

Carolyn Rifenkark Memorial Concert
Regional Performer
Benjamin Ellis



Benjamin Ellis is an adjunct professor of guitar and director of the classical guitar ensemble at Hobart and William Smith Colleges and at St. Peter's Community Arts Academy. He holds a Master's degree in Classical Guitar Performance from Syracuse University studying under Dr. Kenneth Meyer. He also holds a Bachelor's Degree in Classical Guitar Performance from the State University of New York at Fredonia where he studied under Evan Drummond. In 2012 Ellis was awarded the Creative Opportunity Grant through Syracuse University,

giving him the chance to collaborate with composer Sean Doyle in creating a new work for the guitar entitled Dance Suite Miniatures. In 2010, Ellis premiered a piece titled 'Comme des Grands' by Roland Dyens. Ellis performs regularly as a soloist and chamber musician performing with groups such as the Syracuse Vocal Ensemble, Syracuse University's Hendricks Chapel Choir, Hobart and William Smith Chorale, the Syracuse Opera and as a member of the Great Lakes Guitar Quartet. Ellis continues to work with composers such as Tevi Eber and Marco Gusto to create and promote new works for the guitar. He has studied in master classes with Eliot Fisk, Luis Zea, Roland Dyens, Nicholas Goluses, David Tanenbaum, Gaëlle Solal, Matthew Slotkin, and Gohar Vardanyan. He also collaborates with publisher Seconda Prattica on the publication of several arrangements for solo guitar. Ellis is an active teacher in the Syracuse area and serves as a board member and competition coordinator for the Great Lakes Guitar Society. In addition to teaching and performing, Ellis serves as President of the Great Lakes Guitar Society, working to promote the Classical Guitar in the greater New York area.