

The Guitar Garden

Newsletter of the New Jersey Classical Guitar Society

December 2023

Robert Ey, Editor

December Meetings



Photo from November 2023 meeting.

Stella Kosim will host a Zoom meeting at 4:00 p.m. (eastern time) on Sunday, **December 10**.

Dana Hamilton will host our in-person meeting this month at her home in Montclair at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, **December 17**.

As usual, please watch for a Reminder with directions, or instructions on how to join, a few days before each meeting. J

Zoom Meetings Continuing, Sponsors Sought

In recent conversations at meetings and among past Zoom meeting sponsors, we found that there is a strong interest in continuing Zoom meetings in 2024. We've had access to Zoom in the past year through an annual subscription paid for with generous contributions from Gad Berger, Dave Starbuck, and Steve Walters. Many people enjoyed these meetings, so it

Continued on page 3, Zoom

A Note About Our History

Darren O'Neill contacted NJCGS recently to share some historical information about the Society that he had discovered. He also suggested that it would be very nice to have a "History of the Society" somewhere on our website. We do, in fact, have some historical coverage of Society history on the website: if you scroll down on the right-hand column on the home page (<https://njguitarsociety.org/>), you'll come to a list of archived "Categories," one of which is "History." Some posts in other Categories, particularly "Obituaries" may also be of interest from a historical perspective.

At this point the information we have is limited and sketchy, but it might be, as Darren has suggested, developed into something that we could use in more prominent places on the website and elsewhere. If you have any information or documents that would further this objective, please share them with us. We'd love to hear any interesting stories or memories of your experiences with NJCCS that you might have. Our Society has been around for over fifty years, but we're also interested in hearing from you about more recent times. Yesterday has a way of turning into long ago, given enough time. Below are some of Darren's comments, images of documents he has found, and some editorial comments.

"I was looking at a website – "Digital Guitar Archive" (digitalguitararchive.com) – when I discovered an announcement by Michael Newman of the second meeting of the Madison Classic Guitar Society. The announcement was printed in the October 1972 edition of the British journal, "Guitar News."

Attached are images of the cover, table of contents, and the published announcement:

Continued on page 2

GUITAR NEWS

The Official Organ of the
INTERNATIONAL CLASSIC GUITAR ASSOCIATION

No. 118 Single copy price 20p (U.S.A. 60c.) OCT./DEC., 1972



Photo:

Claude Fitte

REY DE LA TORRE

I was surprised to learn that the earliest incarnation of the NJ Guitar Society was known as the Madison Classic Guitar Society.

32 GUITAR NEWS OCT./DEC., 1972

IN THIS ISSUE

Page

| | |
|------------------------------------|----|
| Rey de la Torre | 3 |
| Per-Olof Johnson | 3 |
| Book Review | 4 |
| When was Segovia born? | 4 |
| Evangelos Boudounis | 6 |
| Cheltenham Classic Guitar Circle | 7 |
| Forthcoming Concerts | 7 |
| Ithaca College 1972 Course | 9 |
| Lebanon Guitars | 10 |
| International Study Conference | 10 |
| Ladies' Guitar Ensemble | 11 |
| For the Gramophone | 12 |
| Anthea Gifford | 12 |
| Julian Bream | 13 |
| Guitar Fingering (3) | 14 |
| Technique versus Tradition | 17 |
| Duo Santos-Caceres | 18 |
| Milwaukee Classical Guitar Society | 18 |
| Guitarists at the Acropolis | 19 |
| Exarhinations in Guernsey | 20 |
| Carlos Barbosa-Lima | 20 |
| Members' Announcements | 23 |
| Madison Classic Guitar Society | 23 |

I'm assuming that the name was given because of the meeting location at Fred Dilzell's home in Madison. Michael Newman was 15 years old at the time. Also, interesting to see that Carol Hamersma was there: she couldn't have been more than a teenager, too. Seems like the four performers had

at least 30 minutes apiece to present. And some very meaty repertoire for teenagers to perform – wow!

MADISON CLASSIC GUITAR SOCIETY

The second meeting of the Madison Classic Guitar Society was held on July 7th at the home of Mr. Fred Dilzell in Madison, New Jersey, U.S.A. The programme consisted of: Sonata in E (Sclatlatt), Barcarolle (Tansman), Gavotte en Rondeau (Bach), Study in D, No. 6 (Sor/Segovia), Mr. Tom Stringer; Suite in D (Visée), Miss Carol Hamersma; Etudes Nos. 1, 3, 10 and Preludes Nos. 1, 2 (Villa-Lobos), Valse (Ponce), Fantasia No. 10 (Mudarra), Variations on a theme by Mozart (Sor), Sonata in G (Sclatlatt), Recuerdos de la Alhambra (Tarrega), Mr. Fred Dilzell; Variations on the Conde Claros and Romanesca (Mudarra), Variations on "Guardame las vacas" (Narvaez), Studies Nos. 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 (Sor/Segovia), Chaconne (Bach) Mr. Mike Newman.

The meeting was well attended and all played well.

—Michael Newman

I know that later in the decade (around 1979) the meetings moved to the New Providence area when George Schindler and Connie LeCraw became involved. Both worked for Bell Labs, and they had colleagues who regularly attended. I'm not sure if that's when the name of the organization changed over to NJ Guitar Society. I became involved starting in 1993 when meetings were hosted at George's home in New Providence. By the end of the 1990s, we alternated locations between George's home and Fred's home in Madison."

Darren O'Neill

Editor's Note:

It always has been my understanding that NJCGS originated with the Bell Labs group, so I reached out to Michael Newman for comment. We hope that Michael will share more of his memories and "ancient records" in future discussions of our history, but he responded that he "did always think of Madison as its own organization." So the transition may have been more of a merger than a name change. Michael also mentioned a *Princeton Guitar Society* and a *Flemington Guitar Society* that were active in the 60's and '70s.

As Darren notes, George Schindler and Fred Dilzell were holding meetings in New Providence and Madison, respectively, in late 1990's. Around 2000, George extended the Society to the Princeton area when he relocated to Montgomery around 2000, I assume to be closer to his daughter, Heather. Montgomery is centered around Route 206 just north of Princeton. George continued to hold meetings in his apartment on Center Drive, which is a rather unusual location: apparently, most of Center Drive was absorbed by the Montgomery Shopping Center, leaving only a couple of apartment buildings in a short residential section northeast of the shopping center. There's no other access to the street, so we had to go

through the shopping center to get to George's meetings.

In 2005, George decided that the time had come to pass the torch, so I agreed to host the Princeton area meetings in my home in Hopewell Borough, about seven miles west of Montgomery on Route 518. George continued to play at meetings until 2013. By 2006, David Starbuck was hosting meetings in Warren (Somerset County). Meetings mostly rotated among Madison, Hopewell, and Warren until 2011, when struggles with cancer forced Fred Dilzell to discontinue. J

Zoom, continued

seems appropriate to find a broader base of support going forward. As of this writing, at least ten contributors have volunteered their support. If you would like to join them and make a contribution, please write to njguitarsociety@yahoo.com by **December 10** to let us know. The cost of an annual subscription (including taxes) is around \$150, so the maximum cost of each contributor's share will be around \$15, probably less. As in 2023, Gad Berger will make the payment to Zoom. On December 11, we will determine the actual cost per person (based on the total number of contributors) and send you a "bill" for your share with details on how to send the money to Gad as reimbursement.

Thanks for your support, and we look forward to seeing you at Zoom meetings in 2024. J

Other Future Meeting Plans

- Zoom meeting hosted by Gad Berger, January 7 (tentative)
- Return of the traditional annual Lasagna Meeting, Hopewell, January 14 (tentative)
- Meeting at the Morris County Library in Whippany, arranged by Darren O'Neill, Library Director. **Saturday February 10, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.** J

Upcoming Events

New York City Guitar Orchestra Fall Concert

Friday, December 1, 7:30 p.m. EST

St. John's in the Village

218 West 11th Street New York, NY 10014

General Admission \$12.51



The NYC Guitar Orchestra, under the direction of Nicoletta Todesco, performs a concert of works by David Leisner, Andrew York, and more

More Information:

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/new-york-city-guitar-orchestra-fall-concert-tickets-755061377907?aff=ebdsshios&fbclid=IwAR1U_x-9v0Bxq86VzGhQFGcGjRNbdjMsIngDVeOE5HLgDjzlakwOWc25Mjs

Philadelphia Classical Guitar Society Holiday Concert

Sunday December 3, 2023, 3:00 p.m.

Settlement Music School, 416 Queen Street

Philadelphia, PA 19146 – FREE PARKING

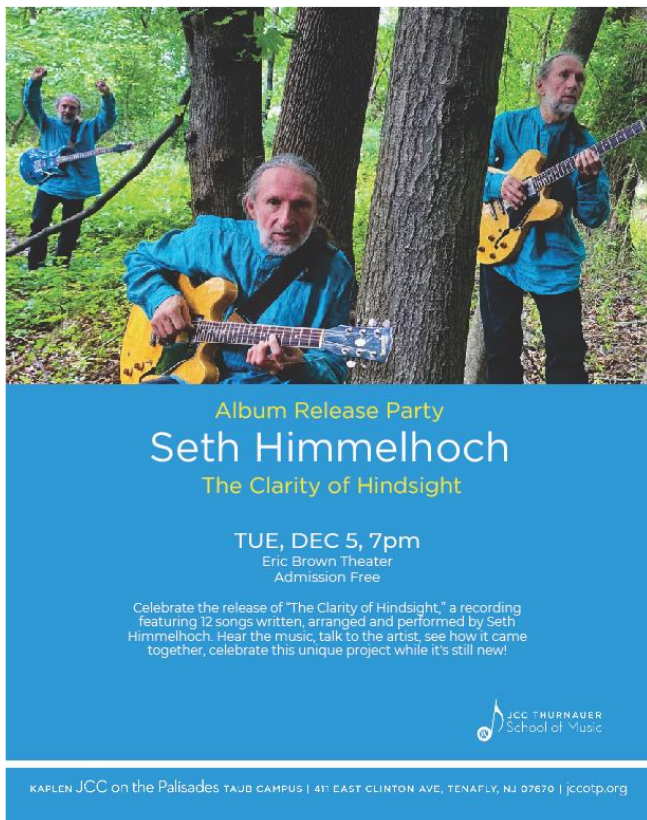
Tickets: General \$30; Senior \$20; Child \$10



Featuring Curtis Artists. Join us for PCGS Holidays concert and enjoy a fantastic afternoon with among the best young classical guitar talents in the world!

More Information:

<https://www.phillyguitar.org/events/#!/event/register/2023/12/3/curtis-institute-of-music-guitar-studio-holidays-concert>



November 12 Meeting in Randolph

Program

Robert Ey



- Thaxted – Gustav Holst, arr. Robert Ey

Jeff Griesemer



- Holy Manna – Attributed to William Moore, arr. Jeff Griesemer

David Starbuck



- Last Rays of Summer – Marianne Verdal
 1. Last Rays of Summer
 2. Autumn Melancholy
 3. A Little Waltz
 4. Milonga d'Autunno

Jim Tosone



- Bourrée I & II (Suite No. 3 for Solo Cello) – J.S. Bach (arr. F. Koonce)
- Carolan's Cap – Turlough O'Carolan (arr. G. Boger)

Alex Cherfas



- 4 Etudes – Leo Brower
- Andante No. 5 – Fernando Sor
- Etude No. 8 from 20 Etudes, Segovia – Fernando Sor

Dana Hamilton



- Andantino #3 – Matteo Carcassi, Op. 60
- Triste – Antonio Carlos Jobim

Marsha Rohe



- A Traditional Fandanguillo
- Evocacion by Jose Luis Merlin
- Zambra – Bartolome Calatuyud

Robert Hansen



- Pezzo Tedesco – Anonymous
- Prelude & Allemande from Suite in D minor – Robert de Visée
- Lagrima – Francisco Tarrega

Rick Florio



- Gymnopédie #1 – Erik Satie, arr. John DeChiaro
- Verdiales – Trad.

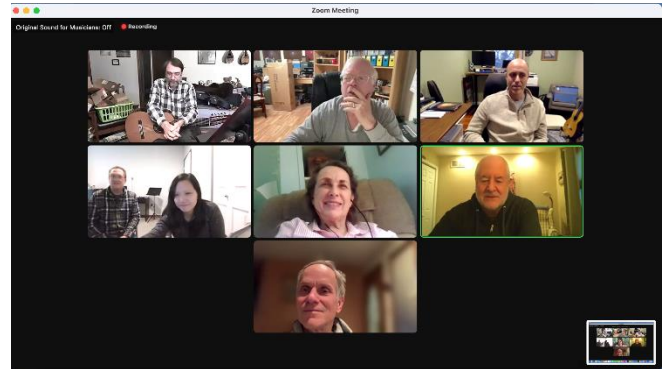
Steve Walters (8 string Torres-Starbuck guitar)



- 6 Short Renaissance Pieces (without pause)
by Francis Pilkington 1565 - 1638
Lord Hastings Good Moro
Curranta for Mrs. Elizabeth Murcott
by Diego Pisador 1509 - 1557
Pavane Muy Liana para Tañer
Dezilde al Cavallero Que
by John Dowland 1563 - 1626
Tarletons Resurrection
Mrs Winter's Jump

Photo credits: Jim Tosone ♪

November 19 Zoom Meeting



Program

Rick Florio

- Verdiales – Trad./Juan Serrano

Robert Ey

- Tarleton's Resurrection – John Dowland, arr. Fredrick Noad

Robert Vierschilling

- 6 miniatures vintage – Gloria Villanueva

Stella Kosim

- Sunday Morning Overcast – Andrew York
- Maxixe – A. Barrios

David Starbuck

- Last Rays of Summer – Marianne Verdal
- 5. Autumn Melancholy
- 6. A Little Waltz
- 7. Milonga d'Autunno

Steve Walters (8 string Torres-Starbuck guitar)

- Mrs Winter's Jump – John Dowland 1563 – 1626
- Come Heavy Sleep – “”

This meeting was hosted by Rick Florio. The cost of using Zoom in 2023 is covered by a generous contribution from Gad Berger, Steve Walters, and Dave Starbuck. ♪