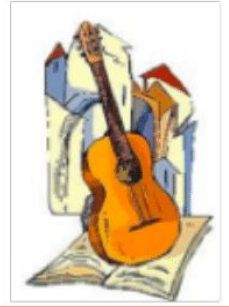


CGSUNY NEWSLETTER

The Classical Guitar Society of Upstate New York www.cgsuny.org

Address:P.O.Box 151 Unadilla,NY13849 Phone:607-369-9579 May 2020



Report from the Board

The CGSUNY board met on Sunday, May 3rd via ZOOM,
Here's the news.

The "Early Music" concert Donna Noyes-Grosser

The Classical Guitar Society of Upstate New York and Union College Department of Music co-sponsored "An Evening Of Early Music – Music for Guitar, Lutes, Voice and Recorder", on Friday February 21, 2020. This special event was held from 7:30 to 9 PM in the Emerson Auditorium, Taylor Music Center on the Union College campus in Schenectady, NY, and was very successful. The evening was hosted by Dr. Dianne McMullen, Professor of Music and College Organist for Union. Performances were given by Andy Rutherford (Twelve Course Lute), Paul Sweeny (Guitar), Paul Sweeny (Guitar) and Barbara Kaufman (Recorder), Frederic Chrislip (Tenor and Renaissance Lute), Dave Raphealson (Guitar), and The Raphaelson-Salvaggion Guitar Duo "Dos Amigos". The program featured music by Thomas Mace (1623 – c. 1706), Luis de Narvaez (1490-1547), Francesco Canova Milano (1497-1543), John Dowland (1563-1626), William Byrd (1538-1623), Diego Ortiz (1510-1570), John Playford (1623-1686), Barolomeo Montalbano (1598-1651), Pierre Attaignant (1494-c.1551), John Johnson (1545-1594), and Thomas Robinson (1560-1610). A goal of the program was to provide both an educational and musical experience for Department of Music students and members of the general public in attendance. All of the performers

included informative discussions for the audiences about their musical selections and instruments.

The program was very well attended and the reception that followed offered students, faculty, and guitar enthusiasts an opportunity a great opportunity for discussion. All were delighted with the evening's event, and we hope to be back annually.

The Fall Festival is scheduled for October 17 & 18 2020. In the event that it is cancelled we will reschedule for Fall 2021.

February 2021 Concert at Zankel Hall on the Skidmore Campus, We are planning an event at Zankel Hall on the Skidmore Campus in February 2021. In the works is a one day event with concerts, workshops, on the spot guitar ensembles fun for all, details in the works, fingers crossed.

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In April 2021, CGSUNY will be co-sponsoring a Guitar in Ensemble Festival with The Great Lakes Guitar Society. This event will potentially include Ensemble concerts comprised of Youth and College Guitar Ensembles, Workshops/Lectures/Masterclasses, Guitar Orchestra under the direction Lynn McGrath, and a big head-liner concert to conclude the event. Thanks to Ben Ellis and Dr. Ken Meyer for their support and collaboration in this new endeavor.

The Board has created Memorial Scholarship Fund in honor of the memory of George J. Lesh. George Lesh passed away on February 20th, 2020 surrounded by his loving family. George was a member of the board since 2008 and our very able secretary for almost 10 years. He spent over 25 years as a High School General Music and Choir teacher at Unatego Central School District and also served as the Zone 8 NYSSMA representative for many years. For those of you that remember George, he was an extremely passionate and genuine person who very much loved music and the effect it has on all our lives. Donations in his memory are also being made to Unadilla United Methodist Church

To make a donation to the George Lesh Memorial Fund please send money to:
The Classical Guitar Society of Upstate NY
c/o - Matthew Downey
627 Flax Island Rd
Otego NY 13825

Sal brought our attention to the [Virtual Guitar Orchestra](#) produced by Mak Grigic.
Looks like lots of fun, Google it.

Deena sent the [Classical Guitar Shed](#) and asked me to include it in this newsletter,
hope you're inspired.
(Please read this as inspiration and google [classicalguitarshed.com](#) to get the real
thing)

[classicalguitarshed.com](#)

[Tuesday Quotes are short explorations of music, life, and the daily endeavor of
practicing classical guitar. Find more here.]

“Your relationship with yourself sets the tone for every other relationship you have.”

Robert Holden

To play guitar is to be in a relationship. Actually, many relationships.

First, we have a long-term relationship with music and guitar. And this has all the ups
and downs we can expect from long-term relationships. Over time, we feel the warming
and cooling and warming again. The exhilaration and the drudgery. We feel rewarded,
disappointed, elated, grateful, frustrated. All of it.

And we also have an ongoing series of short-term relationships.

These are the studies, the pieces, the exercises. The seasons of focus.

But while the content of our practices may change, we remain. Our habits and
personalities create the canvas on which we paint.

How do we balance the patience of wisdom with the immediate drive to attain our goals? And how do we feel and speak to ourselves when things get hard?

To progress on guitar, we have to sit with paradox. We have to actively move forward and engage in new learning. But we also need to drill the fundamentals.

It's like we sail on a small ship of the known through an ocean of the unknown. And how we contend with our current lack of knowledge and ability - this affects everything we do.

Self-dialog, mood, feelings, attitude. These are part of being human.

The question is, "how aware are we of them?" Especially when the air is thin and the path obscure.

Can we stay motivated to improve, but accept that some things just take time? Can we build more patience and attention? More awareness - of body and thought?

To play guitar, we play ourselves. We play our hands, our bodies, our imaginations. We push boundaries and summon courage. We win and lose, succeed and fail, embrace and fight.

Then we do it again tomorrow - the quiet thrill of self-discovery and growth beckoning us forward.

WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

Paul Sweeny

The two colleges where I teach were quite sudden in moving to remote teaching only and the transition was, to say the least, an adventure. The schools, and the faculty, were unprepared for this radical shift and the first 2 weeks were quite chaotic. Now that it is almost over things are running fairly smoothly. Teaching private guitar lessons

via zoom is drastically inferior to in-person instruction, but it is much better than no contact at all. (And for some not particularly mysterious reason, students do much better on exams when they take them on their own, without monitoring. I was able, with the help of BCC's Sound Engineering prof, to do a live concert with more than adequate sound for students at the school. The only plus of this experience is the savings on gasoline and drive time. I very much look forward, now that the Polar Vortex has passed, to getting our garden going (and continuing to practice while waiting for a time when public gatherings and performances are once again possible).

Sal Salvaggio

Covid-covert crisis escapism - ---

It was going to be an interesting chamber music season for me. I was planning to perform in 4 chamber music activities this Winter/Spring and some cafe and recital spots. I managed to playe one in the Capitol district in late February

..... then Covid 19 came to the US

So much for chamber music , recitals and life as we know it.

College teaching, Dr. visits and meetings and a grandkid's birthday party went online. A terrifying trip to the grocery store turned into home delivery. No fresh bagels, pizza and the list goes on.....

I have found some solace in playing music and the guitar.

I like to warm up on hymns. I remember the tunes from my student days at St. Anthony's in the Bronx. I've recorded a few of these an then posted them Class of 1969 facebook page.and a page I've set up on You tube called Prof Sal Video. Nothing too flashy, just calming balm for the soul.

I also take drives in the countryside and walks in the woods with my wife. And I walk around solo in the distance with my trusty mask and hiking pole. There is a lot in the neighborhood's green spaces and the hills of the City of the Hills to explore.

I am exploring a few other interesting instruments that are in the corners of my music room.> my much neglected mandolin, tenor guitar, concert uke, banjo and yamaha synth.

I guess if I was a carpenter type person i could remodel the interior of my house, but I love my house - my wife and I put our collective personality into it. But I do have to paint a closet door and find daily time to work on this atonal thing I am writing. It's going to be massive, if i can get past the 4th measure.

It's not the shelter in place or social distance stuff. It's the unknown. Be like the mountain and let the ill winds pass you by....I think Marcus Aurelius said something like that.

- Salvaggiio 5/7/20

Matt Downey

Q-Time catch up

This time stuck indoors has been productive and somewhat mind-numbing. We all understand that this time is a wonderful opportunity to work on projects, pick up new hobbies, and learn new skills. I have been creating new music for my students to use with their guitars and ukuleles in the classroom for next school year. I have been using popular themes from classical composers like Mozart and Hadyn while also pulling from pop-musicians like Queen and Harry Belefonte. I have been using these new selections in my 10 video lessons a week via ZOOM. Working as an Elementary Music teacher from home is a lot of emailing and phone calls to touch-base with students and their parents. I will admit, I am more concerned with the emotional well-being of the my students and often find myself more interested in talking with them and their parents instead of asking "are you able to finish all your homework?" These are strange times and being a music teacher that can provide enrichment through conversation and not stress through paperwork means a lot to me. I record videos of fun sing-a-long songs for my younger students and upload them to their google-classroom to help them make music at home. The hard part of this process is that you put in twice as much work to make

things digital and it usually looks like you barely did any work at all. When I get bogged down by all this time and effort it takes to digitize the job that I am accustomed to doing in person, I drop everything I am doing and pick up my guitar. To quote the Zappa himself, "Shut up and play yer damn guitar!" Stay healthy everyone and don't forget to play your guitar while we have the time.

Janet Sutta

The Amature Corner

I have to admit that I'm finding this social distancing time a mixed blessing. With the good weather coming in I've gotten a head start on gardening. In "porch" boxes I have spinach, about an inch and a half tall, surrounded by a stout chicken wire enclosure to protect it from marauding squirrels. And in the ground the garlic that I planted last fall is coming up tall and straight, a first row of arugula is in and so are fifty onion sets. Like everybody, I'm trying to keep supermarket visits to a minimum so until the spinach and arugula start making leaves I've been grazing on dandelion and garlic mustard. It makes a great fresh salad and also works sauteed with rice or fried potatoes. It's loaded with vitamins and minerals. And it's free.

I've been reading a lot. Being a confirmed library user I was caught short when the library closed. I mentioned my distress to a friend who is interested in history and she kindly offered to lend me some books. Thanks to her I've read about Winston Churchill's amazing escape during the Boer War in HERO OF THE EMPIRE, Michelle Obama's path in BECOMING, the story behind Bloody Mary in "South Pacific" and lots of interesting Pacific incidents from WWII reading James Michner.

My guitar life has also been varied in time and accomplishment. I was learning to play rhythm guitar with a jazz ensemble class at Hartwick College. The college and the class closed before we really got off the ground, but I did have a little time to start to understand how it all worked. I also had the great good fortune to have Dennis Turechek agree to help me.

I started out writing my own chord charts for a couple of songs, then tried playing them and rearranging the placement of chords that were hard or impossible to get to. I have two songs under my belt now and am working on others, hoping that classes open up in September but also learning to use Garage Band to play the melody of a song on one track and then play rhythm on the other. I have hope.

On the classical front I've picked up a SOR study that I was working on before the jazz class started. It's always amazing to me when one piece of learning impacts another.

When I started the Sor, I didn't understand how to move from chord to chord smoothly. After struggling with the jazz chord changes, the Sor is revealing itself much more easily.