

The Long Island Guitar Festival

Harris Becker - Director



May 11 - 15, 2022

Setauket Presbyterian Church, Setauket NY



ligfest.net

The Long Island Guitar Festival

HAS BEEN FUNDED IN PART BY:



THE LONG ISLAND GUITAR FESTIVAL STAFF

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JOHN MESCHI - ADVISOR & WEB MANAGER

The 2022 Long Island Guitar Festival is dedicated to the memory of
Linda Kessler and Roberto Cota

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Elizabeth Smith, Elizabeth Chiarelli, Aaron Watkins Lopez, Noby Ishida, Charles Cary,
Kate Jones Calone, Laura Ross White, Janice Zingale, 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 30 years.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT

ligfest.net



THE LONG ISLAND *Guitar Festival*

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
<u>WEDNESDAY, May 11</u> 7:30 pm	CONCERT: Harris Becker & Friends	Fellowship Hall
<u>THURSDAY, May 12</u> 7:30 pm	CONCERT: Paul Cesarczyk <i>Guest Artist</i> - Chinnawat Themkumkwun	Fellowship Hall
<u>FRIDAY, May 13</u> 1:00 pm	MASTER CLASS: David Russell	Fellowship Hall
4:30 pm	COMPETITION: LIGF High School Classical Guitar Semi-Finals (closed to public)	
8:00 pm	CONCERT: Benjamin Verdery <i>Guest Artist</i> - Rie Schmidt, Flute	Fellowship Hall
<u>SATURDAY, May 14</u> 1:00 pm	COMPETITION: LIGF High School Classical Guitar Finals	Fellowship Hall
3:00 pm	CONCERT: Evan Taucher & Chinnawat Themkumkwun	Fellowship Hall
8:00 pm	CONCERT: David Russell	Fellowship Hall
<u>SUNDAY, May 15</u> 9:30 am	WORKSHOP: Practice Techniques for Auditions and Competitions (with Evan Taucher & Chinnawat Themkumkwun)	Classroom
11:00 am	CONCERT: Olson/ De Cari Duo.	Fellowship Hall
12:30 pm	SHOWCASE: High School Ensemble Showcase NJMEA High School Honors Guitar Ensemble & The New Jersey Guitar Orchestra / Metropolitan Guitar Academy	Fellowship Hall
2:00 pm	MASTER CLASS: Benjamin Verdery	Classroom
4:00 pm	CONCERT: The Beijing Guitar Duo	Fellowship Hall



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Guitar Festival Programs

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11

HARRIS BECKER & FRIENDS - 7:30 pm Fellowship Hall

Now Cease, My Wandering Eyes
The Lowest Trees Have Tops
Flow My Tears
Can She Excuse

John Dowland (1563-1626)

Emily Klonowski, mezzo-soprano - Harris Becker, lute

Moving Meditation *

Howard Rovics (b.1937)

Harris Becker, guitar

Equinox* (world premiere)

Carlo Domeniconi (b.1947)

Maureen Hynes, cello - Harris Becker, guitar

Promenade

John Williams (b.1941)

Laura Lessard & Harris Becker, guitars

Scorpios Karma* (world premiere)

Carlo Domeniconi (b.1947)

Harris Becker, guitar

Introduction and Fandango

Luigi Boccherini (1743-1805)
(arr. Julian Bream)

Jeffrey Marcus, piano - Harris Becker, guitar

INTERMISSION

Celebration
Invocation
Dream Song
Impression
Dialogue
Masquerade

Howard Rovics (b.1937)

Samantha Clarke, flute - Alan Morris, oboe - Harris Becker - guitar

Beacon**
Kindred Spirits**

Michael Roberts (b.1974)

Journeys**
Inner
Outer

Alan Hirsh (b.1959)

The Artesian Guitar Quartet - James Erickson, Harris Becker, Laura Lessard, Michael Roberts

Passing Through*

Hayley Savage (b.1975)

Harris Becker, guitar

* written for Harris Becker

**written for the Artesian Guitar Quartet

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THURSDAY, MAY 12

PAUL CESARCZYK - 7:30 pm Fellowship Hall
with guest artist Chinnawat Themkumkwun

Six Lute Works

Jakub Reys (1545-1605)

Introduction et Rondeau Brillante, Op. 11

J.K. Mertz (1806-1865)

Suite in Modo Polonico

Alexandre Tansman (1897-1986)

Entrée

Gailliard

Kujawiak

Tempo de Polonaise

Kolysanka

Oberek

INTERMISSION

Etudes no. 1, 8, and 5

Giulio Regondi (1822-1872)

Variations on a Thai Folk Song

Paul Cesarczyk (b.1977)

The Fool on the Hill
She's Leaving Home
Penny Lane

Lennon-McCartney
(arr. Leo Brouwer)

with Chinnawat Themkumkwun, guitar

FRIDAY, MAY 13

DAVID RUSSELL Master Class - 1:00 pm Fellowship Hall

LONG ISLAND GUITAR FESTIVAL HIGH SCHOOL

CLASSICAL GUITAR COMPETITION - 4:30 pm Fellowship Hall

Semi-Finals (closed to the public)

BENJAMIN VERDERY - 8:00 pm Fellowship Hall

with guest artist Rie Schmidt, Flute

Ke Sakihitin Awasis (I Love You Baby)*

You Got to Run (Spirit of the Wind)*

Buffy Sainte-Marie (b. 1941)

Buffy Sainte-Marie/Tanya Tagaq (b.1975)

US Premiere

Prelude* from Cello Suite No.6, BWV 1012

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

*Gottes Zeit ist die allerbeste Zeit**, BWV 106 (Actus Tragicus)

Allegro from Prelude, Fugue and Allegro, BWV 998

Nocturne for people who can't Sleep (2022)

Thomas Flippin (b.1983)

12:00AM, 1:00AM, 2:00AM, 3:00AM,

4:00AM, 5:00AM, 6:00AM

From Rainer Maria Rilke's Book of Hours (Translated by Anita Barrows)

I'm the one who's been asking you - It hurts to ask- Who are you?

I am orphaned

Each time the sun goes down.

I can feel cast out from everything And even churches look like prisons.

That's when I want you -

You knower of my emptiness,

You unspeaking partner to my sorrow - That's when I need you, God like food.

Maybe you don't know what the nights are like
for people who can't sleep.

They all feel guilty -

The old man, the young woman, the child.

They're driven through darkness as though condemned, Their pale hands writhing; they're twisted

Like a pack of frenzied hounds.

What's past lies still ahead, And the future is finished.

They see not the faintest glimmer of morning
and listen in vain for the cock's crow.

The night is a huge house

where doors torn open by terrified hands

lead into endless corridors, and there's no way out.

God, every night is like that.
Always there are some awake,
who turn, turn, and do not find you.
Don't you hear them blindly treading the dark? Don't you hear them crying out
as they go farther and farther down?
Surely you hear them weep; for they are weeping.

I seek you, because they are passing right by my door. Whom should I turn to, if not the one whose darkness
is darker than night, the only one
who keeps vigil with no candle,
and is not afraid—
the deep one, whose being I trust,
for it breaks through the earth into trees, and rises,
when I bow my head,
faint as a fragrance
from the soil.

Composed and Dedicated to Ben Verdery USA Premiere

L'Orage (The Storm, The Love of Nice and Fileno)
Sentimental Sonata for guitar solo

Fernando Carulli (1770-1841)

Introduction... Nice and Fileno flirting...Kisses...
The Sky gets dark | Nice is frightened...
Wind | Rain | Hail | Lightning | Thunder... Nice laments
The storm increases | Lightening | Thunder... Nice laments
Fileno comforts Nice and they find comfort in a cave...
A monster appears...Nice passes out in fear...
A fight between Fileno and the monster... Fileno injures the monster...
The monster laments... The monster dies... The sky clears up...
A rainbow appears... Nice and Fileno cheer up

(Images provided by the Yale Center for British Art. many thanks to John Olson for the video presentation
of the paintings)

INTERMISSION

the rain falls equally on all things, a fantasy - 2017
(revised 2019)

Ben Verdery (b.1955)

rain clouds approach... in rain...
separate drops fall together... heavy water...
as the wind sings to the rain... after a rain (the smell, the mist)...
the wind's forgotten melody... partial recall of a storm...
gentle rain underwater... liquid sunshine... rain returns...
a downpour's secret... the calming of the water... a child's first rainbow...
discovering the rain falls equally on all things

New York Sketches
Greenwich Village, 1966
72nd Street Dakota
92nd Street, Scherzo

Sergio Assad (b. 1952)

Rie Schmidt, alto and C flutes, Ben Verdery, classical guitar

World Premiere (written for and dedicated to Rie Schmidt and Ben Verdery)

* Selections arranged by Ben Verdery

Ben Verdery uses D'Addario strings and plays a guitar built by Garrett Lee.

Ben Verdery appears by arrangement with GAMI/Simonds

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SATURDAY, MAY 14

LONG ISLAND GUITAR FESTIVAL HIGH SCHOOL

CLASSICAL GUITAR COMPETITION - 1:00 pm Fellowship Hall

Finals (open to the public)

EVAN TAUCHER & CHINNAWAT THEMKUMKWUN - 3:00 pm Fellowship Hall

El Testament d'Amelia
Cançó del Iladre

Miguel Llobet (1878-1938)

Five Sketches

Evan Taucher (b.1992)

Pavana-Capricho, Op.12
Sevilla from Suite Española

Isaac Albéniz (1860-1909)

Selected variations from "Reflections"

Brian Nabors (b. 1991)

A Serenade

Andrew Faulkenberry (b.1999)

Solace

Zach Hicks (b.1994)

Sonata in D Major, K 53

Domenico Scarlatti (1685-1757)

Preludio II

Joaquín Rodrigo (1901-1999)

Evan Taucher, guitar

INTERMISSION

Gran Sonata Eroica, Op.150

Mauro Giuliani (1781-1829)

Impromptus

I. Recitativo

II. Agitato

III. Elegiaco

IV. Con fuoco

V. Arioso

Richard Rodney Bennett (1936-2012)

La Gran Sarabanda (Extended Version)

Leo Brouwer (b.1939)

Shuo Chang for Guitar

Chen Yi (b.1953)

Chinnawat Themkumkwun, guitar

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DAVID RUSSELL - 8:00 pm Fellowship Hall

Morceau De Concert, Op. 54

Fernando Sor (1778-1839)

Sonatas K. 490*, K. 491*

Domenico Scarlatti (1685-1757)

Granada

Isaac Albéniz (1860-1909)

Malagueña

INTERMISSION

Two Parties

J. Kuhnau (1660-1722)

Partie (in A Major)

Praeludium

Allemande

Courante

Sarabande

Gigue

Partie (in D Major)*

Praeludium

Allemande

Courante

Sarabande

Gigue

Variations Brillantes, Op. 3B.

Lackenbacher (1793-1858)

Sonatina (dedicated to David Russell)

Jorge Morel (1931-2021)

Allegretto

Andante espressivo

Allegro

* transcription by David Russell

SUNDAY, MAY 15

WORKSHOP: PRACTICE TECHNIQUES FOR AUDITIONS AND COMPETITIONS
with EVAN TAUCHER & CHINNAWAT THEMKUMKWUN - 9:30 am Classroom

OLSON/DE CARI DUO - 11:00 am Fellowship Hall
Gioia De Cari, soprano - John Olson, guitar

Eve's Diary

A Whole Day Old

The Moon

It

First Sorrow

Pink Dust

Prayer

David Leisner (b.1953)

Texts by Mark Twain(1835-1910)

Next Slide Please

from *Men, Woman, and Molecules*

Frank Wallace (1952-2020)

Texts by Roald Hoffmann (b.1937)

Archimedes

Andrew York (b.1958)

Live performance premiere

What God Looks Like

A Story

The Other Side

Parable

Ben Verdery (b.1955)

All pieces written for the Olson/De Cari Duo



HIGH SCHOOL GUITAR ENSEMBLE SHOWCASE - 12:30 pm Fellowship Hall

Long Road Home

L. Warde

Joropa

A. Forrest

Sailing Home

M. Houghton

Kalimba

J. Kindle

NJMEA High School Honors Guitar Ensemble

The Rainy Ketagalan Harbor

Ming-Jui Liu
(GFA Commission)

Owen and Vivian Wang Duo

Concerto in Re

G.P. Telemann

Intermezzo

O. Amelkina-Vera

Playground

Andrew York

Air and Lamentations *

M. Hapler

*world premiere commission for the New Jersey Guitar Orchestra

The New Jersey Guitar Orchestra

Concerto in D Major RV 93(circa 1730)

Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741)
arr. for guitar ensemble

Leyenda (1892)

Isaac Albéniz (1860-1909)
arr. for guitar ensemble

What a Wonderful World (1967)

Bob Thiele and George Weiss

Metropolitan Guitar Academy - John O'Donnell, Director

Iris Reyl, Avery Burton, Sana La Vertu, William Burroughs, Hampton Fraser, Caelen Meade

Golliwogg's Cakewalk

Claude Debussy
Arr. A. Hirsh

Pavane for a Dead Princess

Maurice Ravel
Arr. Alan Hirsh

In Memory of Elizabeth Reed

Richard "Dickey" Betts
Arr. J. Parisi

Nota Bene

Luc Levesque

The Brighter Side

Joseph Maniscalco

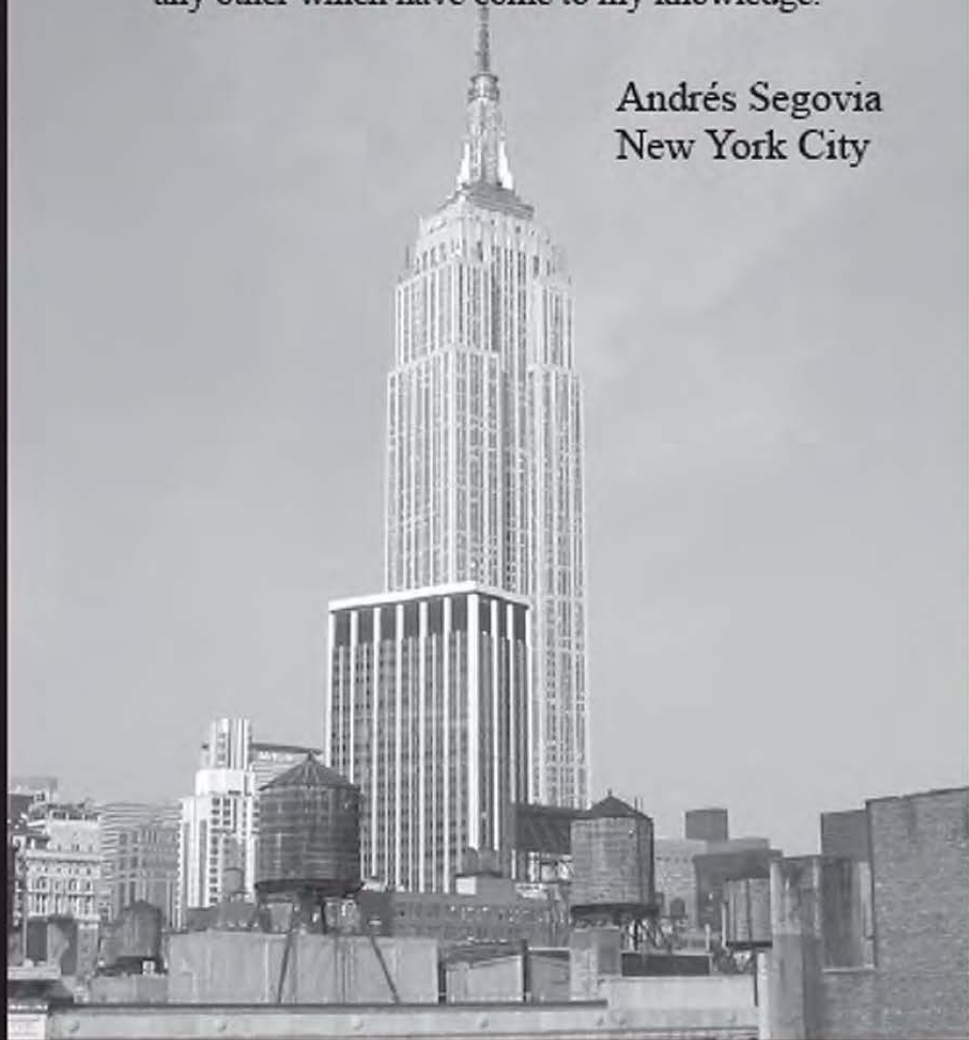
**Susan E. Wagner High School Advanced Guitar
Director, Joe Maniscalco**

Members:

Joseph Alberga, Mateo Armstrong, Alan Cantillo, Michael Cascio, Cesar Chavez, Joseph Chiricolla, Keith Connelly, Beanna Dzhaniashvili, Patricia Grace Espiritu, David Fanshteyn, Brian Flanagan, Christopher Galindo, Govindu Herath, Edon Lela, Alain Poma, Marc Rizzo, John Sendich, Aaliyah Taiwo, Christian Valentin, Evan Yau, Jia Xin Zheng, Dominic Carnival- Contra Bass, Evan Kalendar-Electric Bass, Shaine Karawita- Contra Bass

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BENJAMIN VERDERY Master Class - 2:00 pm Classroom

BEIJING GUITAR DUO - 4:00 pm Fellowship Hall
Meng Su and Yameng Wang, guitars

Two Sonatas
K.173, L.447
K.141, L.422

Domenico Scarlatti (1685-1757)
arr. Alexandre Lagoya
arr. Beijing Guitar Duo

Valses Poéticos
Vivace molto e melodico
Tempo de vals noble
Tempo de vals lento
Allegro humoristico
Allegretto (elegante)
Quasi ad libitum (sentimental)
Vivo
Presto

Enrique Granados (1867-1916)
(arr. Gruber-Maklar Duo)

Meng Su & Yameng Wang, guitars

Five Bagatelles
Allegro
Lento
Alla cubana
Sempre espressivo
Con slancio

William Walton (1902-1983)

Meng Su, solo guitar

INTERMISSION

Mazurka apasionada
Contemplacion

Agustín Barrios Mangoré (1885-1944)

Yameng Wang, solo guitar

Nian Hua (Chinese New Year's Paintings)*
Spring ox and cowherd
Five boys snatch lotus seed pods
Prosperity in the New Year

Chen Yi (b. 1953)

Tango Suite
Allegro
Andante
Allegro vivace

Astor Piazzolla (1921-1992)

Meng Su & Yameng Wang, guitars

* The commission of Nian Hua has been made possible by the Chamber Music America Classical Commissioning Program, with generous funding provided by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and the Chamber Music America Endowment Fund.

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Performers

The Artesian Guitar Quartet was founded in 2010 and currently features guitarists James Erickson, Michael Roberts, Laura Lessard, and Harris Becker. The programs the quartet presents are highly innovative and eclectic. Although much of the music they perform was initially written for four guitars, the quartet also uses the rich and varied tones of the guitar to bring transcriptions of orchestral and piano music to life in an intimate concert setting. The programs can include works by Bach, Bizet, Tchaikovsky, Dvorak, Rodrigo, Faure and arrangements of songs by the Beatles or traditional folk songs. The quartet has performed at The Dickens Festival, The Art League of Long Island, The Rensselaerville Historical Society, the Babylon Arts Council, The Long Island Guitar Festival, The Suffolk County Community College Guitar Festival, The Steinberg Museum of Art, and at the Songe D'été en Musique festival in Quebec. Past performances also include a tour of Quebec with concerts for Quebec Rural University, Sainte-Agnès in Lac-Mégantic, and St. Vital in Lambton, Quebec.

The quartet is committed to exploring new works by contemporary composers as well. The group has premiered works by Alan Hirsh, Michael Roberts, John Meschi, and Vincent Muscarella. The group has commissioned many new pieces for guitar quartet and often performs with guest artists. Individually the members have played concerts and given master classes throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, and South America. As guitar instructors, they are or have been affiliated with Long Island University, Nassau Community College, Queens College, The Bronx House Music School, Suffolk County Community College, Usdan Center for the Performing Arts, Classical Guitar Corner Academy, and The Richard Strauss Conservatory in Munich. www.artesianguitarquartet.com

The Beijing Guitar Duo Praised by the distinguished *Classical Guitar Magazine* as "having the star potential to serve as inspiration for new generations of guitarists to come," the Beijing Guitar Duo made their New York debut in Carnegie Hall in 2010 and launched their international concert career.

Guitarist Meng Su and Yameng Wang, the Beijing Guitar Duo has performed around the world in halls such as the Concertgebouw, Palau de Musica, Tchaikovsky Hall and the National Theatre in Beijing. This season will take them to a 12-city concert tour in the United States in February (Washington D.C., Cincinnati, Cleveland, Chicago, Detroit, Milwaukee, Knoxville) as well as other performances in Europe and China. The duo regularly collaborates with orchestras, in ensemble with flutist Marina Piccinini, guitarists Grigoryan Brothers and with their mentor Manuel Barrueco touring in Europe, Australia, Asia and the U.S. www.beijingguitar duo.com

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 Frassetti, 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 Frassetto. Mr. Becker is also a member of the Artesian Guitar Quartet. In 2022 Mr. Becker will premiere new works by Carlo Domeniconi, Laura Snowden and Michael Spiroff. Concerts will include the United States, Canada, and England. www.harrisbecker.com

Paul Cesarczyk Hailed by critics as "a guitarist of enormous sensitivity with exquisite delicacy in phrasing" (*Diario de Sevilla*) Paul Cesarczyk debuted in New York's Carnegie Hall at the age of seventeen and has since performed on some of the world's most prestigious stages, from Central Park's historic Naumburg bandshell to Singapore's Esplanade Hall. A recitalist and devoted chamber musician Mr. Cesarczyk performed on numerous concert series and festivals including the George Crumb Festival, Yong Siew Toh Conservatory's *Performers' Present* Festival, Festival de la Guitarra de Sevilla, Hong Kong International Guitar Festival, and the Qingdao International Guitar Festival (China). His performances have been featured on Thai PBS and New York's FOX 5.

A dedicated educator, Paul Cesarczyk was adjunct faculty at New York University's Steinhardt School of Education (2002-2006) and served as guitar department chair at Mahidol University's College of Music in Thailand (2009-2020) turning the program into one of the largest and most respected centers of guitar study in Asia. Partnering with local guitar institutions, Mr. Cesarczyk has given annual workshops, classes, and clinics throughout South Asia including India, Malaysia, Vietnam, Indonesia, Myanmar, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Laos. Goa's daily O Heraldo has called his work "instrumental in raising the quality and standard of guitar playing in Asia."

Paul Cesarczyk was educated in New York City public schools including the prestigious LaGuardia High School for the Performing Arts. He began studying the guitar with his father Leszek and received Bachelor's and Master's Degrees from Manhattan School of Music and completed a Doctor of Music degree at the State University of New York at Stony Brook, where he served as a teaching assistant for the duration of his studies. His principal teachers were David Starobin and Jerry Willard. He is a recipient of the Andres Segovia Award.

www.paulcesarczyk.com

Samantha Clarke, conductor and flutist, is a Long Island native of East Rockaway, New York. Ms. Clarke is thrilled to be pursuing the Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA) degree in conducting at George Mason University, working as Doctoral Assistant Conductor to the Wind Symphony and a Graduate Teaching Assistant in the School of Music. Ms. Clarke is studying conducting with Professor Mark Camhouse and flute with Professor Julianna Nickel. Ms. Clarke is also a member of the staff at The Mason Community Arts Academy, where she coordinates instrumental music educational outreach in local schools through their Instruments in The Attic donation program.

Ms. Clarke holds both a master's degree in conducting and a bachelor's degree in music education from LIU Post. While pursuing her master's degree, Ms. Clarke served as the Graduate Assistant Conductor to the Wind Ensemble, Wind Symphony, String Ensemble and Orchestra, studying conducting under Dr. James McRoy and Professor Maureen Hynes. Ms. Clarke was also very fortunate to have studied flute with Karla Moe for 10 years.

As an avid performer both as a soloist and chamber musician, Ms. Clarke has been a flutist and woodwind teacher for the Songe d'été en musique School and Festival in Quebec, Canada since 2012. Ms. Clarke has also performed abroad in Puerto Rico and Australia. In June 2019, Ms. Clarke had the honor of receiving an invitation to play flute with The United States Air Force Band (Washington D.C.) in rehearsals and performance as a part of the National Band Association's Young Composer and Conductor Mentor Project. Ms. Clarke's performance honors include participation in the Long Island Flute Club Competition twice, placing first in 2012 and third in 2011. Additionally, she was featured as a soloist with the LIU Post Wind Ensemble at Tilles Center in April 2014 as a winner of the LIU Post Concerto Competition.

www.samanthaklarke.com

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 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 global community of students and teachers working through a world-class curriculum of classical guitar study. James holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in music history and performance from Long Island University, where he was awarded "Outstanding Performance in Guitar Studies."

James has performed on tour as a classical guitar soloist in the United States, Europe, and Canada. 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. For the past ten years, James has taught and performed at the "Songe d'été en Musique" an annual music festival in Quebec, Canada. He is also the assistant director of the Long Island Guitar Festival, which presents master classes, concerts, and workshops by the world's most outstanding guitarists and teachers. James also 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.

Emily Klonowski has made her talent known throughout Long Island and the New York City area. Her rich and striking mezzo voice has stood out in many professional settings, giving her the opportunity to perform in many prestigious local, national and international venues. Her passion for the ability to express emotion through music started with instrumental beginnings, giving a complete foundation for her voice to blossom through her college career. Paired with a unique depth in sound and a keen musical awareness, Emily has performed with many award-winning groups on very challenging repertoire. This year, she was a soloist with the Merrick Chorale in Mendelssohn's work Elijah, Mozart's Missa Brevis and John Rutter's Gloria. Emily performed Aaron Copland's daring a capella work In the Beginning internationally with the LIU Post Chorus.

In 2015, at Lambton, Quebec and the festival Songe d'ete en Musique she performed many chamber works for various instrumentations. In the summer of 2013, Emily traveled to Tuscany, Italy where she performed and studied with the Oberlin Conservatory. Winner of the LIU Post Concerto Competition in 2013, Emily performed Les Nuit D'ete by Hector Berlioz. Prior, she attended the Westchester Summer Vocal Institute in 2012, and was a finalist for the *Classical Singer Magazine* Competition in 2011. Emily has performed as a soloist and with groups in many distinguished halls such as the Metropolitan Opera House, Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall, and more.

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.

Jeffrey Marcus - A scholarship student of Frances Mann and Mieczyslaw Munz at the Juilliard School, Jeffrey Marcus received a Bachelor of Science degree in Piano. He went on to obtain his Master of Music degree as a student of Martin Canin at the State University of New York at Stony Brook where he was a teaching assistant.

Appearing as a soloist and chamber player, Jeffrey Marcus' career in Europe has spanned over forty years and he has toured extensively. The Kulturverein of Wachenheim in Germany's Palatinate has included Mr. Marcus' solo recitals as part of their subscription series over the course of five separate seasons. Since 1975 he has made numerous appearances at the renown Fitz-Ritter German Wine Estate concert series in Bad Dürkheim, Germany. The Fitz-Ritter "konzertsaal", that dates to 1785, has served as the venue for the recording of two CD's of Jeffrey Marcus' solo performances.

Mr. Marcus was the pianist for the North American Premiere of Kristoff Penderecki's "Strofe" and partnered the American mezzo soprano Elizabeth Patches for the first complete performance of Chopin's Songs at Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Center. In 2013 Mr. Marcus performed the American and European premiers of the eminent American composer Peter Winkler's Seven Bagatelles for Piano. Jeffrey Marcus' made his New York solo recital debut at Merkin Hall in October 1985. His performances have aired all over the world including WQXR and WNYC in New York; BBC, England; Sueddeutscher, Norddeutscher and Hessischer Rundfunk in Germany.

A past member of the New York State Council of the Arts Decentralization Committee, Mr. Marcus has served on the faculty and as a member of the Board of Directors of the State University of New York at Stony Brook Pre-College Music Program. He currently serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the "Songe d'été en Musique" summer music festival that takes place annually in Quebec, Canada. Since 2014 Jeffrey Marcus has been a guest performing artist at the "Songe d'été en Musique" in Quebec, Canada. During this festival, along with his annual solo performances Mr. Marcus has collaborated with the American Tenor Matthew Goodheart, Canadian Soprano Valerie Belanger, American Soprano Emily Klonowski, American Flutist Samantha Clarke, American Percussionist Frank Cassara and the American Cellist Maureen Hynes. www.jeffreymarcuspianist.com

The Olson/De Cari Duo, a husband-and-wife ensemble, is dedicated to expanding the repertoire for classical guitar and voice. Their innovative repertoire includes many pieces written for them, including compositions from their Science/Music Commissioning Project, which seeks to celebrate the science-informed worldview and illuminate the human side of science through song, with the most recent commission being *Archimedes* by Andrew York. Their latest album, *Eve's Diary*, features new compositions and arrangements commissioned by the Duo, including a song cycle by David Leisner, arrangements of Jobim songs by João Luiz, and arrangements of theatre songs by Clarice Assad, together with a science-themed commission by the late Frank Wallace on texts by Nobel Laureate scientist and poet Roald Hoffmann. Sparked by the challenges to live performance posed by the pandemic, the Duo has recently forged new paths in classical music videography, creating an inventive music video series in narrative style.

The Duo's unique approach draws on the hybrid nature of Gioia and John's backgrounds and expertise. Gioia De Cari is an award-winning writer, actor and singer and a proud member of SAG-AFTRA, Actors' Equity, and the Dramatists Guild of America. She holds a Master of Science degree in mathematics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Gioia's critically-acclaimed play *Truth Values*, on themes of belonging for women in the male-dominated world of mathematics and science, has been presented at more than 50 venues across the United States, including the La Jolla Playhouse, the Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, and Ensemble Studio Theatre. John Olson has performed with a variety of New York-based ensembles, including the Brooklyn Guitar Quartet and Nylon Wound. Since 2007 he has served as President of the New York City Classical Guitar Society, revitalizing the organization and making it a thriving and central part of the city's guitar community. He served as a member of the Guitar Foundation of America Board of Directors for six years, and has directed the Ben Verdery Maui Master Class since 2013. He received his PhD from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. www.olsondecariduo.com

Michael Roberts is a versatile and eclectic guitarist based in the New York area. His performances have taken him throughout the Northeast and Canada. Equally comfortable on the classical and electric guitar, his playing experience ranges from standard classical guitar repertoire to jazz, rock, blues and world music. He has performed extensively as a soloist, and in a variety of chamber group settings, jazz ensembles and big band groups. In addition to maintaining his career in performance and teaching, Michael has established himself as a talented composer for the guitar and other instruments. He has written several pieces for solo guitar, duos, trios and larger ensembles. The Artesian Guitar Quartet premiered a few of his original works in 2018 at the Long Island Guitar Festival and at the Songe d'été en musique Festival in Quebec. Michael studied classical guitar at Long Island University where he graduated with a BA in Music Education. His knowledge and proficiency in a wide range of musical styles make him a sought after performer both in recording studios and concert halls.

David Russell is world renowned for his superb musicianship and inspired artistry, having earned the highest praise from audiences and critics alike. In recognition of his great talent and his international career, he was named a Fellow of The Royal Academy of Music in London in 1997. He is a GRAMMY award winner for his CD AIRE LATINO in the category of best instrumental soloist in classical music.

During his studies at the Royal Academy, David Russell won twice the Julian Bream Guitar Prize. Later he won numerous international competitions, including the Andrés Segovia Competition, the José Ramírez Competition and Spain's prestigious Francisco Tárrega Competition.

David Russell spends his time touring the world, appearing regularly at prestigious halls in main cities, such as New York, London, Tokyo, Los Angeles, Madrid, Toronto or Rome. Concert-goers everywhere are in awe of his musical genius and inspired by his captivating stage presence. His love of his craft resonates through his flawless and seemingly effortless performance. The attention to detail and provocative lyrical phrasing suggest an innate understanding of what each individual composer was working to achieve, bringing to each piece a sense of adventure.

In May 2005 he received a homage from the music conservatory of Vigo, culminating with the opening of the new Auditorium, to which they gave the name "Auditorio David Russell".

In 2009 David was named honorary member of "Amigos de la Guitarra", the oldest guitar society in Spain.

A prolific recording artist, his collection includes seventeen CDs with Telarc International.

The New York Times wrote about his performance: "... Mr. Russell made his mastery evident without ever deviating from an approach that places musical values above mere display. It was apparent to the audience throughout the recital that Mr. Russell possesses a talent of extraordinary dimension".

Upon hearing play in London, Andrés Segovia wrote: "My congratulations on your musicality and guitaristic technique".

www.davidrussellguitar.com

Rie Schmidt is a graduate of SUNY Purchase College Conservatory. She teaches flute at 92Y, The Bloomingdale School of Music, and the Allen-Stevenson School in New York City. She has received Suzuki flute certification from the East Tennessee Suzuki Flute Institute International, the Great Lakes Suzuki Flute Institute in Hamilton, ONT and Suzuki in the Berkshires in Williamstown, NY.

In 1983, she gave her Carnegie Recital Hall debut as a winner of the Artists International Competition. Ms. Schmidt is a member of the Westchester Philharmonic and the American Symphony and has performed with the New York City Ballet Orchestra, the American Composers Orchestra and many Broadway shows. She and her husband, guitarist Benjamin Verdery, concertize as a duo throughout the US and Europe, and have recorded two CDs of music for flute and guitar. She is a founding member of Flute Force, a flute quartet, which has three CDs: *Flute Force* (CRI), *Pastorale* (VAI) and *Eyewitness* (innova). Her publications include *Ravel's Daphnis and Chloé* (McGinnis and Marx) arranged for flute quintet, and *Barber's Adagio* (Schirmer Music). Ms. Schmidt was the president of the New York Flute Club from 1995-98.

Evan Taucher is recognized worldwide not only by his international competition and concertizing career, but also his ability to reach audiences beyond just the classical community. With this, he's amassed a large following for embracing the web as a critical tool for music education and discovery. Having recorded several acclaimed classical guitar courses and keeping up with a schedule of performing and recording, his educational output is backed by his command of the concert stage, reinforcing his artistic duality. Evan has enjoyed performing concerts across the United States and Europe, recently performing in GuitarSarasota's Concert Series, Grand Rapids International Artist Series, Madison Classical Guitar Series, the famous Palacio del Portalet in Alicante, Spain as well as in Valencia, Spain at the Florida State University campus. Evan was also a guest artist at the 2001 Guitar Foundation of America's Guitar Summit.

During his two years of study with the Cuban virtuoso Rene Izquierdo, Evan won 8 separate prizes in professional competitions throughout the United States including 3 Grand Prizes. Evan was also the first guitarist to earn an Artist Diploma at the University of Texas at Austin's Artist Diploma program, under the tutelage of Adam Holzman. Along with his award winning courses with online education giants Truefire, PickupMusic, and Jam Play, Evan's educational and musical aptitude has led him to work with notable brands such as Cordoba Guitars, Logitech, and D'Addario.

Evan holds a Bachelor of Music from Florida State University where he studied with Bruce Holzman, as well as a Masters degree from UW-Milwaukee. Being named the Magellan scholar for Master Guitarra Alicante, he studied in Spain with the foremost luminaries of the classical guitar earning a secondary Masters certificate. In 2020, he co-founded a nonprofit with his colleagues Phil Goldenberg and Hannah Murphy called Ex-Aequo, an artist collective that aims to broaden and strengthen the classical guitar community. At the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, Ex-Aequo hosted the largest online classical guitar competition to date, with over 140 entries. They were also awarded grants from both the Augustine Foundation as well as the Rainwater Innovation fund, kickstarting their project "Changing the Canon" which allowed for the commissioning of nine new works for classical guitar and a visual album surrounding it. www.evantaucher.com

Chinnawatt Themkumkwun - Recognized as one of the inspired young classical guitarists, Chinnawat is an international classical guitarist from Thailand. With numerous successful and outstanding performances in both domestic and international stages, Chinnawat has won more than 70 awards around the world, such as the Winner of the Taiwan International Guitar Competition and Winner of the Latin American Music Festival in Boston, USA. And most recent accomplishment, the First Prize of the Hannabach International Guitar Competition in Augsburg, Germany.

With a uniquely outstanding playing style that is full of colors and imagination made Chinnawat have had many opportunities to perform in the various concerts. His past impressive concerts consisted of performing in solo concerts, chamber music concerts, bands, and all sorts of classical guitar compositions. With all his winning international classical guitar competition gave him the opportunity to perform at classical guitar festivals held all over the world.

Facebook: Chinnawat Themkumkwun, guitarist <https://www.facebook.com/chinguitarist>

Benjamin Verdery - Hailed for his innovative and eclectic musical career, Ben tours regularly throughout the US, Canada, Europe and Asia, performing at venues and festivals including Ottawa ChamberFest, 92Y Kaufmann Auditorium, Verona Guitar Festival, Guitar Festival of Belgrade, International Festival Internacional de Guitarra de Taxco (Mexico), Theatre Carré (Amsterdam), the International Guitar Festival in Havana, Wigmore Hall (London), and Metropolitan Opera in New York.

As a recording artist, Ben has released more than 17 albums and has recorded and/or performed with such diverse artists as Andy Summers, Frederic Hand, William Coulter, Leo Kottke, Anthony Newman, Jessye Norman, Paco Peña, Hermann Prey, John Williams, hip-hop artist Billy Dean Thomas, beat box/vocal percussionist Marc Martin and Nano Stern.

A prolific, published composer in his own right, many of Ben's compositions have been performed, recorded and published (Doberman-Yppan, Alfred Music) over the years. He has composed works for The Assad Duo, guitarists David Russell, Scott Tennant, David Tanenbaum, John Williams and John Etheridge, The Changsha International Guitar Festival, the Chilean Guitar Ensemble, the Pensacola Guitar Orchestra (FL), Kyo-Shin-An Arts (NY), Wake Forest University, Thomas Offermann and the guitar ensemble of the Hochschule for Music and Theatre (Rostock, Germany) and the score for the documentary film *Corida Goyesque*. Ben's *Scenes from Ellis Island*, for guitar orchestra, has been extensively broadcast and performed at festivals and universities in the United States, Canada, New Zealand and Europe, and the Los Angeles Guitar Quartet included it on their CD, *Air and Ground* (Sony Classical). By turn, many of the leading composers of our time have created music for Ben, including Ezra Laderman, Daniel Asia, Martin Bresnick, Bryce Dessner, Javier Farias, Aaron Kernis, John Anthony Lennon, David Leisner, Hannah Lash, Ingram Marshall, Anthony Newman, Roberto Sierra, Van Stiefel, Christopher Theofanidis, and Jack Veas.

Ben has created and released several exquisitely filmed videos, most recently his collection *Peace, Love & Guitars*, a series of 16 videos presented in February and April 2021 through the New York City Classical Guitar Society. The videos feature solo works as well as collaborations with long time colleagues. Ben owes much to his guitar teachers Philip De Fremery and Frederic Hand, both of whom he studied with at SUNY Purchase. The Master Classes he took in Arles, France with Leo Brouwer were seminal for Ben as well. He continued his studies with his mentor Anthony Newman and still receives coaching from his other mentor, Seymour Bernstein. He will always feel greatly indebted to what these and many others have given him over the many years. Since 1985 Ben has been guitar professor at the Yale School of Music, Artistic Director of 92Y's *Art of the Guitar* series since 2007 and Producer of his Maui Summer Master Class since 1999. Ben is also an Honorary Board Member of the Suzuki Association of the Americas. www.benjaminverdery.com

Benjamin Verdery uses D'Addario strings and guitars by Garrett Lee and Otto Vowinkel.

