



C.G.S.U.N.Y. NEWSLETTER

VOL. I NO.2

SEPTEMBER 2002

President's Message

As Fall nears, we are busy preparing for our 2nd Annual Fall Festival which will take place Oct 12 & 13 in Oneonta.

This first year has been a very successful one for the society. We have held our first Fall Festival, had members perform on Radio, TV., several benefit performances occurred in various locations, we sponsored our first International Artist, we got our website up and running, and now we are looking ahead to next season's activities.

We are also asking members to contact us if they would like to be listed on our Performing Artist Directory. This is a listing that will be up on our website and which we will give out to businesses who approach us looking for guitarists to perform. This is a new service we would like to institute this season so please let us know if you would like to be listed.

Membership dues are now coming due for the 2002/2003 season. Please send your

renewal or new member dues in as soon as possible.

Fees are: \$25.00 for individuals, \$15.00 for students with proper id.

Funding is our biggest issue right now. Currently we are busy seeking grants and funding from private foundations and benefactors to help us put on some of the events we would like to do during the year. We would sure appreciate help with this project please contact us as soon as possible.

email:

musicalm@hancock.net

**Join with us and help
make this the most active
CG society in New York
State**

Gail Hamilton-

ALL ABOARD

Election time is near.

**Please come to our
October 7th Annual
Meeting so you can vote
for the directors and
officers of your choice.**

The October meeting will take place at SUCO Oneonta Monday Oct. 7 - Directors meeting will begin at 6 p.m. followed by our General Meeting at 7 p.m. Elections will take place during the general meeting.

Other topics will include final preparations for the Fall Festival, Member's input for next season's projects and more.

This is an important meeting please plan to attend.

The Classical Guitar Society can be contacted in any of the following ways:

**Classical Guitar Society
134 Delaware Street
Walton, NY 13856**

Phone: 607-865-8775

e-mail:

musicalm@hancock.net

website:

<http://cgsusny.50megs.com/>

Please send any info you would like put on the site to our

webmaster at: vaggio@yahoo.com

Fall Festival

Our **Second Annual Fall Festival** is just around the corner.

This year's featured artist is Douglas Rubio.

Douglas Rubio is recognized as an outstanding performer on the classical guitar. His brilliant solo performances inspire standing ovations, and he is a gold medal chamber musician. The *Santa Barbara News-Press* praised his playing for its "considerable sensitivity and bravura." His programs offer a fascinating mix of the old, the new, the traditional, and the off-the-beaten-path.

Doug is currently Associate Professor of Classical Guitar at the State University of NY at Pottsdam. He has performed throughout the United States as a soloist and chamber musician, and has been the featured concerto soloist with the Monticito (California) and Pennsylvania Center chamber orchestras. His Avalon Guitar Duo won First Prize in the 1985 GFA International Duo Guitar Competition, and is featured on the compact disc GFA Winners Circle 1982-93. Rubio performs frequently with Sweet, Fair & Wise, a trio of flute, tenor voice, and guitar. His eclectic

background includes three years as a member of the Digital Arts Consort, a MIDI synthesizer ensemble. Rubio received his bachelor's degree from University of California at Irvine, and holds both Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees in classical guitar performance from the University of Southern California, where he studied with Spanish virtuoso Pepe Romero. Prior to moving to Upstate New York, Rubio directed a very successful guitar program at Illinois State University.

We at CGSUNY are very excited to have Doug performing for us at the Festival. He will also be doing a Master Class for us on Sunday. **Anyone interested in performing at the Masterclass with Doug is asked to contact us immediately to reserve space.**

During the Day on Saturday Oct 12, we will have several mini performances by many of our members and local artists. These daytime events will take place at Wilber Mansion 11 Ford Ave. Oneonta, NY
There will also be several

vendors on hand to display their selections of guitar and guitar related materials.

Tickets for the Fall Festival will be available at The Guitar Clinic Rufino Mall, Main St. Oneonta or

call us at: 607-865-8775

email: musicalm@hancock.net

Tickets will go on sale Sept 25th.

Registration-Sat Oct 12

8:30 - 9:30 a.m.

Wilber Mansion

11 Ford Ave. Oneonta

Performances will begin at 10 a.m.

Members Please Note:

Membership Dues for the new year must be paid in advance to incur the member discount for the Fall Festival.

Admissions for Fall Festival:

Full program, including evening Concert. -	\$25.00
Member Discount full program	\$20.00
Daytime events only-	\$10.00
Evening Concert only-	\$15.00
Students, Members & Seniors Concert only -	\$10.00
Under 12 free	
Master Class -	\$ 5.00

We look forward to seeing everyone at the Fall Festival.

by
Bill Simcoe

CGSUNY member Joel Brown is a long-time artist -in-residence at Skidmore College, and is an active performing artist in the groups: Tritonis and Triple Play. Joel Brown will lecture and perform with Tritonis at the GFA (Guitar Foundation of America)"Sun Waves Guitar Fest 2002" in Miami on Friday Oct. 18. Tritonis will be performing at the Ithaca College Winter Guitar Festival Feb. 22, 2003. Joel brings great guitarists to Skidmore's Filene Recital Hall each year for performances and master classes, and we will let our members know about these events as soon as possible.

Sten Yngvar Isachsen teaches classical guitar at SCCC (Schenectady County Community College) and University at Albany. Recently Sten has been performing with Musicians of Ma'alwyck, with violinist Ann-Marie Barker-Schwartz and cellist Petia Kassarova. They have upcoming performances: Oct. 15 - Troy Savings Bank Music at Noon (free); Nov. 12 at 8 p.m. at the University of Albany Performing Arts Center, Musicians of Ma'alwyck are

string-trio-in-residence this season at University at Albany. Sten notes that the SCCC Student Guitar Ensembles will perform Nov. 25 at 7:30 p.m. at Taylor Auditorium at SCCC.

My friend and neighbor Fred Hellwitz is planning his return to performing and will perform at the CGSUNY Fall Festival Oct.12. Fred has taken about 8 years away from performing while he went to medical school and was a resident at Albany Medical Center. Fred studied classical guitar at the University at Buffalo and was a performing artist and guitar teacher in the Tampa Fla. area before moving to Albany.

Maria Zemantauski is a very active artist in our area - check out her website at www.mariazemantauski.com Maria performs flamenco pieces and her own compositions and also accompanies flamenco dancers.

Cathedral Music, a great guitar shop in Troy, continues to carry some very good classical guitars. I was recently visiting and tried a very nice Larrivee (Canadian), and a Lucida (Spain). Klem

often has Kenny Hill classical guitars in his shop; the Munich model is very popular. I have tried the Kenny Hill Munich and Ruck models in his shop in the past (the Ruck is the one with extra sound holes). Steel string players should make a pilgrimage to his shop - it is definitely Mecca!

I will end with my own artistic endeavors - in March 2002 I released a CD "Studies, Memories & Moons" with solo guitar works of Leo Brouwer and Jose Luis Merlin and "Three Moon" for guitar and cello by David Leisner. Cellist Lisa Nielson and I have also been performing "Reflexoes No. 6" by Jaime Zenamon, and we have named our duo "Spiral". Spiral will be performing Dec. 8 at Caffe Lena, part of the Sunday Chamber Music series. I will be performing solo guitar at the CGSUNY Fall Festival Oct 12, and Nov. 19 at the RPI C+CC.

Please visit my website at:
www.williamsimcoe.com

Dan Czernecki has made it through his first year with his recording business in the Albany area - Classical Recording Service- you may have heard his ad on WBKK. Dan and I teamed up for some guitar duets last year, and we intend to develop some more repertoire and perform again for CGSUNY and other events. Dan is active in the music ministry at the United Church of Cohoes.

In the News....

"Norwich Guitar Success" (using CGSUNY as a Guitar Networking Resource)

by
Tom Rasely

The first annual Norwich Guitar School, a presentation of the Chenango County Council of the Arts, is now history. Players from an area covering Buffalo to Albany to Scranton were targeted in a large-scale promotional campaign. Guitar enthusiasts from age 14 up to 60 were attracted to this hands-on seminar, held at the Arts Council facility in Norwich NY. from all points in New York State, including Messina, Tonawanda, Ithaca, Oneonta, and Millville, PA.

The content of NGS is designed to introduce players to a more "holistic" approach to playing. The idea is that all guitar playing is related; that all styles rely on a common set of techniques. The real challenge was to find people who not only

understand and practice this concept, but who are also able to pass it along to others in an understandable, useable manner. In other words, teachers.

As a member of the Classical Guitar Society of Upstate New York, I have made the acquaintance of players from all over the region; players who are well-versed in the classical style and repertoire, but who also are knowledgeable in a wide range of guitar playing and related topics.

My teaching staff was made up of Dennis Turechek, who teaches guitar at State University at Oneonta, and at Hartwick College. He is also a founder and Director of CGSUNY. I was able to obtain the expert services of Jim Adams, owner of The Guitar Clinic in Oneonta, who also happens to be the Treasurer for CGSUNY. Another special treat; Sal

Salvaggio gave our students a demonstration on the lute and the Baroque guitar. Sal is a fine classical guitarist, and a teacher of vocal music at Cooperstown High School. He is also an active member of CGSUNY. Other instructors included Chris Woodard, an excellent player and teacher from Ithaca NY, an Dan Lovett, owner of The Loft Audio Recording in Lansing NY.

Plans are already being laid for next year's Norwich Guitar School (August 8 - 10 2003) and with any luck, and some more good networking, there will be several CGSUNY members involved in the project once again. more information on the For Norwich Guitar School, **e-mail:** rasely@ascent.net, or visit: **www.norwichguitarschool.com**

Guitar Tips

ZEN & THE ART OF GUITAR TUNING

by
Bruce Walker

There are many methods of tuning your guitar; some good, some bad and some adequate. The truth of the matter is that if it sounds pleasing to you and your audience it's OK.

There are two basic scales that are of concern; the Pythagorean scale and the equal temperament scale. The equal temperament scale is used to calculate the placement of frets on the guitar. Therefore, all fretted notes on the guitar belong to the equal temperament scale. All harmonics belong to the Pythagorean scale. The only notes that are common to both scales are unisons and octaves. **The guitar cannot be correctly tuned by any method that includes comparing a fretted note with a harmonic that is not a unison or an octave** (or a multiple of an octave)!

As an illustration, the note produced by the harmonic at the 7th fret is an octave plus a fifth above the open note. The harmonic at the 5th fret is two octaves above the open note. These two notes are incompatible, yet a common method of tuning is to compare the 5th fret harmonic with the adjacent string's 7th fret harmonic. This produces an error, which is multiplied as the method progresses across the fingerboard.

E :-----7◇-----
B :-----0----5◇-----
G :-----7◇-----
D :-----7◇----5◇-----
A :-----7◇----5◇-----
E :--0----5◇-----7◇-----

Three methods of tuning correctly are as follows:

Use an electronic tuner for all strings.

Once the correct pitch for one string is set, a good way to tune the others from it is by the 5th fret/4th fret method.

E :-----0-----
B :-----0----5-----
G :-----0--4-----
D :-----0--5-----
A :-----0--5-----
E :-----0----5-----

A third method comes from a data sheet produced by The Guild of American Luthiers. It is difficult to remember but works well.

E : --O---O-----3-----
B : -----3-----
G : -----7----12◇-----2-----
D : -----2----12◇-----12◇-----
A : -----12◇-----
E : -----5◇-----12◇-----

LEGEND: ◇ = harmonic; e.g., 12◇ = 12th fret harmonic.

The schematics indicate to tune a string at the fret indicated with that indicated directly above or below it.

What's good for the goose is not always good for the gander. As a result of equal temperament certain notes lose their quality or accuracy, and the tuning of the guitar always requires compromise. Once the instrument is tuned, most guitarists will tweak the tuning for certain notes to regain the lost accuracy in the key they will use. This is a matter of preference, training and ear. It may be argued that any method of tuning that sounds good to you and your audience, is good.

I'll try to come up with an even more esoteric subject for the next newsletter. Until then-PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE.