

The Tirando

Newsletter of the New Jersey Classical Guitar Society

November 2018

November Meeting

Our meeting this month will be at the home of Robert and Irene Ey in Hopewell Borough on Sunday, November 11, at 4:00 p.m. We'll send out a reminder and directions in the week before the meeting.

October Meeting



These pieces were played at the October 21 meeting in Short Hills:

Anthony Campanella

- Traveling Music — Charlie Byrd

Anthony Campanella & Kevin Lutke

- Romanza — Carrulli
- Deux — Giorgio Signorelli

Kevin Lutke

- Courant from Two Part Etude — Kevin Lutke

Ming Chao

- Bourree & Double — J.S. Bach
- Danza Pomposa — Tansman

Dan Gastelu

- Bossa Nova Warm-up — Dan Gastelu
- Ragtime Improvisation — Dan Gastelu
- Farruca — Trad.

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A Survey for Our Society

By Gary Lee

Need for a survey

Who are the people that attend the New Jersey Classical Guitar Society and other similar societies in New Jersey? What do they value and do they participate in the larger classical guitar community? In September 2018, I conducted a survey on behalf of the New Jersey Classical Guitar Society to better understand why people attend our meetings and whether they attend events offered by larger societies and concert presenters in New York City and Philadelphia. Having this information will make it possible to serve our members better.

Background on guitar societies in New Jersey

Although the New Jersey Classical Guitar (NJCGS) has been existence for 30 years, New Jersey has never had a classical guitar society that actively presents concerts, festivals or educational programs. Instead, "societies"—more accurately described as players circles held in private homes or churches—have formed from time to time. Some of their participants attend concerts and activities presented in nearby New York and Philadelphia by organizations such as the New York City Classical Guitar Society, the Philadelphia Classical Guitar Society, the 92nd St. Y, and the New York Guitar Seminar at Mannes. In the early- to mid-2010's, New Jersey and the Westchester, NY area had four active classical guitar societies: the NJCGS, the Classical Guitar Society of Warren County (CGSWC), the Maplewood Classical Guitar Society, and the Westchester Classical Guitar Society. Common to all these groups is/was the absence of incorporation, dues, operating budgets, officers or concerts. Today, only the NJCGS and CGSWC are active.

The survey

An anonymous survey was sent through the mailing lists of the four societies listed above. Combined, the number of unique email addresses was approximately 200. 37 individuals provided responses, of which perhaps 25

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*October Meeting, continued***Gad Berger**

- Remember Me — from Coco, arr by Nathan Mills (Beyond The Guitar)
- Parade of Skeletons — Keith Calmes

Jim Tosone

- Eight Days a Week — Beatles, arr. Soren Madsen
- In My Life — “”
- Here Comes the Sun — “”

Mike Topolski

- Gather by the River — arr. Frederic Hand
- Allegro, Lento, & Alla Cubana from Bagatelles — William Walton

Jeffrey Wilt

- Adelita/Lagrima — Tarrega, arr. Jeffrey Wilt.
- Adios a Ocumare — arr., Antonio Lauro
- Preludio de Adios — Alfredo Montes

Jeff Griesemer

- Georgia on my Mind — Hoagy Carmichael, arr. Richard Drueding/Jeff Griesemer
- Slieve Russel/Port Skean — Irish Trad., arr. Jeff Griesemer

Parvathi Kumar

- Romance (1978) by Frantz Casséus
- Preludio No. 2 by Rafael Landestoy

Ray Butler

- Mementos de Amor — Garota, arr. Ray Butler●

*Survey, continued*

participated in at least one of the societies. Obviously, there are many people who asked to be on the distribution lists, but never were able, or intended, to participate.

The questions and complete results are here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1kJtJFZ-9uxofOE6EV9K4IEK9nGoYbm6GdWBdEgkLvE/edit#responses>

What the survey revealed

Demographics. Two-thirds or more of the respondents are 60 years or older amateur players that have at least 15 years of experience playing classical guitar. Another third are professional teachers/performers who have attended music school. Anecdotally, professionals are rare at meetings, so presumably many are interested in being on the mailing list, but do not participate.

The majority of respondents (58%) live in Northern New Jersey and a smaller amount (14%) in the Princeton area. 25% presumably live outside of New Jersey/New York City/Philadelphia region, so unfortunately, they skew some of the results.

Attendance. 75% attended at least one meeting of the NJCGS or CGSWC within the last 2 years. While half of the respondents still attend meetings, those who stopped cite lack of time and distance to meetings.

What's important to members? Of highest importance is performing for and listening to others. Somewhat important is socializing.

What activities should be added? 61% said they would like the opportunity to play in an ensemble, followed by 45% who would like the opportunity to perform in a more formal setting such as a concert. 29% said they are happy how it is.

Concert and festival attendance in the region. Only half of the respondents attended at least 1 concert in the last 2 years produced by one of the major concert presenters in the region. ¼ to ½ (but more likely ¼) attended at least 1 festival in the last 5 years.

Attendance at NYC or PHL Classical Guitar Society meetings. Only 24% of respondents attended at least one meeting of the New York City or Philadelphia Classical Guitar Societies within the last 2 years.

Take home messages

Societies like the NJCGS and CGSWC provide a much-needed opportunity for amateur enthusiasts to perform for others in a

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UPCOMING EVENTS

EARLY MUSIC DUO “BEDLAM”

1867 SANCTUARY, 101 SCOTCH RD
 EWING, NEW JERSEY 08628
 FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2018, 8:00 P.M.
 ADMISSION: \$5.00 - \$20:00

Preservation New Jersey is pleased to welcome the early music duo BEDLAM (www.bedlamearlymusic.com) back to the 1867 Sanctuary. “The magical duo BEDLAM” (Colin Clarke, Fanfare Magazine) is Kayleen Sánchez, soprano, and Landon Schuett, lute.

More information:

<http://1867sanctuary.org/event/bedlam-2/>

EDUARDO FERNÁNDEZ, GUITAR & DAVID LEISNER, GUITAR

92ND STREET Y
 1395 LEXINGTON AVENUE
 NEW YORK, NY 10128
 SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2018, 8:00 P.M.
 ADMISSION: TICKETS FROM \$53:00

Compositions by both performers are featured on this inventive and wide-ranging program, which also includes several of Villa-Lobos’ groundbreaking Études for Guitar — pieces which set the technical standard for 20th century guitar performance. Fernández and Leisner perform Nagoya Guitars, a complex piece based on constantly-shifting musical patterns by minimalist master Steve Reich; Eduardo Fernández presents his own transcription of Bach’s immortal Chaconne from the D Minor violin sonata; and join together in two selections by two guitarist-composers of an earlier age: Antoine de Lboyer and Fernando Sor.

More information: <https://www.92y.org/event/leisner-and-fernandez>

PHILADELPHIA CLASSICAL GUITAR SOCIETY PRESENTS ADAM LEVIN

SETTLEMENT MUSIC SCHOOL, 416 QUEEN STREET,
 PHILADELPHIA, PA 19147
 SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2018, 3:00 P.M.
 ADMISSION: \$10.00 - \$25:00

Praised for his “visceral and imaginative performances” by the Washington Post, top prize winning classical guitarist and recording artist Adam Levin has performed on four continents across the globe. Levin has performed extensively across the United States at renowned

venues such as Chicago’s Pick Staiger, Nichols, and Mayne Stage concert halls as well as at the prestigious Art Institute of Chicago; Boston’s Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, the Museum of Fine Arts, and Jordan Hall; Spivey Hall in Atlanta; repeat appearances at Le Poisson Rouge in New York City; and the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC. In Europe, Levin has performed in some of the finest venues across Spain, and in Italy, Germany, and Switzerland. In the 2017-2018 season, Levin makes several debut solo, chamber, and orchestral appearances in China, Finland, and Ireland as well as return appearances in Brazil and Spain. Adam Levin’s live performances have been featured nationally numerous times on NPR’s Performance Today, the nationally syndicated Classical Guitar Alive, and studio performances on top radio stations including WFMT Chicago and WCRB Boston.

More information: <http://www.phillyguitar.org/event-3051974>

Survey, continued

welcoming, low-stakes environment. Members socialize, learn and connect with others who share a similar interest. Attendance by some members is inconsistent due to lack of time or stage of life; many come and go. In contrast, there are others who form a core who attend on a consistent basis.

One type of activity that the NJCGS should consider fostering is ensemble playing among its members. This could happen by encouraging the formation of duos or small ensembles outside of meetings, or through the formal distribution of parts to willing players. Both could culminate in performances at meetings.

New Jersey is somewhat unique in that its guitar lovers must go out of state to hear world-class players in concert. Fortunately for many in the northeast and Princeton areas (where the majority of members live), some of the top venues in NYC and Philadelphia are within 60-90 minutes. Despite this proximity and the fact that two-thirds of respondents said that they are willing to drive at least 60 minutes to attend a guitar-related event, it is somewhat surprising that more do not take part. These findings suggest that wanting to play should not be equated with wanting to hear concerts. In this sense, informal societies fulfill a unique role that larger, formal societies cannot. ●