

THE LONG ISLAND GUITAR FESTIVAL

LIGF

Harris Becker - Director

April 24-28, 2024

Setauket Presbyterian Church, Setauket NY



ligfest.net

The Long Island Guitar Festival

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THE LONG ISLAND GUITAR FESTIVAL STAFF

HARRIS BECKER - DIRECTOR
JAMES ERICKSON - ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
JOHN MESCHI - ADVISOR & WEB MANAGER

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Noby Ishida, Laura Ross White, Janice Zingale, and Laura Lessard
Special thanks to the entire staff of the Setauket Presbyterian Church.

The Long Island Guitar Festival would like to thank the D'Addario Foundation and the Augustine Foundation for their continuous support for 32 years.

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THE LONG ISLAND *Guitar Festival*

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
<u>WEDNESDAY, April 24</u> 7:30 pm	CONCERT: Harris Becker and Friends	Fellowship Hall
<u>THURSDAY, April 25</u> 7:30 pm	CONCERT: Nicoletta Todesco & Huy Thanh Nhuyen	Fellowship Hall
<u>FRIDAY, April 26</u> 4:30 pm	COMPETITION: LIGF High School Classical Guitar Semi-Finals (closed to public)	Fellowship Hall
8:00 pm	CONCERT: David Leisner	Fellowship Hall
<u>SATURDAY, April 27</u> 10:00 am	MASTER CLASS: Eden Stell Guitar Duo	Fellowship Hall
12:30 pm	EMERGING ARTIST CONCERT: Owen Wang <i>(2023 National High School Classical Guitar Competition Winner)</i>	Fellowship Hall
1:45 pm	COMPETITION: LIGF High School Classical Guitar Finals	Fellowship Hall
3:30 pm	LECTURE: <i>Beyond Aranjuez:</i> The Life and Music of Joaquín Rodrigo with Lauren Ishida	Fellowship Hall
5:00 pm	DEMONSTRATION: <i>Alhambra Guitar Tasting</i> with Serenade Duo (Gerry Saulter & Michelle LaPorte)	Martha Jayne Room
8:00 pm	CONCERT: Ana Vidovic	Fellowship Hall
<u>SUNDAY, April 28</u> 12:30 pm	SHOWCASE: Ensemble Showcase NJMEA High School Honors Guitar Ensemble The New Jersey Guitar Orchestra, New York City Guitar Orchestra James Madison High School Guitar Ensemble	Fellowship Hall
4:00 pm	CONCERT: Eden Stell Guitar Duo Mark Eden & Christopher Stell	Fellowship Hall



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Concert Programs

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24

HARRIS BECKER AND FRIENDS - 7:30 pm

Fellowship Hall

Scorpio's Karma*

Carlo Domeniconi (b.1947)

Harris Becker, guitar

Equinox*

Carlo Domeniconi (b.1947)

Maureen Hynes, cello & Harris Becker, guitar

*written for Harris Becker

Celebration

Howard Rovics (b.1937)

Invocation

Dreamsong

Impression

Dialogue

Masquerade

Susan Deaver - flute, Alan Morris – oboe & Harris Becker – guitar

River Fragments

Stephen Goss (b.1964)

1. Waterfalls

2. Deep River

3. Castle in the Air

Eleanor Rigby

Lennon/McCartney

She's Leaving Home

(arr. Leo Brouwer)

Laura Lessard & Harris Becker, guitars

Para soñar contigo (2007)

Eduardo Martín - Cuba (b.1956)

Son del Barrio (2000)

Treviso (2013)

El Coquí - danza festiva (c.1901)

José Ignacio Quintón - Puerto Rico (1881-1925)
(Arr. by J. Sorroche/F.Rodríguez)

Ana María Rosado, guitar

Evocacion

José Luis Merlin (b.1952)

Lágrima

Francisco Tárrega (1852-1909)

Afterthoughts

Richard Charlton (b.1953)

I. Cantilena (after Torroba)

II. Reverie (after Debussy)

III. Sarabande (after de Falla)

IV. Rondeau (after Ponce)

Prelude BWV 998

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Wild Mountain Thyme

Traditional Scottish song
(arr. Scott Tennant)

James Erickson, guitar

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THURSDAY, APRIL 25

NICOLETTA TODESCO & HUY THANH NGUYEN - 7:30 pm

Fellowship Hall

Pescatore che va cantando

Pietro Paolo Borrono da Milano (1685-1750)

Riceracre VI

Giovanni Maria da Crema (XV/XVI century)

Gagliardi Urania

Vincenzo Galilei (1520-1591)

A Fancy p.6

John Dowland (1563-1626)

Follow Thy Fair Sun

Thomas Campion (1567-1620)

Atë Atë Atë

Nicoletta Todesco

LU-NA

The World you See

Balada de Saudade

Dilermando Reis (1916-1977)

Što te Nema from *Two Sevdalinka Songs*

Aleska Šantić/Dušan Bogdanović (b.1955)

25 Aprile

Traditional Italian
(arr. Nicoletta Todesco)

Nicoletta Todesco, guitar

INTERMISSION

Six Lute pieces of the Renaissance
(transcribed from the lute tablature)

Oscar Chilesotti
(edited by Alan Neidle)

Tres Piezas Rio Platenses
Don Juan
Septiembre
Rojo y Negro

Máximo Diego Pujol (b.1957)

The Ballads
Allegretto
Moderato
Con Moto
Adagio Molto

Nikita Koshkin (b.1956)

Valse Poeticos
Introduction
Melódico
Tempo de Vals noble
Tempo de Vals lento
Allegro humoristico
Allegretto (elegante)
Quasi ad libitum (sentimental)
Vivo
Preto
Tempo di Waltz No.1 (Melódico)

Enrique Granados (1867-1916)
(arr. Shin-ichi Fukuda)

Huy Thanh Nguyen, guitar

FRIDAY, APRIL 26

LONG ISLAND GUITAR FESTIVAL HIGH SCHOOL

CLASSICAL GUITAR COMPETITION - 4:30 pm

Fellowship Hall

Semi-Finals (**closed to the public**)

DAVID LEISNER - 8:00 pm

Fellowship Hall

Sarabande (from Lute Suite, BWV 997)
Allemande (from Lute Suite, BWV 996)

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)
(arr., D. Leisner)

English Suite, op. 31 (1965)
Prelude
Folk Song
Round Dance

John Duarte (1919-2004)

Freedom Fantasy no. 2
("Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child", from *Freedom Fantasies*, 1992)

David Leisner (b.1953)

Das Fischermädchen
Liebesbotschaft
Ständchen
Aufenthalt

Franz Schubert (1797-1828)
(arr., J.K. Mertz, ed., D. Leisner)

Variations on a Tune of Stephen Foster (1975)
Part One
Part Two

Richard Winslow (1918-2017)

Fantaisie Hongroise, op. 65, no. 1

Johann Kaspar Mertz (1806-1856)

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SATURDAY, APRIL 27

MASTER CLASS: EDEN STELL GUITAR DUO - 10:00 am

Fellowship Hall

EMERGING ARTIST CONCERT: OWEN WANG - 12:30 pm
(2023 National High School Classical Guitar Competition Winner)

Fellowship Hall

Prelude and Allegro BWV 998

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Nail-Biter

Thomas Flippin (b.1983)

Fantasia Op. 19

Luigi Legnani (1790-1877)

Sonata No.1

Leo Brouwer (b.1939)

Tango en Skai

Roland Dyens (1955-2016)

Concierto de Aranjuez
Allegro con spirito

Joaquin Rodrigo (1901-1999)

Piano - David Zou

**LONG ISLAND GUITAR FESTIVAL HIGH SCHOOL
CLASSICAL GUITAR COMPETITION FINALS** - 1:45 pm

Fellowship Hall

LECTURE: “*Beyond Aranjuez*” - 3:30 pm
The Life and Music of Joaquín Rodrigo with Lauren Ishida

Fellowship Hall

DEMONSTRATION: *Alhambra Guitar Tasting* - 5:00 pm
with Serenade Duo (Gerry Saulter & Michelle LaPorte)

Martha Jayne Room

(Registration Required. This Event has a 35 Seat Limit)

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ANA VIDOVIC - 8:00 pm

Fellowship Hall

Flute Partita in A minor, BWV 1013

Allemande
Corrente
Sarabande
Bourree anglaise

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)
(Transcribed by Valter Despalj)

Cello Suite No. 1 in G major, BWV 1007

Prelude
Allemande
Courante
Sarabande
Menuett 1 and 2
Gigue

Concierto de Aranjuez
Allegro con spirito
Adagio
Allegro gentile

Joaquin Rodrigo (1901-1999)

INTERMISSION

Sonatina
Allegretto
Andante
Allegro

Federico Moreno Torroba (1891-1982)

Capriccio Diabolico, Op. 85 (Omaggio a Paganini)

Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco (1895-1968)

Gran Sonata Eroica, Op. 150

Mauro Giuliani (1781-1829)

Verano Porteno
Milonga del Angel
La Muerte del Angel

Astor Piazzolla (1921-1992)



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SUNDAY, APRIL 28

GUITAR ENSEMBLE SHOWCASE - 12:30 pm

Fellowship Hall

James Madison High School Guitar Ensemble

Flamme		Patrice Durand (arr. JMHS Guitar Ensemble)
Blackbird		Lennon/McCartney (arr. Andre Cousasnon)
Guitar Talk		Debbie Cracknell (arr. JMHS Guitar Ensemble)
La Llarona		Mexican Traditional (arr. Bill Tyers)
Tango for Four		Lou Warde
Tango to Evora		Loreena McKennitt (arr. JMHS Guitar Ensemble)
Salty Donkey		Simon Rojas-Velez (student composition)
Snowflight	Nolan Vayzman, guitar	Andrew York
Recuerdos de la Alhambra	Vanessa Tseytlina, guitar	Francisco Tárrega
Forbidden Treasure (from a Lost Land)	Michael Vitulli, guitar	Michael Vitulli

James Madison High School Guitar Ensemble
Melissa Morris, Director

Ensemble Members

Darius Au

Chris Havens. (Fretless Bass)

Oleksandra Krechun

Sebastian Quillatupa-Moal (Bass Guitar)

Simon Rojas-Velez

Juan Carlos Sacalxot Perez

Vanessa Tseytlina

Nolan Vayzman

Michael Vitulli

Barton Zhoa

NJMEA High School Honors Guitar Ensemble

First Snow

Lou Warde

Quizás, Quizás, Quizás

Oswaldo Farres
(arr. J. Kindle)

Margarita

Linda Balles
(arr. J. Kindle)

Metal

J.Kindle

Autumnal

M.Halper
(world premiere)

NJMEA High School Honors Guitar Ensemble
Conductor - Jayson Martinez

**Izabela Acosta - Thomas Baker - Grayson Brice - Lenin Castillo - Timothy Dash - Anish Dhal - Da'Nasia Ettiene -
Isadora Galvez - Ethan Mollo Lopez - Saish Nellutla - Patricio Olivero - Ashley Padilla - Abhiram Pathri -
Ashley Cruz Ramos - Gordy Remache - Imanol Rivas Rojas - William Castro Roman - Damian Santander -
Xander Thompson - Pablo Velez**

NJGO New Jersey Guitar Orchestra

Spin

Andrew York

Mbira

William Kanengiser

Granada

D.Hart

NJGO New Jersey Guitar Orchestra / Conductor - Jayson Martinez

Guitar 1

***Steve Sabet**

David Chidsey

Rick Florio

Juan Carlos Rodriguez Argaez

Omar Reyes

Guitar 2

***Andrew Jaworski**

Diego Gallardo

Lucy Gomez

Matt Jardim

Michael Fiorindo

Guitar 3

***Jeffrey Wilt**

John Asmuth

Martin Brounstein

Andres Holguin

Jordyn Gallagher

Dora Rodriguez

Crystal Gaynor

Guitar 4

***Lauren C Fortna**

Patrick Callahan

Sandy Meltzer

Mavrothi Kontanis

Gioconda Simmonds

Jonathan Cruz

***section leader**

New York City Guitar Orchestra

from Ancient Airs and Dances
Villanella
Bergamasca

Arr. Ottorino Respighi/ Janet Agostino

from Dolly Suite op.56
Berceuse
Kitty-Valse

Gabriel Fauré
(arr. Sean Ferguson)

Medanales Morning

David Leisner

Inner Voices
I
II

Richard Charlton

Catwalk (with New Jersey Guitar Orchestra)

Andrew York

New York City Guitar Orchestra / Director: Nicoletta Todesco

**Marc Adler - Zask Arie - Zehra Aydin - Ryan Bagg - Janette Beham - Len Blum - Matthew Brill - Lindsay Brown -
David Chidsey - Gloria Cortez - Thomas Crown - Mark Dagley - Philippe Eberhard - Sean Ferguson - Kevin Gallagher
Crystal Gaynor - Stephen Griesgraber - Ruby Harrison-Clay - Kevin Isaza - Sandy McKelvey - John Merrill -
Jesse Miller - Rianne Mision - Michael Monroe - David Nadal - John Sarapata - James Spinetti -
Jacqueline van Gorkom**

EDEN STELL GUITAR DUO - 4:00 pm

Fellowship Hall

Mark Eden & Christopher Stell

Sonata No.4 K282

Adagio

Minuet I and II

Allegro

W.A. Mozart (1756-1791)

(arr. M. Eden)

Three Pieces

Prelude

Impromptu

Elegy

Arno Babajanyan (1921-1983)

(arr. C. Stell)

Étude fantasque

Danse d'Avila (1959)

Ida Presti (1924-1967)

INTERMISSION

Sonata K115

Sonata K141

Domenico Scarlatti (1685-1757)

(arr. C. Stell)

Five American Pieces

Folk Song

Lullaby

On Sharam's theme

Dance

Waltz

Komitas (Georgi Sarajyan)

(arr. C. Stell)

Elégie (1956)

Daniel Lesur (1908-2002)

Sérénade (1956)

I -Preludio e canzona

II - Allegro Trepidante

III - Andante Malinconico

IV - Con Allegria

Andrè Jolivet (1905-1974)



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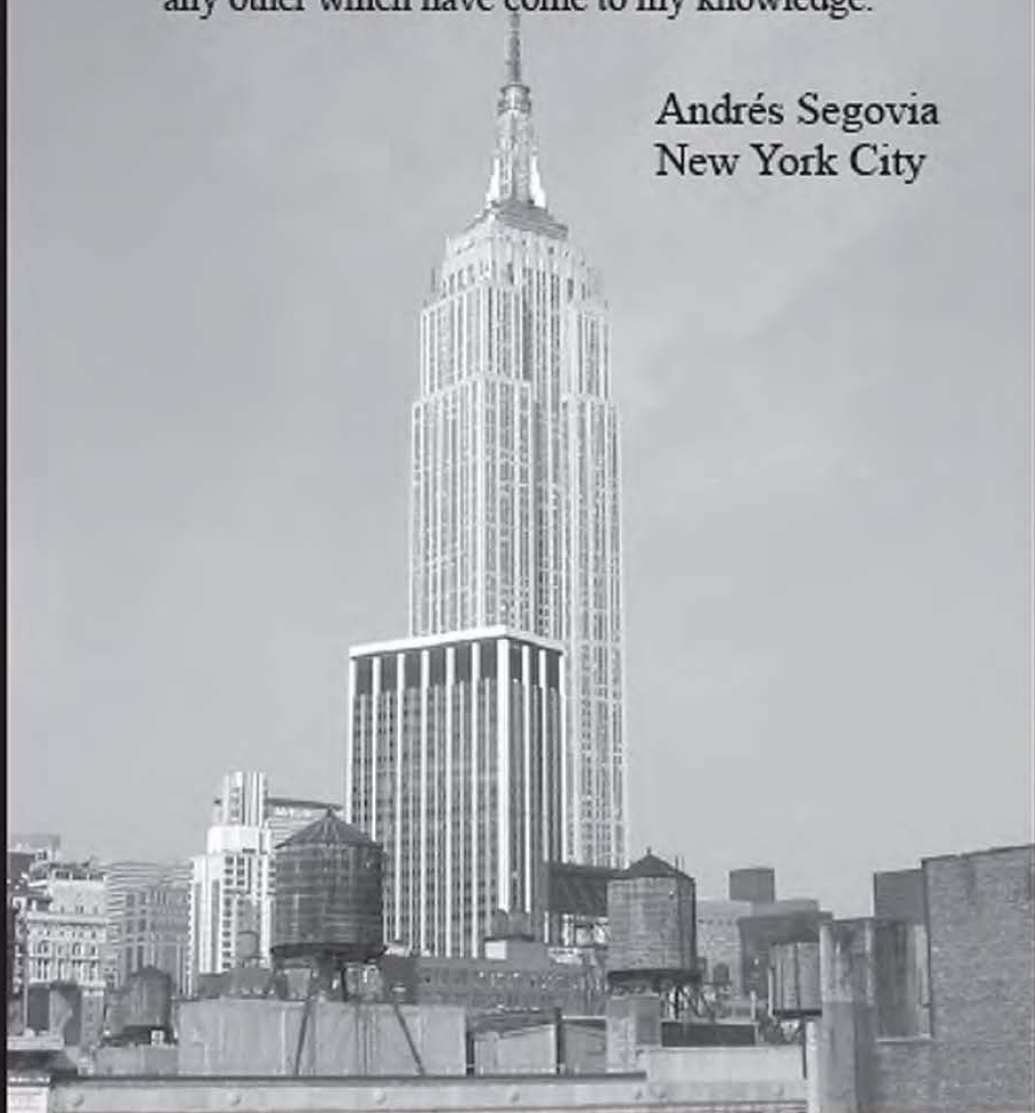
For more information about the music of Joaquín Rodrigo,
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– Prof. Gerry Saulter, Alhambra Artist

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Performers

Harris Becker has had a rich and varied career as a guitarist and lutenist. Among the composers who have dedicated works to him are Carlo Domeniconi, Hayley Savage, Michael Spiroff, Guy Garnett, Raoul Pleskow, Howard Rovics, Johnny Reinhard, Alan Hirsh, Michael Frasseti, Joseph Russo and Richard Iacona. Becker has performed extensively both as a soloist and chamber musician giving concerts and master classes throughout the United States, Europe, South America, Mexico, Asia and Canada. In the fall of 2014 & 2019 Mr. Becker gave concerts and master classes in Thailand and throughout Vietnam. Recent master classes and concerts include The Radford University International Guitar Festival, Mannes Guitar Seminar, Bristol Guitar Society (UK) and Mahidol University. He gave lecture/demonstrations at the US Embassies in both Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi on "Music Fundamentals as told through the History of the Guitar"

In 1993 Mr. Becker founded the Long Island Guitar Festival, of which the New York Times wrote: "The "Long Island" in the festival title clearly refers to its location and origins, rather than to its scope". Harris Becker is Director of Guitar Studies at LIU Post, Professor of Guitar at Nassau Community College and has been on the faculty at the Aaron Copland School of Music at Queens College. He has received an award for outstanding service from the School of Visual and Performing Arts at Long Island University.

Mr. Becker is co-founder and artistic director of the summer music festival in rural Quebec "Songe d'été en Musique". His recordings include "Catgut Flambo" with guitarist Pasquale Bianculli, a solo CD "Passing Through" and a CD with the "Artesian Guitar Quartet." In the Spring of 2017, he released first recordings of music by John Lessard, Noel Zahler and Michael Frasseti. Mr. Becker is also a member of the Artesian Guitar Quartet. In 2022 Mr. Becker premiered new works by Carlo Domeniconi, Laura Snowden and Michael Spiroff. Concerts in 2024 include the United States, Canada, and England. www.harrisbecker.com

Flutist **Susan Deaver** received a fellowship to Tanglewood and as principal flutist of the Washington Chamber Symphony, performed numerous times as soloist at the Kennedy Center and was a featured soloist on three European tours. Hailed by The Washington Post for "superb playing" and The New Yorker for "atmospheric virtuosity," As a freelance musician in New York, she has performed as soloist, chamber musician, orchestral flutist, and on Broadway in Phantom of the Opera, and performed with Music Viva, Long Island Philharmonic, Queens Symphony, Brooklyn Philharmonic, Philharmonic Virtuosi and New York Scandia Symphony. An avid chamber musician, Susan Deaver is the co-founder and current festival director of the Pierrot Chamber Music Festival and a member of The Pierrot Consort. As flutist with the Manhattan Woodwind Quintet, which won the Artists International Competition, she toured Switzerland four times and has recorded with the Concordia Trio and for New World, CRI, and Arabesque. Active as a conductor, she served as the conductor of the North Shore Symphony Orchestra for twenty-five years and is currently the conductor of the University Orchestra at Stony Brook University, and has guest conducted at LISFA, and both the Nassau and Suffolk All-County Festivals. She was the conducting teacher of actor Freddie Highmore for the Warner Brothers movie August Rush. Currently Susan Deaver is on the flute and chamber music precollege faculty at Manhattan School of Music and the music faculty at Stony Brook University. She received her DMA, MM, and BM in flute performance from Manhattan School of Music.

EDEN STELL GUITAR DUO – (Mark Eden & Christopher Stell) Internationally renowned for their dynamism and innovation, the Eden Stell Guitar Duo have ‘breathed new life into the world of the classical guitar’ (Rotterdam Dagblad). Widely regarded as one of the world’s leading guitar ensembles, the duo’s chameleon-like ability to communicate in a multitude of musical styles makes them a constantly evolving entity with a unique creative voice. Likened to a ‘miraculous single guitarist blessed with an impossibly wonderful technique and an exceptionally delicate touch’ (The Observer) the Eden Stell Guitar Duo have performed around the world and regularly tour in USA, China and Europe, appearing on television, radio including the BBC, ITV, European and North American networks.

Mark Eden and Christopher Stell began their duo while still teenage undergraduates at the Royal Academy of Music, completing their studies with the Principal’s Prize for Achievement and the Julian Bream Prize. They continued their studies in Brussels with the Brazilian Guitar Duo, Sérgio and Odair Assad with aid from the Worshipful Company of Musicians. The Duo made their debut at London’s Southbank Centre as part of the Park Lane Group’s Young Artists’ Concert Series, soon after winning the South East Musicians’ Platform competition, giving them further concerts including a Wigmore Hall debut. They have since become regulars at London venues, especially Kings Place for music organisations such as ‘Live Music Now!’, the Kirckman Concert Society, Classical Guitar Magazine, and the International Guitar Foundation.

Mark and Chris’ recent engagements have featured performances with the Baden-Baden Philharmonie performing Joaquin Rodrigo’s Concerto Madrigal in the presence of Cecilia Rodrigo, 92&Y New York City, International Festival Changsha China, The Baltic Guitar Festival Lithuania, the Maui Guitar Summer School with Ben Verdery, and the Jüchen Guitar Festival Germany. They have worked with Internationally acclaimed composers Adam Gorb, Dusan Bogdanovic, Laura Snowden, Gary Ryan, and Johannes Moller; but the duo have had a personal association and musical affinity with the composer Stephen Dodgson going back to the beginning of their duo partnership, resulting in a Concertino for two guitars and strings as well as a recordings of Stephen's music which was Editor’s Choice in Gramophone magazine on release.

The Duo have recorded 7 CDs to date on BSG, Hannsler Classics, and Naxos covering a diverse range of musical projects including baroque keyboard transcriptions of Rameau and Couperin, contemporary Brazilian music, and a multi media CD of music inspired by places around the British Isles. Their most recent recording project, ‘Cançons i Dansas’ (BGS129) features all Federico Mompou’s Songs and Dances, taking over ten years to complete. “There is real soul in this music and these guys consistently find it in these deeply humane, wonderfully unassuming performances.” MusicWeb International. Soon to be released is a CD of Sonatas by Domenico Scarlatti adding to a long affinity the Duo have with baroque keyboard masters. As well as creating imaginative arrangements Chris in recent years has also composed new works, many inspired by the music and ancient heritage of Armenia.

Mark and Chris enjoy many collaborations and projects including performing regularly as part of the acclaimed Vida Guitar Quartet, (tenor) James Gilchrist, (flautist) Jessica Maria Quinones, outreach with the Jackdaws Educational Music Trust, and artistic directors of both the Winchester Guitar Festival and Dillington Guitar Festival. Chris and Mark are Associates of the Royal Academy of Music in recognition of their musical achievements and both currently teach at the Royal College of Music London, and Royal Birmingham Conservatoire. The duo are D’Addario strings endorsed artists.

James Erickson has an active career teaching and performing throughout the New York metropolitan area and Long Island. James is an adjunct music instructor at Nassau Community College, LIU Post, and Suffolk County Community College, where he teaches studio guitar lessons, music history, theory, fretboard harmony and is the director of The SCCC Guitar Ensemble. James is on the faculty of Classical Guitar Corner Academy; an online program of classical guitar study with more than one thousand members worldwide. James holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in music history and performance from Long Island University, where he was awarded "Outstanding Performance in Guitar Studies." Other studies have included SCC College and the Berklee College of Music. James has performed on tour as a classical guitar soloist in the United States, Europe, and Canada. In the summer, he is a regular performer at the "Songe d'été en Musique" an annual music festival in Quebec, Canada. James is a founding member of the Artesian Guitar Quartet and has recorded an EP with the group featuring the music of Bach, Dvorák, and Faure.

As an electric guitarist, his studies have included lessons from jazz guitarist Howard Morgen and rock virtuoso Paul Gilbert. James has extensive recording and performing experience and is currently involved in many diverse musical projects. In 2021, James released the instrumental EP *An Amusing Mess*, which featured original compositions for electric guitar. James has performed with several touring tribute acts, including Walking The Line, a musical tribute to Johnny Cash, Classic Albums Live, performing the album "Who's Next" by The Who, and Return to Paradise, performing the music of Styx. Notable performances have included The Paramount Theater in Huntington, NY, The Riviera Theater in Buffalo, NY, Sellersville Theater in Pennsylvania, B.B Kings in NYC, and The Grand Theater in Maryland. James has also performed the guitar parts for many local theatrical productions including "Hair", "Anything Goes", "Fiddler on the Roof" and "Seussical". He is also the assistant director of the Long Island Guitar Festival and offers private and online guitar instruction in a wide variety of musical styles. www.ericksonguitar.net

Maureen Hynes, co-founder of the LIU Post Chamber Music Festival, enjoys an active career as soloist, conductor, chamber musician, orchestral player, and educator in the New York musical world. She performs regularly with the American Ballet Theater, the American Symphony Orchestra, the Opera Orchestra of New York, American Composers Orchestra, the Westchester Philharmonic, the Bard Festival Orchestra, and the Queens Symphony. She has appeared at the Spoleto and Aspen Festivals, and at the Lake George Opera Festival. Her work in New York has included substitute work in many Broadway shows and the Radio City Music Hall Christmas Show. Ms. Hynes was a winner of the Concert Artist Guild Award with the Janus Ensemble, and she is currently a member of the Pierrot Consort. She has performed in Europe, Canada, Korea, and Hong Kong both as cellist and gambist. Professor Hynes was Director of Orchestral and String Studies at LIU Post, where she was professor of cello and conductor of the LIU Post Orchestra, the LIU Post String Ensemble, and the Merriweather Consort. In 2009, she received the Adjunct Faculty Recognition Award from Long Island University for her contributions to the Department of Music. Conducting engagements include the 2016-2017 season of the Queens Symphony Orchestra, Guest Conductor for the Rutgers Symphony Orchestra in 2019 and numerous regional and state-wide Festivals and clinics. Since 2015, she teaches Introduction to Orchestral Conducting and Advanced Orchestral Conducting at the Manhattan School of Music. Ms. Hynes has given cello Master Classes in Seoul, Korea and on Long Island and has recorded for the Albany label. She is a member of Chamber Music America, Early Music America, NAFME and the American String Teachers Association.

The American soprano, **Lauren Alfano-Ishida**, studied at Harborfields High School in Greenlawn, New York. She obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology, Music, Religion from Barnard College, Columbia University in New York City (2008); and her Master of Arts degree in Vocal Performance from Hunter College in New York City (2015). Lauren Ishida is freelance musician (soprano) and teacher since June 2010. She is the soprano half of the ensemble Duo Moderne with whom she presents concerts of new and rediscovered song. Recent and upcoming performances include the title role in George Frideric Handel's Alcina, Cleopatra in Giulio Cesare, Early Music concerts with the period instrument group, Ensemble Leonarda, a new Jazz Opera recording and debut at Zankel Hall with the Eco Music Big Band, and many recital appearances throughout the Tri-State area. She has performed dozens of premieres by composers from the USA, Europe, and Japan, and she developed the international De Osma Project to uncover the life and works of Spanish-American composer, Julio de Osma (1888-1938).

She has worked as Program Assistant, Neuroscience Institute at New York University School of Medicine (June 2011-June 2013); Production Manager and Dramaturg for the Hunter Opera Theater, the opera ensemble in residence at Hunter College specializing in contemporary American opera (January 2010-August 2017); Director of Music Programming at The Flea Theater (since January 2017). She also teaches music to children and teens, and maintains active vocal studios in New York City and on Long Island.

Laura Lessard started her musical training at an early age with her father, pianist/ composer John Lessard. When she was thirteen her family moved to Italy where she began studying the guitar with Stefano Michelucci. She continued her musical training at The Longy School of Music in Boston with Alfred Street, and The Manhattan School of Music with Sharon Isbin and Jerry Willard. She has performed on the guitar and lute throughout the Northeast and Canada, both as a soloist and chamber musician. She is one of the founding members of The Artesian Guitar Quartet, which has recently released their first CD. In addition to her work as a performer she has been on the faculty of the Guitar Workshop, the Bronx House Music School, The Bay School of Music and The Usdan Center for the Performing Arts.

David Leisner is an extraordinarily versatile musician with a multi-faceted career as a performing artist, composer and teacher. "Among the finest guitarists of all time", according to American Record Guide, Leisner is a featured recording artist for the Azica label, with 10 highly acclaimed solo CDs. His recent recording of Schubert's Die Schöne Müllerin with baritone Michael Kelly (Bright Shiny Things) garnered rave reviews, and his latest solo album for Azica, Charms to Soothe, featuring early 19th -century music, will be released very soon. Other recordings are on the Naxos, Telarc and Koch labels, with a concert DVD published by Mel Bay. David Leisner's recent seasons have taken him around the US, a major tour of Australia and New Zealand, and debuts and reappearances in China, Japan, the Philippines, Germany, Hungary, Switzerland, Austria, Denmark, Sweden, Ireland, the U.K., Italy, Czech Republic, Greece, Puerto Rico, Canada and Mexico. An innovative three-concert series at Weill Recital Hall in Carnegie Hall included the first all-Bach guitar recital in New York's history, and for 12 years, he was the Artistic Director of Guitar Plus, a New York series devoted to chamber music with the guitar. Celebrated for expanding the guitar repertoire, David Leisner has premiered and commissioned works by many important composers, including David Del Tredici, Virgil Thomson, Ned Rorem, Philip Glass, Richard Rodney Bennett, Peter Sculthorpe and Osvaldo Golijov. His recent Pandemic Commissions project elicited works from Pierre Jalbert, Laura Kaminsky, Chester Biscardi, Bun-Ching La and João Luiz. He has also spearheaded the revival of neglected 19th-century composers, J.K. Mertz and Wenzeslaus Matiegka. He has performed at the Santa Fe, Rockport, Vail Valley, Bargemusic, Bay Chamber, Cape Cod and Islands, Maui, Portland, Sitka, Music in the Vineyards, Crested Butte and Angel Fire chamber music festivals.

Mr. Leisner is also a highly respected composer, noted for the emotional and dramatic power of his music. Fanfare magazine described it as "rich in invention and melody, emotionally direct, and beautiful", and Textura praised its "arresting melodic character, emotional depth, and dramatic sweep". His music has been performed worldwide by eminent soloists, chamber ensembles and orchestras. An extensive discography includes the much-praised Cedille CD, Acrobats, performed by the Cavatina Duo, and Letter to the World, an album of his vocal chamber music. His compositions are published by Theodore Presser Co. and Dobermann-Ypann. Recent works and commissions include a guitar concerto, Wayfaring for Pepe Romero and the New American Sinfonietta, Singing to the Stars for soprano, violin, saxophone and 2 guitars for the New Music Festival at the University of North Carolina, Wilmington, Pranayama for the Symphony of Northwest Arkansas, Love Dreams of the Exile for the Cavatina Duo and the Avalon Quartet and Das Wunderbare Wesen for baritone Wolfgang Holzmair and solo cello.

A distinguished teacher as well, Leisner is currently on the faculty at the Manhattan School of Music and taught for over two decades at the New England Conservatory. His book about ergonomic guitar technique, Playing with Ease, is published by Oxford University Press. Primarily self-taught as both guitarist and composer, he briefly studied guitar with John Duarte, David Starobin and Angelo Gilardino and composition with Richard Winslow, Virgil Thomson, Charles Turner and David Del Tredici. www.davidleisner.com

Alan Morris - Originally from East Moline, IL, Alan Morris graduated from University of Iowa and completed his Master's and D.M.A. at Stony Brook University. Alan actively freelances in the NY metro area and enjoys teaching a small dedicated oboe studio. In the 2017 season, Alan performed as interim second oboe with Orquesta Sinfónica de Xalapa in Xalapa, Veracruz, Mexico. A member of the Alba Virtuosi, Alan can be heard annually in the Alba Music Festival in Italy. His teachers and mentors include Pedro Díaz, Dr. Andrew Parker, Arthur Haas, Lissa Stolz and Mark Weiger.

A committed interpreter of contemporary and Latin American music **Ana María Rosado** has concertized throughout the United States, Europe, Latin America and the Far East. Prominent composers have written works for the Puerto Rican artist, including Tania León, Jorge Morel, Roque Cordero, Rafael Aponte-Ledée, Francis Schwartz and Edmundo Vásquez. Her debut solo compact disc on the Albany Records label, *We've got (poly)rhythm*, was critically acclaimed. Her second solo CD, an independent release *Salsa and Other Beats* (2010) includes the premiere recording of pieces by Jorge Morel as well of music by Latin American masters Paulo Bellinati, Abel Carlevaro and Leo Brouwer. International performances include her participation as performer and lecturer 2013, 2014 and 2016, in festivals in Havana, Cuba, and in 2016 in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. She has participated as performer and/or master class instructor in the 2007, 2009 and 2015 New School/ Mannes Guitar Seminar. In October of 2015 she played a solo recital and conducted a workshop on Latin Rhythms at the 1st International Gharana Music Festival in Nepal. In 2017 and 2019 AMR participated as performer in two distinct festivals in Bogotá, Colombia. Earlier in her career, as an *Artistic Ambassador* for the USIA, she toured México, Guatemala, Belize, El Salvador, Honduras, Perú, Bolivia and Argentina. An extraordinary highlight of her life as a guitarist was to perform for the legendary Spanish guitarist Andrés Segovia in his last set of masterclasses.

Serenade Duo (Michelle LaPorte, flute Gerry Saulter, guitar) - The award-winning ensemble Serenade Duo featuring flutist Michelle LaPorte and guitarist Gerry Saulter share music of the world with their warm stage presence and engaging performances of culturally diverse repertoire. Serenade Duo has toured extensively throughout the United States, Europe, and Canada as performers, educators, and world chamber music advocates. They are concert and recording artists for Centaur Records, Alhambra Guitars, Miyazawa Flutes, RC Strings, and Fishman Music.

As five-time winners of Artists International's Distinguished Chamber Music Award, the Duo has performed concerts at Carnegie Hall and Merkin Concert Hall in New York City. Other featured performances include: American Church in Paris, St. Lawrence Jewry-Guild Hall London, St. Ann's Church Dublin, Toronto Latin American Flute Festival, Puerto Rico Flute Symposium, and many other arts organizations, music societies, festivals, museums, and educational institutions. Serenade Duo has received a New York Council of the Arts Special Opportunity Grant, a Suffolk County Certificate of Appreciation for Diverse Community Programs, and they are three-time Finalists of The American Prize in Professional Chamber Music. www.serenadeduo.com

An active classical guitarist, **Huy Thanh Nguyen** leads the Guitar department at Ho Chi Minh City Conservatory of Music, Vietnam. Huy Thanh Nguyen has performed in many concerts across cities and provinces of Viet Nam and recorded guitar concert series for Ho Chi Minh City Television. He tours the country extensively and has been invited to give master classes and perform in a number of festivals in the region, including "Singapore's Art House", "Malaysia Guitar Festival and Camp", "Silpakorn International Guitar Festival, Thailand", "Asia International Guitar Festival & Competition, Thailand", "Tarrega International Guitar Festival & Competition, Malaysia". He was invited to perform in the "Radford International Guitar Festival, Virginia" and "Long Island Guitar Festival, New York", United State. Huy is a member of "Saigon Guitar Quartet" which actively promotes ensemble music for guitar including duos and quartets.

For his Department at the Conservatory, Huy Nguyen has developed a successful cooperation with Norwegian government funded Transposition Programme, and also with many international guitarists in the world who come and give master classes as well as recitals in Ho Chi Minh City. He is also the Artistic Director of Saigon International Guitar Festival, which he founded in 2014. This is the first and by far the only international classical guitar festival in Vietnam, attracting both guitarists and the general public in Ho Chi Minh City as well as the guitar enthusiasts from other provinces. The annual Saigon International Guitar Festival offers a rich variety of activities including workshops, master classes, lectures and concerts by international artists around the world. Otherwise, Huy Thanh Nguyen have been running the "Saigon Guitar Concert Series" in the city monthly.

Nicoletta Todesco is a Brooklyn based guitarist and composer, known for including singing in her concerts for guitar. Nicoletta has a reputation as an eclectic and versatile performer. Her concerts can range from early music to original compositions and arrangements, pieces for voice and guitar as well as for electric guitar. She performed solo recitals in venues in the U.S. and abroad, including a Carnegie Hall debut in 2019 with the Yale School of Music guitar studio. In addition to performing and arranging new pieces for guitar, Nicoletta writes her own music and continues to develop her unique compositional style. With her concerts, Nicoletta aims at engaging the audience through unique stage presence and storytelling.

Nicoletta's approach to music led her to perform in numerous ensembles in the U.S. and abroad. In Italy, she was among the founding members of the acclaimed ZerOCrediti ("no credits") contemporary music ensemble, carrying out well appreciated projects such as *Ich Bin Mein Stil*, in collaboration with the Arnold Schönberg Centre and the German Institute of Culture. She currently plays in a duo with flutist Laura Elena Gracia Guzmán and in a trio with soprano Emily Donato and flutist Helen Park. Recently, Nicoletta played electric and acoustic guitar in the awarded Trinity Church Wall Street's new music orchestra NOVUS NY. With Heartbeat Opera, she took part to the *LADY M* production, praised by the New York Times as "flat-out brilliant".

A committed educator from a young age, for more than 15 years Nicoletta has taught guitar and music theory in private and public institutions in the U.S., Italy and Mexico. She worked as a teaching assistant at Yale School of Music, where she was awarded with the Eliot Fisk Prize, recognized to an outstanding guitarist whose artistic achievement and dedication have contributed greatly to the guitar department. In 2015, she spent one year in Aguascalientes (Mexico) promoting music education among children and young adults in collaboration with Italian nonprofit Engim. In 2020, Nicoletta joined as a general manager Classical Guitar Corner Academy, an online guitar academy with more than one thousand members worldwide. Nicoletta is the newly-appointed director of the New York City Guitar Orchestra.

A native of Italy, Niki - as her friends call her - left her hometown at the age of 14 to study at the Conservatory of Trento where she graduated with honors. She then completed a Master of Arts in guitar performance at the Conservatory of Bologna. In 2017, she moved to the U.S. to develop her own voice and unique approach to the instrument at Yale School Music under the guidance of Benjamin Verdery. Nicoletta also studied and performed in masterclasses with world-renowned guitarists, including Pavel Steidl, Sharon Isbin, Paolo Pegoraro, Aniello Desiderio, Lorenzo Micheli, Duo Melis, Giampaolo Bandini, Bruno Giuffredi, Andrea Dieci.

Along with her well-rounded performance abilities, Nicoletta curates guitar didactic books and composes pieces for solo guitar as well as guitar ensembles. Her composition for four guitars *Picking Berries in the Haunted Forest* won 1st prize at the 2022 Austin Classical Guitar Composition Competition. She holds a Master's degree in Music Studies from the University of Bologna, and she completed a research internship on musical iconography at the Carlos Chávez Center for Musical Research in Mexico City. Nicoletta performs on a classical guitar made by Leonardo De Gregorio, Rome, a classical guitar made by Gino Canello, Treviso, Italy and on an electric guitar made by Jack Veas and Bruno Jacquet.

Ana Vidovic is an extraordinary talent with formidable gifts taking her place amongst the elite musicians of the world today. She is known for her beautiful tone, precise technique, well-defined phrasing and thoughtful artistry and musicianship. Her international performance career includes frequent recitals, concerto engagements and festival appearances in most of Europe's cultural destinations including Amsterdam, Brussels, Budapest, Copenhagen, London, Oslo, Paris, Rome, Salzburg, Vienna, Warsaw, and Zagreb. Her tours have also taken her to Australia, Brazil, Israel, Japan, Korea, and Mexico. Equally impressive is the fact that she has recorded 6 CDs. Mel Bay Publications has released Ana Vidovic's DVD entitled "Guitar Artistry in Concert," a journey through the music of Torroba, Piazzolla and Pierre Bensusan, Sergio Assad, Stanley Myers, Villa-Lobos, and Agustin Barrios Mangoré, and "Guitar Virtuoso," a performance of works by Bach, Torroba, Paganini and Walton.

During recent seasons Ms. Vidovic's prolific career has taken her to London where she has performed at King's Place twice; Bordeaux and Paris, Carthage (Tunisia), Cuenca (Equador), Vienna's Musikverein, Amsterdam's Concertgebouw, Avezzano and Pescara (Italy), Aachen, Ansbach, Baden-Baden and Ettlingen (Germany), Japan, Sao Paulo (Brazil), Adelaide, Brisbane and Sydney (Australia), Hong Kong, Bulle (Switzerland), Uppsala (Sweden), Istanbul, Tel Aviv, in addition to the Canadian cities of Calgary, Edmonton, Kitchener, Toronto and Winnipeg.

She has performed throughout the U.S. at major performance venues in Austin, Baltimore, Bethesda (The Strathmore), Boston, Champaign, IL (Krannert Center), Cleveland, Dallas, Dayton, Ft. Worth, Houston, the Hawaiian Islands, Los Angeles, Milwaukee, Portland (OR), St. Louis, Salt Lake City, San Francisco, San Luis Obispo, Santa Fe, Seattle, Washington, DC and New York City where Ms. Vidovic has performed in recital at the New York Guitar Seminar at Mannes College of Music, Baruch College, 92nd St. Y and Le Poisson Rouge.

Her dazzling concerto performances have taken place with many orchestras including the Asheville Symphony, Bangor Symphony, Erie Philharmonic, Hartford Symphony, Illinois Philharmonic, Knoxville Symphony, Missoula Symphony, Rogue Valley Symphony (Oregon), Orchestra Iowa, West Virginia Symphony, Wheeling Symphony, Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra; and with the Slovene Orchestra and Zagreb Philharmonic. Festival appearances include Le Domaine Forget (Quebec), International Guitar Festival (London), Big Sky, Montana, Caramoor Festival (Katonah, NY), Colorado Music Festival and Lake Tahoe Summerfest. Following Summer 2019 engagements in Lichtenstein and Dubrovnik, Ana Vidovic's 2019-20 season includes appearances at An Die Musik in Baltimore, MD as well as soloist with the Baltimore Chamber Orchestra; recitals in Jacksonville (FL), Los Angeles, Clarksville (TN), Philadelphia and Sedona (AZ); and overseas in Paris, Aachen and Bad Aibling (Germany). During the Covid-19 pandemic, many of Ms. Vidovic's engagements were redesigned to take place including the 92nd St Y in NYC, Philadelphia and in San Francisco (Omni Concerts) where she performed at the venue in a live-streamed concert. Live, in-person concerts resumed in 20-21 to audiences in Hamburg, Split (Croatia) and in Knoxville and Utah State University. Her 2021-22 season is highlighted by returns to the London Guitar Festival at King's Place, NYC's 92nd Street Y for in-person concerts with live audiences, as well as in San Francisco, Austin, and St. Louis. Ms. Vidovic's on-line masterclasses in Athens during the pandemic continue on a monthly basis throughout the season.

Ms. Vidovic has won an impressive number of prizes and international competitions including first prizes in the Albert Augustine International Competition in Bath, England, the Fernando Sor competition in Rome, Italy, and the Francisco Tárrega competition in Benicasim, Spain. Other top prizes include the Eurovision Competition for Young Artists, Mauro Giuliani competition in Italy, Printemps de la Guitare in Belgium, and the Young Concert Artists International Auditions in New York. In Croatia, the guitarist has performed Symphony Orchestra of the Croatian Radio and Television, as well as having been featured in three television documentaries by the eminent Croatian film director Petar Krelja. Ana Vidovic comes from the small town of Karlovac near Zagreb, Croatia, and started playing guitar at the age of 5. At age 7, she gave her first public performance and at the age of 11 she was performing internationally. She became the youngest student at age 13 to attend the prestigious National Musical Academy in Zagreb where she studied with Professor Istvan Romer. Ms. Vidovic's reputation in Europe led to an invitation to study with Manuel Barrueco at the Peabody Conservatory from which she graduated.

Owen Wang - is a high school senior from New Jersey with a passion for classical guitar. He has studied under Galina Jitlina, Tengyue Zhang, Denis Azabagic, and Alan Liu. In 2020 and 2021, he was selected to participate in the GFA Mentorship Program. Owen has been a prizewinner in numerous competitions, including the GFA International Youth Competition, Chicago Guitar Competition, Long Island Guitar Competition, Florida Guitar Competition, and Houston Classical Guitar Festival and Competition, among others. He is also a recipient of the 2024 National YoungArts Award. His dream is to become a skilled, professional guitarist.

Notes



