



BCGS

newsletter

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Boston Classical Guitar Society

2020-2021 Virtual Concert Series

Adam del Monte

September 27 @ 3pm ET



Xuefei Yang

November 8 @ 4pm ET



Jason Vieaux

February 27 @ 7:30pm



Ricardo Gallén

April 24 @ 7:30pm



"Meet the Artist" FREE events
~ Details inside ~



Letter to Members



What a six months it has been. We have all gone through many transformations and gained new perspectives. How do we now view the world, the future? What role does music and the guitar play in our new normal? I fervently hope that this letter finds you and yours well, though inevitably, all of us have gone through a difficult time in one manner or another, and some worse than others.

But we have to keep on keeping on. Over these past few months, the BCGS has focused on continuing our mission of enriching lives and building community through whatever doors were open to us. We discovered that indeed we could have very enjoyable ZOOM performance parties. It has been exciting to see the innovation and resilience which everyone has shown in capitalizing on our electronic highways to share our art and appreciate each other's accomplishments, and there were some unexpected silver linings. We were able to reconnect with some members who have moved out of New England, and with others who could more easily join from home than travel on a weekend.

On May 31 we had a lovely session with Maestro Eliot Fisk who joined us on ZOOM and entertained questions from participants discussing these at length, with guitar in hand and providing many demonstrations and fascinating stories. We covered everything from innovation in the practice of scales and modes, to interpretations of great works, transcriptions from other instruments, and many other topics.

And as the weather turned warm, we managed one live "mask to mask" party at the lovely grounds of Berit Strong and Farooq Siddique's home. Check out the photos and screen prints from all of these events.

This has also been a time to look back. We hope you have enjoyed our "Artist Retrospective Series". BCGS board members

were eager to share with you some of their favorite artists which from those we have hosted over the years, providing personal anecdotes, and featuring a specially selected video performance.

And a time for loss – we were all saddened by the passing of our dear friend Frank Wallace on June 2nd. He gave so much to our New England art community. Many of you joined us along with Nancy Knowles for a wonderful ZOOM tribute gathering where stories were shared, and Wallace compositions were played. Frank was certainly one who "caught and sang the sun in flight." Committed to keeping that fervent spirit meaningful for future generations, the BCGS has instituted the Frank Wallace Memorial Scholarship Fund. We are so grateful for the many of you who have donated generously to this fund. Please read more in this newsletter about the current status of this memorial fund.

Looking forward, thanks to our webmaster Michael Bester, we have streamlined our membership process. You can see the status of your membership, set up automatic renewals, and register for future events, all on our website. Paper membership renewal is still available, but we encourage you to manage your membership online.

The BCGS has also taken this "special time" to further consider our mission statement in the presence of wasteful and harmful national division and affirm our stand – included in this newsletter. We do see light at the end of the tunnel. This too shall pass away, and we are eager to soon start gathering freely – face to face. Until then, we shall "keep on keeping on." Read all about the exciting upcoming events from our Artistic Director – Charles Ewing.

J. Oscar Azaret
Executive Director, BCGS



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Boston Classical Guitar Society Artist Series 2020-2021 "Meet the Artist" Free Events

This year, in the spirit of enriching lives and building community through classical guitar, we are delighted to bring you into the homes of world-class artists for live performances, candid discussions, and audience-driven Q&A sessions. These virtual **"Meet the Artist"** events will replace our in-person concerts in September and November, and may continue into February and April depending on the guidelines regarding public gatherings at those times.

Even more exciting, all **"Meet the Artist"** events will be **FREE** and open to everyone, both near and far. Donations are welcome, and a Zoom link will be sent to every registered participant on the day of each event.

We hope you will join us in getting to know these amazing musicians on a personal level. Next season, we intend to welcome these same performers back to Boston as headliners on our in-person concert series. We know these reunions will be worth the wait, and look forward to sharing with you these joyous celebrations of resiliency, community, and artistry.



Adam del Monte

Sunday, September 27 @ 3pm ET
RSVP at bostonguitar.org

Free, Donations Welcome One of the leading flamenco and classical guitarists of his generation, Adam del Monte transcends labeling and convention as a performer and composer in both genres. In his virtual BCGS debut, Adam will perform selections from his repertoire and engage with us in an interactive conversation, sharing stories and secrets behind his great talent.



Xuefei Yang

Sunday, November 8 @ 4pm ET
RSVP at bostonguitar.org

Free, Donations Welcome Hailed as a musical pioneer, **Xuefei Yang** began her fascinating journey after the Cultural Revolution, a period when Western musical instruments and music were banned. Xuefei was the first-ever guitarist in China to enter a music school, and became the first internationally recognized Chinese guitarist on the world stage. Join us for an intimate afternoon of music with Xuefei, and learn first-hand how her remarkable upbringing has shaped her distinguished career.



Jason Vieaux

Saturday, February 27 @ 7:30pm
Format TBD

Jason Vieaux, "among the elite of today's classical guitarists" (**Gramophone**), is the guitarist that goes beyond the classical. In the ten years since his last BCGS performance, Jason has been hard at work touring the world and adding to his extensive discography. His album *Play* received the 2015 Grammy Award for Best Classical Instrumental Solo, and we can't wait to see what he has in store for us this year.



Ricardo Gallén

Saturday, April 24 @ 7:30pm
Format TBD

"Praised by countless great musicians, critics, and colleagues as a supreme virtuoso with an intense and wide-ranging musical intellectuality" (*Six String Journal*), **Ricardo Gallén** is an artist we have wanted to bring to the BCGS stage for many years. Whether we hold this event virtually or in-person, we know *there could be no better way to close our 2020-21 season.*



BCGS Members Connecting via Zoom Performance Parties



Michael Bester



Lin Hymel



Ewan Armstrong



Mark Davis



Vlad Lamadieu



George Attisano



Keith Richards



Jason Stripinis



Dave McLellan



Questions, Answers, Musical Technique, and Stories with Maestro Elliot Fisk



Oswaldo Gold



Victoria Maskiewicz



Doug Danforth



Arthur Olins



Dirk Hackbarth



Oscar Azaret



Amanda Roeder & Michael Bester



Performance Party at Berit Strong's Home

Berit Strong
sports the
latest fashion
in earring
jewelry



A Perfect Eight Feet



Dawn
Cwirka



Josh Kirch



Jeffrey Aach



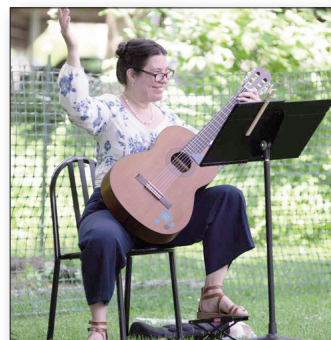
Steve Rapson



Mitch
Shuldman



Jean
Popovich





Frank A. Wallace Tribute

We want to thank the many of you who have so generously contributed to the Frank Wallace Memorial Scholarship fund. We are well past the 50% mark toward our goal of \$20,000. You may check our progress and learn more about this mission, as well as donate at this link bostonguitar.org/wallace

Frank was a true giant of the New England guitar scene; his compositions, performances, and passionate support of our instrument leave a lasting legacy for our community. Frank fought a courageous multiyear battle with ocular melanoma during which he continued to use every ounce of energy in his being to create and give of his art. He died on June 2nd, 2020 at age 67.

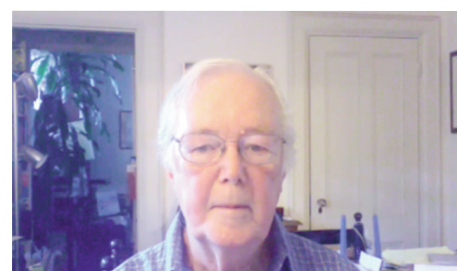
The Boston Classical Guitar Society is proud to have taken on the mission of engaging young, emerging guitarists with Frank's artistic legacy and spirit. The BCGS plans to award a yearly scholarship to a New England-based guitar student between the ages of 15 and 22 to continue their musical studies and make a positive impact with the guitar. We are excited to be working the details of this process and will be rolling it out in the months to come.



Frank Wallace



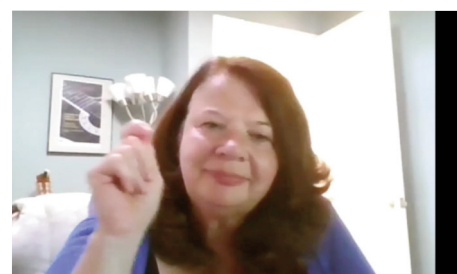
Nancy Knowles



Bill Hartner



Robert Ward



Donna Ricci



Celeste McClain



Noh Van Truong



Jimmy Lanzillotta



Vlad Lamadieu



Jay Rosenberg



Mark Small



A Stand on our Mission

During this time of social distancing we have been beckoned to consider the nature of our humanity. Nature has put a pause to life as usual; all the things we took for granted – the hugs, the handshakes, the gatherings, the breaking of bread together. We cannot wait for this malaise to end.

Yet we also see great division and injustice in our society. Opportunities for people to come together sometimes are converted into forces for disunity.

As our board members recently contemplated the meaning of our BCGS mission – enriching lives and building community, we thought wise to take a stand for inclusion. Words that one would think “should go without saying,” but in fact, are worth writing down. We are indeed fortunate to be able to appreciate and partake of the great art afforded by the classical guitar. It brings to us the human sensibilities, traditions, aspirations, and reaching for the sky of generations throughout the ages and across the world. Let us use this for good.

Boston Classical Guitar Society Mission Stand

In the Boston Classical Guitar Society, we stand for our mission to enrich lives and build community. As we seek to use the transformative power of music in the service of the New England area, we are mindful of our commitment to inclusion, equity, and diversity. In today's world of renewed cries for social justice and divisive forces of polarization, we advocate for unity and welcome all. We are open to all races, ethnicities, religious beliefs, gender, sexual identities, and abilities.



2020-2021
Virtual Concert Series

