

The Guitar Garden

Newsletter of the New Jersey Classical Guitar Society

February 2022

February Meeting and Beyond

Our meeting for this month will be via Zoom on Sunday, February 20, at 4:00 p.m. The meeting will be hosted by Chris Freitag and is sponsored with a generous contribution from Gad Berger. Please watch for a Reminder with details on how to join the meeting within the week preceding February 20. Stella Kosim, Rick Florio, and Helen Shi-Yuen have volunteered to host our remaining meetings this season from March through May. We expect to finish the season, as usual, with the annual picnic in Hopewell Borough in June.

Live performances at meetings

It became apparent at our Zoom host organizational meeting that there are certain technical difficulties in playing pre-recorded performance videos. Thus, a decision was made to limit meetings to live performances, at least for now. While the primary reason is to make the host's job more manageable, there also was a feeling that relying heavily on videos frustrates an important purpose of our meetings, which is to help our members overcome the difficulties many of us feel in facing an audience. There also are benefits to making a recording, but there are better ways of sharing videos. In particular, we would love to see your videos in the NJCGS Facebook Group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/189835417013>

At this moment, New Jersey seems to be over the worst of the Omicron surge, so we hope to be able to return to on-site meetings soon, with both on-site and Zoom meetings in the same month. As usual, we're looking for suitable meeting locations, particularly in the northeast part of the state. When your comfort level permits, please let us know if you can help. J

The View from Behind the Spotlight: Hosting a Zoom Meeting

By Gad Berger



As we are welcoming new hosts for our 2022 Zoom meetings, I wanted to share a short overview of what being a host is like from the driver's seat.

Before I login to the Zoom meeting, I make sure that I have the program downloaded and open in a window so that I can reference and share it during the meeting. If I'm performing, I make sure my guitar is ready with any music nearby, that way I don't spend much time fussing with setup when it's my turn. If there are any Youtube links, I make sure to load them into separate tabs, in order of how they'll be played, with auto-play turned off. I also ensure that I have notifications turned off on my computer. As the meeting time approaches, I login and usually spend about five to ten minutes waiting for everyone who is performing that day to join. I keep the participants tab open in the zoom window which lets me scan through the names as I look back-and-forth from the program.

When we're ready to start, I let people know, and hit record. I give myself the spotlight and welcome everyone to the meeting. I try to thank the sponsor for that month as well, and sometimes forget in the excitement of introducing the meeting. After thanking everyone for joining, I'll share the screen with the program and give a quick run through of who is playing. I like to announce who is first, and who is playing next. It gives the next performer time to check their tuning and get that last practice in before it's their turn. Once all of the announcements are finished, I give the spotlight to the first performer. I usually remind everyone to mute themselves while someone is performing, remind the performer to turn on Original Sound, and let them know that they have the stage. With that, I place myself on mute, and watch the participants tab to ensure that everyone else is also muted. If someone isn't muted, as the host, I have the option to mute them from that view.

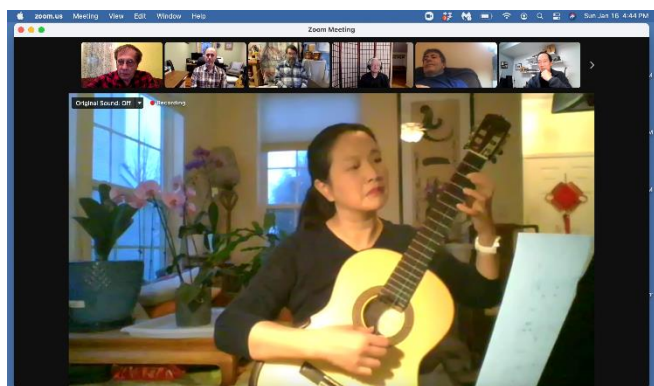
Continued on page 2.

Zoom Hosting, continued.

Once the performer finishes with all their pieces, I usually keep the spotlight on them until the comments and conversation end. If the conversation goes on longer, I stop the spotlight so that Zoom can switch views among the active speakers. When the conversation ends, I share the program again and announce who is up, and who plays next. From here, the cycle continues until the end. For any Youtube links, I give the spotlight to the performer to let them introduce their pieces, and then share the screen with Share Sound and Optimize For Video Clip selected. Then I play the clip and maximize it to full-screen.

I tend to give myself the spotlight at the end and close out the meeting with a few remarks and thank-yous. This is another chance to thank the sponsor, and to resolve the date for the next meeting. That's where I stop recording and we all part until the next meeting. As a host, it does require being a little more active during the meeting than a general participant, and I feel that it adds to the overall experience of the meeting. I view the hosting experience as a way to guide the meeting and have it flow smoothly and efficiently. And with that, I look forward to joining an upcoming meeting as a fellow participant. ♪

January Meeting



Continued on page 3.

Joining NJCGO is Rewarding

By Rick Florio



The [New Jersey Guitar Orchestra](#) ("NJGO") was formed in the summer of 2021, and comprises a diverse group of music students, music educators, and classical guitar enthusiasts. Jayson Martinez, professor at Essex County College and Chairman for Guitar Education at [NJMEA](#), is the founder and leader of NJGO. Its mission is to:

... provide a capacity for personal expression, expand the artistic experience, and foster stronger communities by empowering people to create, perform, respond, and connect to all things GUITAR!

Participation is open to all. A \$50 annual membership fee is all that is required, other than a commitment to fully participate. Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings at the Metro Media Institute in Scotch Plains, NJ. Attendees must wear face coverings given the indoor setting.

Players are organized into four sections that are assigned to each of the parts of various guitar quartets. The repertoire for 2021-2 is made up of works by composers such as Andrew York, G.P. Telemann, Olga Amelkina-Vera, Jürg Kindle, and Maximo Diego Pujol.

In collaboration with the NJMEA HS Honors Guitar Ensemble of the NJMEA, NJGO members are participating in a virtual guitar orchestra project. Member video recordings of their respective parts for Mark Houghton's *Sailing Home*, will be assembled and presented as a single video the coming weeks. Other events scheduled for Q2 2022 include participation in: GuitarFest, William Paterson University (schedule TBD); the Long Island Guitar Festival (May 15), at which [some big names are scheduled to perform](#); Kean University Guitar Festival (June 5).

So, what has the experience been like? Ensemble playing requires discipline: learning pieces on a schedule, attentiveness to the conductor's directions on tempo, dynamics, etc., and playing in concert with the group. I have learned much and taken satisfaction in my ability to "hold my own". Because the work is divided among the various parts, this lightens the load somewhat on the individual player. The satisfaction I've gained from my contribution to the successful performance of a piece has been ample reward for the investment of time and effort.

For more information, please visit: the [NJGO Facebook home page](#), or email: newjerseyguitarorchestra@gmail.com. ♪

Program

Gad Berger

- Birds Op 66. II. The Swan – John Duarte

Robert Ey

- Contradance – Alan Hirsch

David Starbuck

- Campanella – David Kellner
- Ciacona in D major – S.L. Weiss:

Ming Chao

- Capricho Arabe – Francisco Tarrega

Helen Shi-Yuen

- Frosty the Snowman – Walter Rollins & Steve Nelson
- Here Comes Santa Claus – Oakley Haldeman

Jeff Griesemer

- Ookpik Waltz – Frankie Rodgers, arr. Jeff Griesemer

Jeffrey Wilt

- Adios a Ocumare – Angel Maria Landaeta, arr. Antonio Lauro

O. Ray Butler-Jeffrey Wilt Duo

- Autumn Moonlight Fantasy (original works by Fernando Sor/Jose Luis Merlin/Asataka Saro) – arr. by O. Ray Butler

O. Ray Butler

- Blackbird – Lennon & McCartney (Beatles) 1968
- Bye bye Blackbird – Ray Henderson 1926, original arrangement. by O. Ray Butler

Daniel Zaurov

- Capricho Arabe – Francisco Tarrega
- O Sole Vio – Eduardo di Capua

Jim Tosone

- Morgan Magan – Turlough O'Carolan (arr. Tom O'Farrell)

Gary Lee

- Canción del Emperador – Luis de Narváez
- Prelude to the Cantata Gottes Zeit ist die allerbeste Zeit – Johann Sebastian Bach, arr. Benjamin Verdery

Alex Cherfas

- Studio in Form of Minuet – Francisco Tárrega
- Mazurka in G – “”

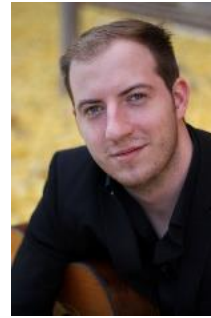
The cost of using Zoom for this meeting was covered by a generous contribution from Rick Florio. ↓

Upcoming Events

PHILADELPHIA CLASSICAL GUITAR SOCIETY

Marcel Williams Concert

Youtube, Sunday, February 13, 3:00 PM EDT



Award winning artist, John Marcel Williams, is establishing a reputation as an outstanding soloist and chamber musician. By age 16 he had garnered over 20 prizes at competitions, including the first prize at the Boston Guitar Festival youth competition, Rosario Guitar Festival, Classical Minds

Guitar Festival, and the second prize at the international Guitar Foundation of America young artist competition. In addition he was awarded first prize at the James Stroud competition and won the 2020 Pittsburgh Concert Society Audition.

More Information:

<https://www.phillyguitar.org/events/#!event/2022/2/13/john-marcel-williams>

Philadelphia Classical Guitar Society Competition

Don't forget that the Philadelphia Classical Guitar Competition deadline is approaching (Feb. 25) and will held online this year! The Junior Division (18 and younger) is running entirely online, so since no one has to travel to Philadelphia everyone can register from across the USA!

Our competition does not have any required repertoire, so students can compete with (at least) two contrasting pieces from their repertoire to a time limit of 10 minutes. Cash prizes and accolades await!

More Information: <https://www.phillyguitar.org/2022-competition/?fbclid=IwAR3AG4ICMgvcLuRnEvjMpSYgVJOUwnqpCTqiUEqnbwzb0v2tRnZ89SFRz6U>

Continued on page 4.

Upcoming Events, continued

ALL WOMEN VIRTUAL GUITAR ORCHESTRA



Join us and become a part of the very first All-Women Virtual Guitar Orchestra and play alongside the biggest names in classical guitar!

Deadline for submissions is February 15.

More Information: <https://virtualguitarorchestra.com/> ♪

Web Site Update

[Gamut Music, Inc.](https://www.gamutmusic.com/) has been added to our “Other Guitar Links” listing at <https://njguitarsociety.org/guitar-links/>. *Gamut Music, Inc. specializes in early music strings and instruments, including gut strings in many styles suitable for early music and modern music performance practice.*

Downloadable PDF copies of *The Guitar Garden* are now being attached to meeting announcement posts on our web site, <https://njguitarsociety.org/>. Back issues will be added as time permits.

Remember, our web site is a searchable database of performers and music performed at our meetings and some concerts, covering several years. It could be useful if, for example, you’re wondering which pieces have been popular over the years.

♪