Ronnee Fullerton, viola da gamba and violin, perform "Musical Caricatures," drawing on the power of the character piece in a program that explores music's magical ability to tell a story, capture a sentiment, or portray a character. Featuring music by Biber, Forqueray and Purcell. Trinity Parish Church, 609 8th Avenue, Seattle. Tickets: \$25 general, \$20 seniors, \$10 Students. For tickets/information call: 206-325-7066 or visit www.earlymusicguild.org

Saturday, December 11th, 6:00 PM, Seattle (Lake City)

SCGS ANNUAL HOLIDAY FUND-RAISING CONCERT

This concert is a fund raiser for the non-profit Seattle Classic Guitar Society. The suggested donation for admission is \$10, or \$8 with the donation of a non-perishable food item for Northwest Harvest. Seattle Mennonite Church - 3120 NE 125th Street, 1/2 block East of Lake City Way.

Friday, January 7, 8:00 PM, Kirkland, WA

Elizabeth CD Brown, lute and baroque guitar, and Ronnee Fullerton, viola da gamba and violin, perform "Musical Caricatures". Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church, 308 4th Ave S, Kirkland. Tickets: \$20 general, \$15 seniors, \$10 Students. For tickets/information call: 206-325-7066 or visit www.earlymusicguild.org

Sunday, January 23, 4 PM, Auburn, WA

Daniel Corr, and the Auburn Symphony Chamber Series players perform "Mediterranean Masterworks" for guitar & strings by Castelnuovo-Tedesco & Paganini, while Debussy's String Quartet draws the connection. At St. Matthew Episcopal Church. 123 L St. NE, Auburn, WA. Tickets: \$17-\$10. For more info: (253) 887-7777, or visit www.auburnsymphony.org or www.DanielCorr.com

IMPORTANT SCGS OPEN MIC INFO!!!

The SCGS Open Mic is now held at the Music Center of the Northwest located in the Baptist Church at 901 North 96th Street (on the southeast corner of Linden and 96th street, one block west of Aurora Avenue). They will continue to be on the fourth Friday of each month (except November and December) but will begin at the new time of 7:30 PM.

The dates for the open mic in 2010 are as follows:

11/19, there will be no open mic in December

EASTSIDE CLASSICAL GUITAR GET-TOGETHERS

Eastside Get-Togethers (open mic) 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 or phone Nancy at 425-454-0186



MEMBER SUBMISSIONS WELCOME!

If you would like to contribute an article, recording review or information about upcoming concerts to Guitar Soundings, please contact the main office at (206) 365-0845 or send e-mail to SCGSNewsletter@hotmail.com. Submission deadline for the Jan/Feb issue is December 15, 2010.

SCGS MEMBER NEWS

Elizabeth CD Brown is pleased to announce the release of her second solo recording on the Rosewood Recordings label. "In Her Honor, vol. 1" explores the music of three extraordinary women from the 17th and 18th centuries: Princess Elisabeth von Hessen, who was educated alongside Heinrich Schütz at the progressive and cosmopolitan court in Kassel; Queen Anne, the great Stuart monarch who united England and Scotland; and the celebrated French composer Elisabeth Jacquet de la Guerre, raised as a child prodigy in the royal nursery at the court of the Sun King, Louis XIV. This is the premiere recording of many of these works, and represents several years of research in the US, the UK and the Netherlands. Elizabeth has performed selections of this music in solo recitals at the Berkeley Early Music Festival and the Lute Society's Annual Workshop in Cleveland. This fall she will be giving solo concerts in Kirkland (November 5) and Shoreline (November 6) to celebrate the CD release (see the calendar section for details). The recording is available through the Rosewood Guitar, 206-297-8788, as well as online through CDBaby. Elizabeth has also recorded several video selections from this project, currently posted on YouTube. To see them visit: www.youtube.com/user/ElizabethCDBrown

Jorge Caballero - from his recent visit to Seattle

photo by Dean Ritz



Y la práctica veintiséis horas cada día.

PHOTOS FROM THE ANNUAL SCGS SUMMER PICNIC - AUGUST 2010



Carol Ritchie, Kin Ritchie and Virginia Ryan



Barbara & Dick Sacksteder

photos by Dean Ritz



Seattle Classic Guitar Society

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

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For more information contact us at:

SCGS
P.O. Box 31256
Seattle, WA 98103-1256
E-mail: SCGS@seattleguitar.org
Phone: 206-365-0845
Web: www.SeattleGuitar.org

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Seattle, WA 98103

www.rosewoodguitar.com

Submit items for the Events Calendar to Jessica Papkoff at
SCGSNewsletter@hotmail.com or call (206) 365-0845.

Submission deadline for the next issue is December 15th, 2010.

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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Seattle Classic Guitar Society *Membership Application*

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I am enclosing one-year membership at the following level:

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What does membership do for me?

Membership in the SCGS gives you discounts on tickets to all our concerts, a one-year subscription to Guitar Soundings, guaranteed notification of events, free attendance to our Summer Picnic and Member Concerts, and periodic opportunities to perform. Your support also helps us to bring the finest international artists to perform in the Seattle area and support local artists year after year.

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