

The Guitar Garden

Newsletter of the New Jersey Classical Guitar Society

January 2024

Robert Ey, Editor

Zoom Meetings



Photos from December 7 Zoom meeting.

Gad Berger will host our Zoom meeting for this month at 4:00 p.m. (eastern time) on Sunday, **January 7**. As usual, please watch for a Reminder with instructions on how to join later this week.

In-Person Meetings

We start the new year with the return of the Annual Lasagna meeting at the home of Robert and Irene Ey in **Hopewell Borough on Sunday, January 14**, at 4:00 p.m. The Lasagna Meeting is a potluck: we'll provide the lasagna, but please bring something to share, such as a side dish, salad, drinks, dessert, or the like. We will try to start promptly at 4:00 so that everyone will have a chance to perform before breaking for dinner around 6:00.

The Annual Lasagna Meeting had been suspended since 2020 because of the Covid 19 pandemic, but was a very popular tradition for several years previously. The lasagna brings some warmth to a usually very cold time of the year, but this still basically is a regular meeting, so please don't be shy about coming if you haven't come to a meeting before or recently. Watch for a reminder and directions in the week before the meeting.

Mark your calendars for a **Saturday, February 10, meeting at the Morris County Library in Whippany from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.** Library Director Darren O'Neill is hosting. Note that we're meeting at an unusual (for us) date and time, since the space is available only when the Library is open. It's a very large space that seats up to 80 people.

On this occasion, the Library is simply providing space for a regular meeting. The meeting is not being promoted to the general public as a concert. Anyone who wants to come in to listen, however, will be welcome. So please feel free to spread the word to anyone you think might be interested. We very likely will be exploring the possibility of a member concert at a future date: something we've talked about, but haven't actually done in a long time. J

Continued on page 2, Zoom

Zoom, continued.

Our Zoom subscription has been renewed for 2024. Although attendance at Zoom meetings generally was light in 2023, we found strong support for continuing the meetings. They provide a means of reaching and keeping in touch with members who cannot easily or regularly get to our in-person meetings. We've frequently seen more people come to the meetings just to socialize and keep in touch with friends than to come to perform. Performances, however, are the focus of our meetings, so please be encouraged to contribute yours for the good of the cause, even if it's a work-in-progress or something you've played before.

Please consider becoming a Zoom meeting host. It would be good to have more people sharing the work. It's not difficult and we have resources to help you get started.

You don't have to Zoom alone. We've noticed two or three people getting together to Zoom from the same place at recent meetings. This seems like an idea worth considering. We don't currently have the facilities to support "hybrid" meetings on a larger scale, but a small group can easily share a screen, or Wi-Fi with individual devices. So, why not invite some nearby friends over for a Zoom meeting? As helpful as remote technology can be, there's still something nice about direct contact with other people,

Thanks to our 2024 Zoom meeting sponsors. Everything our Society does is dependent on contributions from individual members to directly cover specific actual expenses. Starting in 2020, individual contributors paid the costs of Zoom meetings on a month-to-month basis. The pandemic and Zoom meetings continued longer than initially expected, so three volunteers got together to purchase an annual subscription for 2023. More members have come forward to join them, and the cost of using Zoom in 2024 is covered by generous contributions from Ming Chao, Dana Hamilton, Rick Florio, Jeffrey Wilt, Jeff Griesemer, Valerie Nelson, Robert Ey, Gad Berger, Dave Starbuck, Steve Walters, Gary Lee, and Shane McKevitt. J

Congratulations!



Members Stella Kosim and Robert Vierschilling announce the birth of Garrett Timothy Vierschilling on December 30, 2023. We wish them great joy! J

And More History

Following up on last month's report on NJCGS history, David Starbuck shared some of his memories. Again, if you have any recent or distant memories of your experiences with NJCGS, we would be happy to hear from you.

I met Connie LeCraw when I was living at the Westfield YMCA in late 1980. I used to practice downstairs in the main lobby late night/early morning so as to not disturb other residents. Connie was trying to get a group of people together as far back as that time. Connie was working at Bell Labs in Murray Hill. He had quite a few accomplishments in his career there and published about a dozen technical papers with the IEEE. I was able to get in touch with him in 1986 when he mentioned they (he and George) were planning meetings at George Schinder's house in New Providence. The first meeting I attended was early in 1987. Meetings were held there for a number of years until George moved to a senior housing in Berkeley Heights. We had meetings there from around 1993-94 until he moved again after his wife passed away, to the Princeton area.

Meetings were held there until Bob Ey took over and had meetings in Hopewell. There were at least two concerts at the Madison Library. I played in one. A recording was made. Maybe someone has a copy. Mine is packed away and may take some time to find it. **Dave Starbuck** ↓

Upcoming Concert

The Philadelphia Classical Guitar Society presents Alec Holcomb

Sunday January 14, 2024, 3:00 p.m.
Settlement Music School, 416 Queen Street
Philadelphia, PA 19146 – FREE PARKING
Tickets: General \$30; Senior \$20; Child \$10



Alec grew up in Tennessee, where he started learning the classical guitar from his father. Alec continued his education at the Curtis Institute of Music, where he completed his undergraduate degree with David Starobin and Jason Vieaux. Alec subsequently received his master's degree at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music with Judicaël Perroy, aided by the mentorship of David Tannenbaum. Alec attributes his stylistic choices to the intensity, inertia, and grounded nature of metal, in combination with the subtlety, groove, and contemplative nature of jazz. While there are numerous genres that inspire Alec's music making, these two have remained the most influential. Alec is a firm believer that the classical guitar offers an unparalleled and unique listening experience, and his primary passion is to connect music lovers with the beauty and energy that the instrument has to offer.

More Information:

<https://www.phillyguitar.org/events/#!event/2024/1/14/alec-holcomb> ↓

December 10 Zoom Meeting

Program

The Hopewell Guitar Ensemble (Jeff Griesemer, Valerie Nelson, & Robert Ey

- Coventry Carol – Trad., arr. K. Love

Valerie Nelson

- "Seasonal Medley," from Mark Johnstone's *Holiday Gig Book*
 1. S'vivon
 2. In Dulci Jubilo
 3. We Wish You a Merry Christmas
 4. Auld Lang Syne (with Jeff Griesemer)

Shane McKevitt

- Excerpt from Prelude, Fugue, and Allegro. – J.S. Bach

This meeting was hosted by Stella Kosim. The cost of using Zoom in 2023 was covered by a generous contribution from Gad Berger, Steve Walters, and Dave Starbuck. ↓

December 17 Meeting in Montclair

Program

Dana Hamilton

- Carol of the Bells – Mykola Leontovych, arr. Michael Silva
- Silent Night – Franz Gruber, arr. Stephen C. Siktberg

Irene Ey (soprano) and Robert Ey

- All Through the Night – Trad., arr. Frederick Noad
- The Holly and the Ivy – “”

Alex Cherfas

- Etude No.1. – Leo Brouwer
- Prelude from Prelude, Fugue, and Allegro in E-flat major, BWV 998 –J.S. Bach, arr. F. Kuncce
- Etude No. 10 – Leo Brouwer
- Lesson 23, Op. 31. – Fernando Sor

Jim Tosone

- Yesterday – Paul McCartney, arr. Soren Madsen
- What A Wonderful World – Bob Thiel /David Weiss, arr. Soren Madsen
- April Come She Will – Paul Simon arr. J. Jaturi

Ken Kraus

- Andante – Ferdinando Carulli
- Waltz – Jose Ferrer
- La Paloma – Sebastian de Yradier

Rick Florio

- Simple Gifts – Trad, arr. Fred Hand
- Lágrima – Francisco Tárrega



Photos courtesy of Jim Tosone.