



Guitar Soundings

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SCGS YEAR-END WRAP-UP & 2012-2013 INTERNATIONAL SERIES ANNOUNCED



Jessica Papkoff
SCGS Newsletter Editor

With last year's SCGS concert season behind us and rumors of warmer months ahead, I thought that now would be a good time to reflect upon the guitar goodness that SCGS has brought to us this past year. If you managed to go to all of the Benaroya concerts or all of the Frye Art Museum concerts, give yourself a pat on the back. If you went to all of the concerts in both series, give yourself two pats and your favorite dessert! Although I have been involved with the Guitar Society as the Newsletter Editor for many years, I think this was the first year I was able to attend every concert in both series, and the chocolate dessert I just ate was really good! But, probably not as delicious as all of the wonderful guitarists I had the pleasure of hearing this year. Each performer brought their own unique personality and special wedge of the guitar music pie to the concert stage. All were outstanding in what they presented and taught us at the concerts and in the masterclasses. (Note: If you went to all of the concerts in both series and all of the master classes, you should let me know and reward yourself with an entire box of fancy chocolates.) But I digress. When our season opened with David Leisner, I was excited to finally hear him after knowing his name for so many years. His very kind personality came through the music immediately. I remember especially enjoying his own compositions, the Bach, and the wonderful jazz arrangements. Fabio Zanon was another performer whose name and recordings I was familiar with but had never heard in concert. His performance was very expressive and moving and the audience loved him. The highly anticipated Odair Assad amazed the packed hall with his all-encompassing, organic musicianship and quirky sense of humor. The audience was quite enamoured with him, the wow factor definitely set in. Closing out the International Series was the amazingly superb Paris Guitar Duo featuring the prodigious talents of Jadacael Perroy and Jeremy Joue. Their outstanding musicianship and technical precision was simply out of this world. Their program focused on 19th century works, amongst them a Haydn string quartet wonderfully arranged for two guitars by François de Fossa.

The Frye Guitar Series is one of my favorites as I always look forward to hearing the lesser known performers and the opportunity to browse the latest exhibit at the Frye Art Museum. In addition to everything SCGS sponsors, we have dozens of other guitar concerts in Seattle as well. Some of those included premieres of new works for guitar such as Bryan Johanson's concerto for guitar and orchestra, "The Underdog", performed by Michael Partington with Philharmonia Northwest conducted by Julia Tai. Also, Michael Nicoletta's premiere of his new work for soprano, guitar (classical and electric) and orchestra entitled "The Blue Flame of Twilight," with the Northwest Symphony Orchestra and soprano Alexandra Picard, led by conductor Anthony Spain. I have especially enjoyed the new works for guitar that most guitarists incorporate in their programs these days. On the Frye Series, Michael LeFevre performed some

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rarely heard works by two contemporary women composers, Jana Obrovská and Annette Kruisbrink. Odair Assad performed "Old Friend" written for him by Seattle guitarist-composer Kevin Callahan. It's important for performers to include new works in order to expand the repertoire and to widen the scope of musical interest amongst the audience. By creating a greater interest, appreciation and hopefully a hunger for new music, we are keeping classical music alive otherwise the concert scene becomes stagnant with works from the past that we've all heard before. This year I also started attending more symphony and chamber music concerts. One work that unexpectedly had a very profound impact on me, and I still think about, was a violin concerto entitled "Distant Light" written by Latvian composer Pēteris Vasks in 1997. I had never heard of Peter Vasks before this concert but this particular piece was extremely moving, intense and very memorable. So, if you think your musical tastes are generally in the middle, keep your ears open to some new music, you might be very surprised with what you connect with.

Next years International Concert Series will once again feature an excellent lineup of very well-known performers and all will be held on Saturday evenings. Detailed performer information will be included in the next newsletter along with the ticket order form. I am looking forward to next year's concert season and hope that I will see all of you there as well!

In the meantime, I also find it very inspiring to hear other musicians in concert and to attend some of our local symphony concerts. I recently had the great pleasure of hearing a fabulous solo piano recital on a quiet Sunday afternoon at the University of Washington Music Department performed by visiting artist Bernadene Blaha from the USC music school. Her concert included Mendelssohn's "Variations Serieuses, Op. 54", perhaps one of the finest set of variations ever written, and Chopin's fantastic "Polonaise-Fantasy, Op. 61". I also attended a wonderful chamber music concert featuring several Seattle Symphony string players that showcased some great works, new and old, with an incredible range of character and emotional depth from the performers. Because the classical guitar is such a technically difficult instrument, it's often easy to lose sight of the music and phrasing while focusing so much on the technical challenges. By listening to pianists, violinists and orchestras, guitarists can gain a much greater understanding of phrasing, dynamics and lyricism, and learn to apply those aspects to the music they play.

So, enjoy your Summer, listen to lots of music of all types and get ready for another great SCGS concert season starting up in September. See you then!

— Jessica Papkoff, SCGS Newsletter Editor



2012-2013 INTERNATIONAL CONCERT SERIES

Saturday, Sept. 29, 2012 - Xuefei Yang

Saturday, Nov. 10, 2012 - Michael Partington

Saturday, Feb. 23, 2013 - David Russell

Saturday, April 27, 2013 - Ben Verdery

Detailed performer information and ticket order form will be available in the next newsletter.



GUITAR ORCHESTRA - Spring Session

Guitar Orchestra explores the art in a Pop song with the music of the Beatles, George Frideric Händel, Richard Rogers and M.H. Wilson. We meet Tuesday evenings from 7pm to 9pm at St. Thomas church on the corner of 65th and 2nd NW. We start April 3rd through May 29th with concerts and gigs occurring between the 3rd and 9th of June. We have some new venues to perform in which feature an intimate atmosphere and excellent acoustics, and these new venues also boast excellent chocolate, pastries, coffee, or wine and beer.

Tuition for the session is \$225

For more information please concerning the levels of difficulty and how to get the music contact Mark H. Wilson at: weissismyvice@gmail.com or call him at: 206-301-9165



PHOTOS FROM SEVERAL RECENT GUITAR EVENTS....



Odair Assad Master Class - Odair Assad (center)



After Odair Assad's concert with Kevin Callahan, Virginia Ryan, John Ward, Odair Assad and Jason Williams.



Michael Partington (guitar) with Bryan Johanson (composer) and Julia Tai (conductor) after performing "The Underdog" with Philharmonia Nowrthwest.



Paris Guitar Duo at Benaroya Recital Hall

SCGS OPEN MIC NEWS - NEW OPEN MIC BLOG!!



*Teresa Jaworski
SCGS Open Mic Host*

SCGS Open Mic Host, Teresa Jaworski, came up with a great idea to start an online blog that chronicles the SCGS Open Mic sessions. Not only that, but she has been innovative with the latest technology and is using an iPad to record audio and video of the open mic sessions that she posts on the blog. I had the opportunity to attend the open mic last week for the first time in a long while and I had a very fun experience performing and meeting the other players. The open mic is a great way to meet other guitarists, to hear a wide variety of music and to get some performance experience in a relaxed setting with very nice natural acoustics in the room. There were players of all ages and levels the night I was there. We heard from a very young student, maybe just 7 years old, and at the end of the evening we got to hear Michael Partington play! Plus, there were some refreshments provided during the break and Teresa brought a homemade apple spice bundt cake. What could be better than this? Food, Guitars, Music, All Ages, Nice Acoustics, iPad Video of your performance and Teresa's new Open Mic Blog! Kudos to Teresa for being the volunteer host and bringing a new dimension to the SCGS Open Mic! Come check it out and visit the online open mic blog ! The next Open Mic will be on Friday, May 25th at 7:00pm, at Phinney Ridge Neighborhood Center - in Room #5 upstairs - 6532 Phinney Avenue North - Seattle, WA 98103

Open Mic Blog: <http://classicalguitaropenmic.wordpress.com>

— Jessica Papkoff, SCGS Newsletter Editor

Events Calendar:

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

Saturday, May 5, 12:00-1:00 PM, Seattle WA

Meredith Connie (guitar) and Erica Coutsouridis (flute) as Duo Rubicund play a Cinco De Mayo themed concert (Spanish and Spanish-influenced works) at Third Place Books, 17171 Bothell Way NE Lake Forest Park. Also see www.duorubicund.com.

Tuesday, May 8, 1:00 PM, Brighton UK

Michael Partington will perform a solo concert at the Brighton Dome Pavilion as part of the Brighton Festival. For more information visit www.brightonfestival.org

Thursday, May 10, 7:30 PM, Sherborne, UK

Michael Partington will perform a solo concert at Winstone's Books, Sherborne, Dorset, UK. For more information visit www.michaelpartington.com

Friday, May 11, 7:00 PM, Seattle, WA

Guitar Orchestra plays the music of Mark Hilliard Wilson, Georg Frederick Handel and the Beatles at the Rosewood Guitar, 8402 Greenwood Ave., Seattle WA 98103

Friday, May 18, 2012, 8:00 PM, Medina, WA

Michael Nicolella performs a solo classical guitar concert at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 8398 NE 12th Street, Medina, Washington 98039 (425) 454-9541

Saturday, May 19, 7:00 to 9:00 PM, Seattle, WA

Mark Hilliard Wilson performs music of Sylvius Leopold Weiss and improvisations for classical guitar and loop station at the Voxx Coffee 2245 Eastlake Ave. E Seattle, WA 98102

Friday, May 25, 7:00 PM, Seattle, WA

SCGS Open Mic at Phinney Ridge Neighborhood Center - 6532 Phinney Avenue North - Seattle, WA 98103 - in Room #5 upstairs

Friday, May 25, 2012, 8:00 PM (KING-FM)

Michael Nicolella performs live in the studio of Classic KING-FM as the guest on Northwest Focus 8-9 PM. Listen on the radio at 98.1 FM or streaming live at www.king.org

Saturday, May 26, 7:30 PM, Seattle, WA

Students of Michael Partington present a concert of guitar ensemble music by Johanson, Britten, Brouwer, Harrison, Ourkouzounov, Take-mitsu and others. Brechemin Auditorium, UW School of Music. Tickets: \$5 For more information visit www.music.washington.edu

Thursday, May 30, 2012, 7:30 PM, Seattle, WA

Michael Nicolella performs in concert with the Cuban music ensemble, Charanga Danzon with guest pianist Hilario Duran at Good Shepherd Chapel, 4649 Sunnyside Ave. N, 4th Floor, Seattle, WA; in Wallingford, 1/2 block south of 50th St., 1 block east of Meridian; 206-789-1939 www.charangadanzon.com

Saturday, June 2, 2:00 PM, Seattle, WA

Guitar Orchestra plays the music of Mark Hilliard Wilson, Georg Frederick Handel and the Beatles at Vitale Chocolate, 6257 3rd Ave. NW

Monday, June 5, 7:30 PM Bellevue, WA

Guitar Orchestra plays the music of Mark Hilliard Wilson, Georg Frederick Handel and the Beatles at Bellevue College, 3000 Landerholm Circle SE, Bellevue WA

Thursday, June 7, 7:30 PM, Seattle, WA

Gee Lee - Classical Guitar Recital
University of Washington - School of Music
Brechemin Auditorium

Friday, June 8, 12:00 PM (noon), Berkeley, CA

Elizabeth CD Brown (baroque guitar) performs "The World of the Baroque Guitar," featuring works by Sanz, Corbetta, Purcell, Jacquet de la Guerre and de Murcia. Berkeley Early Music Festival, St. Joseph of Arimathea Chapel: 2543 Durant Street near Bowditch. Tickets: \$10/8. For more information visit: www.berkeley-festival.org

Saturday, June 9, 2:00 PM, Berkeley, CA

Elizabeth CD Brown (baroque guitar) performs Purcell's "The Indian Queen" with Alice's Renaissance String Band, directed by David Morris. Berkeley Early Music Festival, St. Mark's Episcopal Church and Parish Hall: 2300 Bancroft Way. Tickets: \$15. For more information visit: www.berkeley-festival.org

Sunday, June 10, 3:00 PM, Seattle WA

Duo Rubicund – guitarist Meredith Connie and flautist Erica Coutsouridis – present a recital with guest artist, soprano Yvette Litchfield at the Seattle Art Museum's Plestcheff Auditorium, 3pm Sunday 10 June 2012. Repertoire will engage different combinations of the chamber ensemble, including Sephardic Songs by Manuel Valls for soprano, flute and guitar; Schubert Lieder transcribed for soprano and guitar, and programmatic works by American composers for flute and guitar. Admission is \$10. Also see www.duorubicund.com

Tuesday, June 12 through Sunday, June 17, 2012, Houston, TX

Michael Nicolella will be performing a concert and teaching at the Classical Minds Guitar Festival, University of Houston

Wednesday, June 13, 12:00-1:00 PM Portland OR

Meredith Connie (guitar) and Erica Coutsouridis (Flute) as Duo Rubicund play the sack lunch series at Old Church, 1422 Southwest 11th Avenue, Portland. www.oldchurch.org

Tuesday, June 19, 2012 7:00 PM, Seattle, WA

Muriel Anderson, award-winning fingerstyle guitarist and harp guitarist, will present a workshop at Dusty Strings music shop in Fremont. "50 Right-Hand Techniques You Must Know". Reservations: 206-634-1662. \$35. Muriel will also be performing with Tierra Negra in several other towns in Washington on June 16-18th. For more info visit: www.murielanderson.com

Friday, June 22, 7:00 PM, Seattle, WA

SCGS Open Mic at Phinney Ridge Neighborhood Center - 6532 Phinney Avenue North - Seattle, WA 98103 - in Room #5 upstairs

Sunday, July 22, 4:00 PM, Anaconda, MT

Michael Partington will perform a solo concert at the St. Timothy's Music Festival. For more information visit www.sttimothysmusic.org

Submit items for the Events Calendar to Jessica Papkoff, Sr. Newsletter Editor, at: SCGSNewsletter@hotmail.com or call (206) 365-0845. Submission deadline for the July-August issue is June 10th, 2012.

SCGS OPEN MIC INFO FOR 2012

Are your family members the only ones who know what an amazing classical guitar player you are? Please come and share your musical journey with us. All levels of playing ability are welcome. If you have questions about how to participate please email our SCGS Open Mic host, Teresa Jaworski, at: t.jaworski@comcast.net

The SCGS Open Mic starts at 7:00pm at Phinney Ridge Neighborhood Center - in Room #5 upstairs - 6532 Phinney Avenue North - Seattle, WA 98103

2012 Open Mic dates:

May 25, June 22, July 27, August 24, September 28, October 26, Nov. 16, December - no Open Mic.

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 NEWS

SUMMER CLASSICAL GUITAR SEMINAR AT CORNISH

Michael Nicoletta will be teaching an inspiring weeklong classical guitar seminar at Cornish this summer. The program is open to guitarists age 14 and older, playing at an intermediate to advanced level on classical guitar and comfortable reading music. The program runs from August 6-10; 10am-4pm M-F with an hour lunch break. The week long event will culminate in a student performance on Friday evening in PONCHO Concert Hall on the Cornish campus. Each day will consist of ensemble rehearsal and coaching; a lecture/workshop focusing on such topics as technique, fret board knowledge, fingering, interpretation, sight reading and repertoire; and an informal masterclass.

Cost is \$395 with scholarships and housing available. Cornish College of the Arts offers a Summer Music program that affords students the opportunity to study with the renowned Cornish music faculty in a series of weeklong intensive workshops, designed especially for the aspiring young musician. For more information contact: summermusic@cornish.edu or visit: www.cornish.edu/summer

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 July-August issue is June 10th, 2012.



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SCGS
P.O. Box 31256
Seattle, WA 98103-1256
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Phone: 206-365-0845
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Seattle Classic Guitar Society *Membership Application*

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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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