

# CGSUNY Newsletter

Classical Guitar Society of Upstate New York [www.cgsuny.org](http://www.cgsuny.org)

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## **CGSUNY 2013 Fall Festival**

Plans are already well underway for the 2013 CGSUNY Fall Classical Guitar Festival and we are very excited to announce our headline performer will be the world-class conductor, teacher and lutenist, Paul O'Dette! Like wise, our Sunday regional performer recital will be Pablo Cohen of Ithaca College.

This year's festival will be held on Saturday, October 19th and Sunday, October 20th at the Fine Arts Building on the campus of SUNY Oneonta. Directions to SUNY Oneonta can be found on the web at <http://www.oneonta.edu/admin/facilities/directions.asp>. You can also find directions and additional information about the festival at the CGSUNY.org website. This edition of the newsletter will give you an overview of festival events. The time schedule will follow in September. You will also find articles about some of our past events and information about our featured performers, **Paul O'Dette** and **Pablo Cohen**.

We will be holding the silent auction again this year. This has been a very successful way for CGSUNY to raise money while at the same time offering products and services to our participants at what is often a substantial discount. If you know of any businesses that you think could offer a service (guitar set-up, an oil change, a haircuts, gift certificate, etc..) or a product (we've sold a used guitar flight case at our auction as well as craft beer, wine, and art work as well as guitar-related products) please contact us and we'll help get things arranged.

## **Overview of Events for CGSUNY Fall Festival 2013**

### **Saturday, October 19, 2013**

11 a.m. – Registration

CGSUNY Members Recital - Morning Session  
CGSUNY Members Recital – Afternoon Session  
Informal Ensemble Playing

*If you would like to perform in the Members' Recital or present please email Sal Salvaggio as soon as possible but no later than September 1 at: [vaggio@yahoo.com](mailto:vaggio@yahoo.com)*

*Dinner Break*

Paul O'Dette Concert (A Reception will follow after the concert)

**Sunday, October 20, 2013**

Masterclass with Paul O'Dette  
CGSUNY Collegiate Honors Recital  
Pablo Cohen Concert

*If you know of college students who would like to perform for the Collegiate Honors Recital, please have them email Paul Sweeny at [bpsimplegifts@earthlink.net](mailto:bpsimplegifts@earthlink.net) as soon as possible but no later than September 30.*



### ***Paul O'Dette***

**CGSUNY** is very excited to feature ***Paul O'Dette*** as the headline performer for the Saturday evening program at 2013 CGSUNY Fall Festival.

Few instrumentalists establish themselves with such firm authority as Paul O'Dette has on the lute. He has been described as the clearest case of genius ever to touch his instrument. One of the most influential figures in his field, O'Dette has helped define the technical and stylistic standards to which twenty-first-century performers of early music aspire. In doing so, he helped infuse the performance practice movement with a perfect combination of historical awareness, idiomatic accuracy, and ambitious self-expression.

His performances at the major international festivals in Boston, Los Angeles, Vancouver, Berkeley, London, Bath, Paris, Montpellier, Amsterdam, Utrecht, Bruges, Antwerp, Berlin, Munich, Bremen, Dresden, Vienna, Innsbruck, Prague, Milan, Florence, Geneva, Madrid, Barcelona, Tenerife, Copenhagen, Oslo, Cordoba, St. Petersburg, Moscow, Montevideo, Buenos Aires, Melbourne, Tokyo, etc. have often been singled out as the highlight of those events. Though best known for his recitals and recordings of virtuoso solo lute music, Paul O'Dette maintains an active international career as an ensemble musician, performing with many of the leading early music soloists and ensembles. He is a member of the acclaimed continuo ensemble Tragicomedia.

Paul O'Dette has made more than 120 recordings, many of which have been nominated for Gramophone's Record of the Year Award. The Complete Lute Music of John Dowland (a 5-CD set for Harmonia Mundi USA), was awarded the prestigious Diapason D'or de l'année, while The Royal Lewters CD has received the Diapason D'or, a Choc du Monde de la

Musique, a 5-star rating in BBC Music Magazine, 5-star rating in Goldberg and a perfect score of 10 from ClassicsToday.com. Mr. O'Dette has performed in broadcasts for the ABC (Australia), Radio Argentina, BBC (UK), CBC (Canada), Radio France, RAI (Italy), Westdeutscher Rundfunk (Cologne), Bayerischer Rundfunk (Munich), SFB (Berlin), NOS (Holland), Austrian Radio, Spanish Radio and Television, TV Ankara, Hungarian Television, Norwegian Radio, Danish Radio and Television, Swedish Television, Swiss Radio and Television, National Public Radio (USA) and CBS Television (USA).

Recently, Mr. O'Dette has been active conducting Baroque operas. In 1997 he led performances of Luigi Rossi's L'Orfeo at Tanglewood, the Boston Early Music Festival (BEMF) and the Drottningholm Court Theatre in Sweden with Stephen Stubbs. Since 1999 they have co-directed performances of Cavalli's Ercole Amante at the Boston Early Music Festival, Tanglewood, and the Utrecht Early Music Festival, Provenzale's La Stellidaura Vendicata at the Vadstena Academy in Sweden, Monteverdi's Orfeo and L'Incoronazione di Poppea for Festival Vancouver, Lully's Thésée, Conradi's Ariadne (Hamburg, 1691) and Mattheson's Boris Goudenow for the Boston Early Music Festival and Tanglewood. Their recording of Conradi's Ariadne was nominated for a Grammy as best opera recording of 2005. Paul O'Dette has guest conducted numerous Baroque orchestras on both sides of the Atlantic including the Portland Baroque Orchestra, Tafelmusik, Apollo's Fire, Ensemble Arion, Chatham Baroque and Corona Artis.

In addition to his activities as a performer, Paul O'Dette is an avid researcher, having worked extensively on the performance and sources of seventeenth-century Italian and English solo song, continuo practices and lute technique, the latter resulting in a forthcoming book co-authored by Patrick O'Brien. He has published numerous articles on issues of historical performance practice and co-authored the Dowland entry in the New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians.

Paul O'Dette is Professor of Lute and Director of Early Music at the Eastman School of Music and Artistic Director of the Boston Early Music Festival.



### ***Pablo Cohen***

Our featured performer for the Sunday afternoon concert will be Pablo Cohen. Pablo Cohen graduated from Temple University with a Doctor in Musical Arts degree. He has received numerous prizes and awards for his performances in national and international competitions. More recently he received the Music Teachers National Association Award for his outstanding teaching. Dr Cohen is the head of the classical guitar program at Ithaca College and an affiliated artist at Cornell University.

*“Grand class and enlightened emotion...”* These are the words that Les Cahiers de la Guitare used to describe the

playing of Pablo Cohen upon his debut recital at the Salle Cortot in Paris. *"Fluid and delicate shape"* wrote the Philadelphia Inquirer in reviewing his rendering of Giuliani's Concerto for guitar and strings with Concerto Soloists Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia. At his debut at the Ho-Am Hall for Performing Arts in Seoul in 1990, the Korea Times praised him as "One of the foremost South-American guitarists." More recently, he had the distinction of recording the premiere of Carlos Guastavino's *Jeromita Linares* with Camerata Bariloche Chamber Orchestra of Argentina for Dorian Records. *Gramophone* gave it *"a cordial recommendation: outstandingly fine playing of a repertoire few of us know."* His transcriptions of Chick Corea's Children Songs along with his unveiling of solo and ensemble music by Latin American masters such as Radamés Gnattali, Horacio Salgán, and Carlos Guastavino represent an exciting new direction for classical guitar today.

An endearing performer, Pablo Cohen has participated in solo, ensemble, and orchestral concerts in the United States, Europe, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean. As a featured artist, he performed at the Salle Cortot in Paris, at the Ho-Am Hall for Performing Arts in Seoul, at Carnegie Hall in New York, Teatro Nacional in Panama, Teatro San Martin in Buenos Aires, the Performing Arts Hall of Berkley College of Music in Boston and other venues throughout the US. Festival appearances have included The New York City International Guitar Festival (Mannes), Guitar Foundation of America International Convention, Philadelphia's Mozart on the Square, Festival Casals in Puerto Rico, Carrefour Mondial de la Guitare in Martinique, The City of Geneva International Festival, Tel-Aviv Guitar Festival, Calcaño Festival in Caracas, "Festival de Guitarra Clásica" in Buenos Aires and Musickfest in Bethlehem, PA.

Pablo Cohen is an active chamber musician as well. In addition to the more traditional ensembles, he has participated in groups including duets with bandoneonist Daniel Binelli, marimba player Gordon Stout, soprano saxophonist Steve Mauk, and jazz guitarist Steve Brown. Recent engagements have included performances as featured soloist with the Concerto Soloists Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, Ithaca College Chamber Orchestra, Mansfield University Chamber Orchestra, a guest appearance at the 92nd street Y with the Young People's Choir of NYC, performances for chamber music series with Ensemble X, the Cayuga Chamber Orchestra and with the Pro Musica Ensemble.

He was also featured in two Latin American concerti with the Orchestra of the Finger Lakes at the Clemens Center, NY. Mr. Cohen recorded *"Concierto Barroco"* by Roberto Sierra with the Sinfonietta de Puerto Rico, and recorded the CD *"Cantan"* with the Ithaca College Women Chorale, featuring the music of Dominican composer Francisco Nunez. In 2010 he released the solo album *"La Casa"* with his transcriptions for guitar of music by Carlos Guastavino and Horacio Salgán, and in January 2011 recorded with the Cayuga Chamber Orchestra of guitar concerti with premieres from Brazil and Argentina. Recently, Mr. Cohen was featured on National Public Radio and on television for the PBS.

### ***CGSUNY RECENT PAST EVENTS***

Public awareness of CGSUNY took a large step forward this year. Our members performed in several concerts and benefits throughout the past year. Among them was a Christmas



program with the Mendelssohn Club at The Egg in Albany. The show at the Egg went great! There were almost 900 people there to hear Harry George Pellegrin, Eugenio Reis and Fred Hellwitz play solos, a trio, and join in on a couple of Christmas carols with the Mendelssohn Club. There was a lot of feedback from the members of the club and they were very happy to have us (they have guest artists at all of their shows). Many members didn't even know about classical guitar. Their performance was a huge success.

Another event was the Steamer No. 10 Theater Benefit in January. Steamer No.10 Theatre Inc. is a non-profit, tax-exempt professional theatre producing and presenting shows for children and families, and touring to schools and theatres throughout the Northeast. Located in Albany, NY Steamer No. 10 Theatre presents a variety of live stage and music productions, including children's theater, Eclectic Performance Series, Vacation Daze, Theater Voices, and Too Deep Entertainment. Performers for that event were Harry George Pellegrin, Eugenio Reis, Ray Andrews (baroque guitar), Andrew Rutherford (lute), Bill Simcoe with Karen Klevanosky (flute), and Fred Hellwitz. Once again the program was a resounding success.

The Unadilla Community Foundation has been and continues to be a major contributor to CGSUNY. During October 2012, we were able to do a benefit concert for the Unadilla Food Pantry. The performers for this event were Robert Burnside and George Lesh, Paul Sweeny and Barbara Kaufman, Fred Hellwitz and Harry George Pellegrin.

We also sponsored a concert by GFA winner Vladimir Gorbach at the Massry Center for the performing arts. This concert was done in collaboration with the College of Saint Rose Concert Series. Publicity about this event included an interview with Fred Hellwitz that was published in the Albany Times Union.

### ***"Unplugged Guitarists Unite!"*** By Joseph Dalton

If members of the Classical Guitar Society of Upstate New York needed a rallying cry, that would be it. The group advocates for an instrument that was once a staple of musical life, but that was long ago supplanted by the popular embrace of the electric guitar. "We're an odd group of musicians, the stepchild of the classical world," says Frederic Hellwitz, president of the Guitar Society. "But if you enjoy hearing solo piano or chamber orchestras, the guitar is a tiny little chamber orchestra in itself. That's what Schubert used to say, and I'm sure that's what Segovia would say. It can evoke a range of sounds, styles and emotions. Even if you're a fan of blues, rock or jazz, you'll enjoy classical guitar."

Hellwitz isn't alone in his enthusiasm. The Guitar Society consists of about 75 members and includes professional performers and conservatory-level teachers, plenty of amateur players and sundry general fans. As for Hellwitz, he's a semi-professional player who lives in Albany and earns his livelihood as a radiologist.



During March, the Guitar Society presented a concert of Vladimir Gorbach, one of today's most promising talents. Among Gorbach's many awards, he recently won first prize in an international competition sponsored by the Guitar Foundation of America. His recital took place at Massry Center and was co-produced by The College of St. Rose. Gorbach's Capital Region debut is just the latest in a steady stream of events, large and small, produced by the Guitar Society. Every fall, there's a weekend festival in Oneonta and locally Hellwitz holds regular salon concerts at his home, in which members and students perform for each other. Through its website (<http://www.cgsuny.org>), the Society also helps promote guitar-related events throughout the region. Another event was a free recital of lute and soprano with Duo Marchand on Tuesday, March 12, at Troy Savings Bank Music Hall.



*Vladimir Gorbach*

*Joseph Dalton is a freelance writer in Troy.*

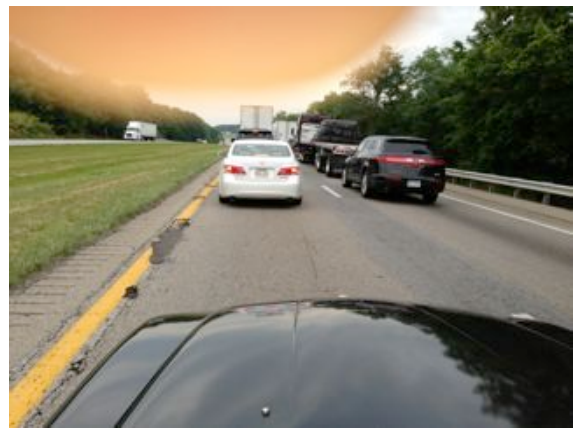
## ***GFA Convention 2013 Louisville, Kentucky***

*or*

***Route 66 revisited***

*or*

***How two fifty-something's spent 12 hours in a  
two-seater sports car.***



*Clear sailing the whole way. Not! Note the brake lights. 30 miles from goal and the GPS says "estimated travel time 32 hours."*



*Fred locks up the convertible and grabs his guitar at the University of Louisville. 95 degrees...*

This year, 2013, marked the thirtieth anniversary of my first Guitar Foundation of America Convention. Fully aware of the fact that I am not the 26 year-old guitarist who drove ten hours in a Camaro with no mufflers (making only gas stops) to Quebec City in 1983, my good friend Fred Hellwitz and I decided to drive his vintage Mercedes 560 SL to Louisville with only gas stops. Heck, we did Charleston last year and that was much longer. I was younger then though. All the adventure—and nostalgia—of a road trip aside, it is indeed the GFA Convention that made us wear down our nerves and our elderly read ends in the extreme.

Assuming you have never been to a GFA convention, allow me to take a moment to explain what goes on. The convention is approximately six days long and each day is packed with at least three concerts or recitals, master classes, vendor expos and lectures. I almost forgot to mention the performance competition as well! Day One is check in day. We drove all day Monday, so it was nice that the festivities didn't begin until the sun had been up for a good number of hours!



*Harry with Olga Almelkina -Vera and Fernand Vera of the Kithara Duo. You may remember Olga from the Presti Trio, our 2010 Festival headline ensemble.*

So Tuesday morning found us trekking from the Hyatt Regency to the lovely University of Louisville campus to register, pick up our goody bags (which are really fine perks always including sheet music, a CD or two, some good small books, a few sets of strings...) We also tracked down a few old friends from past GFA conventions – guitar builders Garrett Lee, Lubos Naprstek, Jean Rompré, Waddy Thompson, and Greg Byers and his wonderful wife Susan as well as John Wunsch from Stringsbyemail.com, Kenny Hill, and the lovely and exceedingly interesting guitarist Lynn McGrath. She is the energizer bunny! Tuesday evening opened with a recital by the amazingly gifted player Marcin Dylla who was pressed into service almost at the last moment due to the travel gremlins that had to plague Zoran Dukić and forestall his scheduled performance. Have I mentioned yet that Louisville is the Bourbon Capital of the world?

The lectures included two that stood out to me greatly: Richard Greene's 'When the Guitar Gently Weeps' which dealt with the style and architecture of the lament as viewed through the prism of the Phrygian mode. Yeah, I thought it sounded strange at first, but I was very glad I attended! Tolgahan Çoğolu demonstrated his microtonal guitar – one that is fretted with moveable "fretlette's". Yes, one can play bizarre 21<sup>st</sup> century microtonal music, but he also used the instrument to play Middle Eastern music with the correct quartertone intervals as well as vihuela music that was not ever intended for equal temperament. Wonderful! And then there was the Bourbon!



A tradition that began in Charleston in 2012 is the CGSUNY guitar soirée road trip edition. At the Francis Marion in Charleston, we literally took over a good portion of the lobby after 11PM every evening and played guitars, traded tales and consumed wine and single malt. In Louisville, we maintained the tradition. Garrett Lee, Jean Rompré and Greg Byers brought guitars and we played for each other and compared instruments well into the small hours. The always quotable Matanya Ophee even stopped by. Susan Byers' singing was accompanied by Fred Hellwitz for some Dowland songs—and a few by Bob Dylan!

*Fred relaxing in the hotel lobby with Susan and Gregory Byers. Fred's lanyard is on backwards to demo guitars without damaging them.*

Other high points to me were Mike Chapdelaine's Thursday performance, Eliot Fisk's master class—as well as the true pleasure of getting to shake his hand again after thirty three years—getting to meet Rico Stover and renew acquaintance with Richard Long, having breakfast with the Tantalus Quartet (hearing them perform as well!), lunch with Olga Amelkina-Vera and her husband and Kithara Duo partner Fernand Vera and dinner with the duo team of Mike Castellani and Joann Andriaccio. Every one of the aforementioned people is a genuine joy to know! This kind of social interaction with heroes and friends is what really makes the GFA convention a total joy. Add good music to make perfection! If you can make it to a convention, it will be an experience you will not soon forget. Did I mention anything about Bourbon? Well, let me tell you...



--Harry George Pellegrin