

# The Guitar Garden

Newsletter of the New Jersey Classical Guitar Society

March 2026

Robert Ey, Editor

## March Meetings

Our on-site meeting this month will be on **Saturday, March 21**, at the Morris County Library in Whippany from **2:30 to 4:30 p.m.** It's an easy-to-reach location, just off I-287. Thanks to Library Director Darren O'Neill and the library staff for hosting, and to Marsha Rohe for organizing.

Gad Berger will host our Zoom Meeting on Sunday, **March 29, at 4:00 p.m.** (eastern time). As usual, please watch for a Reminder with directions or instructions on joining the meeting a few days before each meeting. ↓



## March Concerts and Events

**The New York City Classical Guitar Society presents Alexandra Whittingham**

**"The Sound of England" Presentation, Open Mic and Guitar Society Social**

Thursday, March 5, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

Bloomington School of Music and Virtual

323 W 108th St, New York, NY 10025

Member Events are open to the public and are free for members and first-time guests

*Embark on "The Sound of England" with viral classical guitar virtuoso Alexandra Whittingham. Discover how her masterful interpretations illuminate the rich heritage of English music, from beloved classics to hidden gems.*

### Concert

Friday, March 6, 2026 at 7:30 p.m. (doors open at 7:05)

Holy Trinity Lutheran - Main Entrance

W 65th St. & Central Park West, Manhattan 10023

Tickets: General, \$33.85; Senior/student/NYCCGS member \$23.18

*One of the most engaging guitarists in recent years, Alexandra Whittingham has captured a large international audience through live performance and media. We are thrilled to host Alexandra for her first New York City appearance.*

**More Information** <https://www.nyccgs.com/>



## Philadelphia Classical Guitar Society Events

### Laura Snowden

Saturday March 7, 2026 – 3:00 p.m.  
Zlock Performing Arts Center – Bucks County  
Community College  
275 Swamp Rd, Newtown, PA 18940 (free parking)

Sunday March 8, 2026 – 3:00 p.m.  
Settlement Music School  
416 Queen St. Philadelphia, PA 19146

*“A true musician whose interpretative capabilities are profound and exciting” - — Classical Guitar Magazine.*



*Laura Snowden, a British-French guitarist and composer, has been lauded as a ‘string sensation’ by BBC Music Magazine and is known for her intense and poised performances. Trained by Julian Bream, she has gained international recognition with debuts across Europe, China, and the U.S.*

### Volterrat Project Trio

Friday March 20, 2026 – 7:30 p.m.  
St. Paul’s Episcopal Church (Chestnut Hill)  
22 East Chestnut Hill Avenue – Philadelphia, PA 19118

Saturday March 21, 2026 – 3:00 pm  
Zlock Performing Arts Center – Bucks County Community  
College  
275 Swamp Rd, Newtown, PA 18940 (free parking)

*The Volterra Project Trio transforms three guitars into a miniature orchestra, drawing on European impressionism, Mediterranean folk melodies, and cinematic drama.*

*Antigoni Goni (Gr), Eleonora Perretta (It) and Maarten Vandembenden (Be) breathe fresh life into the guitar, treating it as a miniature orchestra and exploring its unique sounds, dynamics, and colors. The trio is joined for these performances by Eleonora Perretta.)*



### Ben Lougheed

Thursday March 19, 2026 – 5:30 p.m.  
The Athenaeum of Philadelphia  
219 S. 6th Street Philadelphia, PA 19106

*The concert starts at 5:30PM. It will be followed by light refreshments and a meet-and-greet with the performer. Described as creating “music of dramatic power and lyric beauty,” classical guitarist Ben Lougheed is known for his “beautifully polished, passionate, and engaging performances.” Ben’s multifaceted career includes over a decade of concertizing, community engagement, music entrepreneurship, and education.*



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

## The Assad Brothers, Guitars, at 92Y

Sat, March 14, 2026 7:30 p.m.  
Lexington Avenue at 92nd St - Geffen Stage at  
Kaufmann Concert Hall  
Tickets: Starting at \$45.00

*The world's preeminent guitar duo performs their final concert together, bringing their unparalleled artistry and spellbinding ensemble playing back to the stage that helped launch them more than four decades ago. Brazilian brothers Sérgio and Odair Assad have been essential to the evolution of the art of the guitar around the world – and at The 92nd Street Y. This very special program is centered on Brazilian and Latin American works by Piazzolla, Egberto Gismonti, Villa Lobos, Gnatalli, and more, including Sérgio's own — music at the core of their remarkable artistic legacy. The Assads planned their entire farewell-as-a-duo tour to end on the stage that helped introduce them. Don't miss what is sure to be an extraordinary night of telepathic music-making, deep artistry, and heart.*



**More Information:** <https://www.92ny.org/event/sergio-and-odair-assad> ↓

## Annual Lasagna Meeting, February 1



## Program

### Duo Migliore (Rick Florio and Valerie Nelson)

- "La Maja de Goya" – Enrique Granados, arr. Frederick Noad
- Duet in D (three movements) – Ferdinando Carulli

**Rick Florio**

- The Reluctant Bride – Ralph Towner
- Always By Your Side – “““
- Green and Golden – “““



**The Castle Peacock Band: Irene Ey (soprano), Valerie Nelson (alto, autoharp), & Robert Ey (Irish bouzouki)**

- The Little Beggar Girl – Richard Thompson

**Robert Ey**

- Mountains and Valleys – Angela Mair
- Nowhere – “““



**Marsha Rohe**

- Solo #1 from *Five Studies for Guitar Solo* – Frederic Hand
- Study in A – Matteo Carcassi
- Valse Melancholico – Marianne Vedral



**Gad Berger**

- Liebeslied – Johann Kaspar Mertz
- La Rose – Mauro Giuliani



**Jeff Griesemer**

- Let Us Break Bread Together – African-American Spiritual, arr. Jeff Griesemer
- Jigs: Sliabh Russell – Traditional Irish, arr. Griesemer; Rock Hopper Jig – Jeff Griesemer

**John Bogan**

- Open Up Your Ears – Bryan Johanson
- Scherzo Vals – Miguel Llobet
- Think Fast – Bryan Johanson



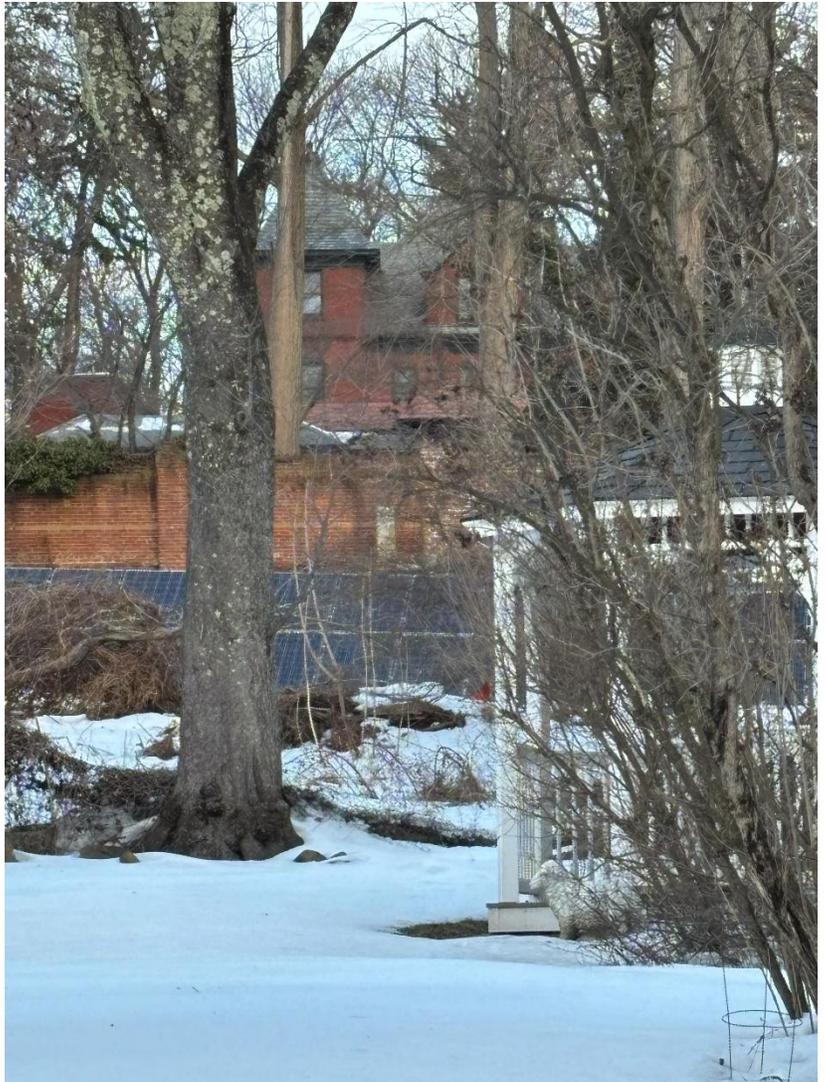
## A Note on the Castle Peacock Band

The "castle" in question (known as the "Castle at Ralston Heights"), is a legendary edifice to the immediate north of the home of Robert and Irene Ey, which is the usual venue for the New Jersey Classical Guitar Society's picnics or outdoor meetings.

The mansion was divided into apartments at one time, but now has been restored as a single family home. A peacock has been in residence at the Castle for many years. He has regularly participated in our backyard meetings, raising his voice to join in our performances and to show his appreciation.

The band was formed by NJCGS members who discovered that they also share an interest in folk instruments and song. As a by-product of the Guitar Society, the band has appeared occasionally at our less formal meetings (the Picnics in warm weather and Lasagna meetings in winter). Because of the Peacock's many contributions to these events, it seemed appropriate for the band to take a name honoring the noble bird.

(The original owner of the castle, Webster Edgerly, created the name "Ralston" as an acronym. It appeared in the name of the former Ralston Purina company and independently in connection with Edgerly's questionable enterprises involving the Ralston Health Club. For more on Webster Edgerly, see [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Webster\\_Edgerly](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Webster_Edgerly) ) ↓



## February 22 Zoom Meeting

### Program

#### Joe Carbone

- Prelúdio de Adios – Alfonso Montes
- Agua e Vinho – Egberto Gismonti, arr. Joe Carbone

*This meeting was hosted by Rick Florio. The cost of using Zoom in 2026 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, Shane McKeivitt, and Marsha Rohe.*



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