

The Guitar Garden

Newsletter of the New Jersey Classical Guitar Society

December 2025

Robert Ey, Editor

December Meetings

Gad Berger will host our Zoom Meeting on Sunday, **December 7, at 4:00 p.m.** (eastern time).

We're returning to the Puddingstone Community Club in Randolph for our on-site meeting on **Sunday, December 28, at 4:00 p.m.** Thanks to Marsha Rohe for hosting.

As usual, please watch for a Reminder with directions or instructions on joining the meeting a few days before each meeting.

Good News about Zoom Meetings and Request for Help

We're happy to report that our 2025 Zoom meeting sponsors have renewed their support for 2026. Please consider joining them by pledging a contribution to help cover the cost of our Zoom subscription. If you can help, just e-mail njguitarsociety@yahoo.com to let us know. We expect each sponsor's share to be approximately \$15.00, but it could be less if more of us share the cost. After our December 7 Zoom meeting, we will determine the amount of each share and "bill" the sponsors accordingly.

December Concerts

The Philadelphia Classical Guitar Society, The Athenaeum, and Zlock Performing Arts Center Present Leonela Alejandro

Friday December 5, 5:30 p.m.
The Athenaeum of Philadelphia
219 S. 6th Street – Philadelphia, PA 19106-3794

Saturday December 6, 3:00 p.m.
Zlock Performing Arts Center, Bucks County Community College
275 Swamp Rd, Newtown, PA 18940 (free parking)

Sunday December 7, 3:00 p.m.
Settlement Music School
416 Queen St. Philadelphia, PA 19146



Puddingstone Community Club

While Zoom meetings provide performance opportunities for members who can't get to our on-site meetings, most attendees come just for listening, socializing, and conversation. And there is some potential to be explored for using Zoom to let members connect with each other, not just for the official monthly meeting, but also in smaller or more specialized groups.

We also would like to hear from more volunteers to host meetings, either online or on-site. Everything we do is dependent on the kindness of volunteers who help out however they can. ↓



continued

We are thrilled to welcome Leonela Alejandro, rising classical guitar sensation and winner of the prestigious Rose Augustine Grand Prize at the 2024 Guitar Foundation of America ICAC. Born in Guaynabo, Puerto Rico, Leonela is rapidly gaining recognition for her electrifying stage presence, expressive virtuosity, and refined musical artistry.

More Information: <https://www.phillyguitar.org/>

Mateusz Kowalski Solo Guitar Recital at the Brooklin Classical Guitar Society

Saturday, December 6, Doors at 7:00 p.m., Music at 7:30 p.m.
South Oxford Space at the Alliance of Resident Theaters (ART)
138 S Oxford St # 3B, Brooklyn, NY 11217
Tickets: \$40 general and \$30 for BKCGS members

Mateusz Kowalski is one of the most outstanding guitarists, touted by Classical Guitar Magazine as a "spectacular" musician who performs a vast repertoire ranging from the renaissance to contemporary works with remarkable expertise, stylistic sensitivity, and great musical culture. He has performed in some of the most prestigious concert halls around the world, including the Musikverein in Vienna and the Shanghai Grand Theatre, captivating audiences in cities such as New York, Los Angeles, Paris, and London.



More Information: <https://www.bkcg.org/upcoming-events/mk>

NYC Guitar Orchestra Fall 2025 Concert (by New York City Classical Guitar Society)

December 12, 7:30 p.m.
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
3 West 65th Street, New York, NY 10023
Tickets: \$17.85

Experience the vibrant resonance of the 35-member NYC Guitar Orchestra in music from the rhythmic baroque to expressive contemporary! Join us for an unforgettable evening with the 35-member New York City Guitar Orchestra, led by conductor Nicoletta Todesco. A festive reception will follow the performance—come meet the artists and fellow music enthusiasts!



More Information: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/nyc-guitar-orchestra-fall-2025-concert-tickets-1489937736879?aff=oddtcreator>

Sharon Isbin, Guitar: Celebrating America at 250

Thursday, December 18 at 7:30 p.m.
The 92nd Street Y, New York
1395 Lexington Avenue
New York, NY 10128
Tickets: Starting at \$45

Multi-Grammy Award winner Sharon Isbin is a guitar legend and a pioneer in shaping the legacy of her instrument. She returns to 92NY – where she has been essential to the art of the guitar for four decades – with music born of personal passions, repertoire-expanding works composed for her, and guitar classics she has made her own. Central to the program is John Duarte's moving Joan Baez Suite – written



for Isbin and inspired by songs associated with one of her musical heroes, including “Where Have All the Flowers Gone,” “House of the Rising Sun,” “Barbara Allen” and others. The work appears on Isbin’s Grammy-winning *Journey to the New World*, which features Baez on two tracks. “Sharon’s exquisite playing allowed me to revisit and fall in love with these songs all over again,” says Baez.

Isbin’s virtuosity is on brilliant display in works written for her by Tan Dun and Bruce MacCombie, which push the guitar to new realms, and in homage to Spain’s pivotal role in the American Revolution, the full range of her artistry is showcased in works by Enrique Granados, Francisco Tárrega and Paraguayan guitar master Agustín Barrios. A banquet of music and artistry for guitar lovers

“[Isbin brings] nuances out of the classical guitar few guitarists since Segovia have matched.” – Chicago Tribune

More Information: <https://www.92ny.org/event/sharon-isbin-guitar> ↓

November 2 Zoom Meeting



Program

Joe Carbone

- Verde Alma – Maximo Diego Pujol

This meeting was hosted by Rick Florio. The cost of using Zoom in 2025 is covered by generous contributions from Ming Chao, Dana Hamilton, Rick Florio, Jeffrey Wilt, Gary Lee and Candace Wang, Jeff Griesemer, Valerie Nelson, Robert Ey, Gad Berger, Dave Starbuck, Steve Walters, and Shane McKevitt. ↓

November 9 Meeting at the Puddingstone Community Club in Randolph

Program

Duo Migliorare (Valerie Nelson and Rick Florio)

- Inventions 1 & 4 – J.S Bach
- Duo Nocturne #2 – Antoine. de L'hoyer.

Bob Hansen and Victor Keremedjiev

- Invention No. 4 – J.S. Bach
- Invention No. 13 – “”

Gemma Keremedjiev (voice) and Victor Keremedjiev

- Mazurka Choro – Heitor Villa Lobos
- Amarilli – Giulio Caccini

Robert Ey

- Leccion 4 “Larghetto,” (Las Terceras Lecciones de Gutarra) – Julio Sagreras
- Nowhere – Angela Mair

Gary Lee

- The Long and Winding Road – Lennon-McCartney, arr. Jerry Willard
- Prelude from Sonata No. 37 – Sylvius Leopold Weiss, arr. Gary Lee
- Cooper Lake – Frederic Hand

Jeff Griesemer

- Ookpik Waltz – Frankie Rogers, arr. Jeff Griesemer

Marsha Rohe

- Preludium – John Dowland
- Nocturne Op. 4, No. 2 – Johann Kasper Metz
- Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring – JS Bach
- Greensleeves – 16th century English melod

David Starbuck

- Prelude from Suite #6 – S.L. Weiss
- Estudio in Forma de Minuetto, Maria – F. Tarrega

Jim Tosone

- The Water Is Wide – Trad., arr. Allen Matthews
- As I Went To Walsingham – Anonymous, arr. Frederick Noad
- We Are The Champions – Freddie Mercury, arr. Soren Madsen

Alex Cherfas

- Mazurka in G – Francisco Tarrega
- Prelude from BWV 998 – J.S Bach, arr. Frank Koonce

Gad Berger

- The Nervous Nightwatchman – Tuomas Kourula
- Un Día de Noviembre – Leo Brouwer

Rick Florio

- Tarantos – Trad.

Continued, photos by Jim Tosone

