

# The Guitar Garden

Newsletter of the New Jersey Classical Guitar Society (Est. 1986)

April 2026

Robert Ey, Editor

## April Meetings

Our on-site meeting this month will be at the home of Robert and Irene Ey in Hopewell Borough on Sunday, April 12, at 4:00 p.m. Rick Florio will host

our Zoom meeting on Sunday, April 26 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. J

## April Concerts and Events

### Philadelphia Classical Guitar Society Festival

Festival Opening Concert  
Saturday, April 18, 7:30 p.m.  
First Presbyterian Church  
201 S 21st St. Philadelphia, PA 19103

Festival Closing Concert  
Sunday April 19, 3:30 p.m.  
Settlement Music School  
416 Queen St.  
Philadelphia, PA 19147

General non-member Festival Pass:  
\$50; Student (18-25): \$25

*Festival Day brings together rising young players, dedicated students, and world-class artists for an immersive experience that moves seamlessly from competition and recitals to workshops, masterclasses, and concerts.*

- Classical Guitar Competition FINALS
- Students Recitals
- Workshops:
  - Ana Vidović masterclass
  - PCGS Ensemble Performance
  - Gohar Vardanyan closing Concert
- Competition Awards

**the 2026 Philadelphia Classical Guitar Festival**  
**Ana Vidović**  
Saturday, April 18  
OPENING CONCERT

**GOHAR Vardanyan**  
Sunday, April 19  
CLOSING CONCERT

**Festival Events**  
**Ana Vidović** Masterclass  
Workshop with **Gohar Vardanyan**  
Guitar Competition FINALS  
Student Recitals  
Flamenco Workshop  
Youth/Beginner Workshop  
Vendor Fair

PCGS presents  
**39th Classical Guitar Festival**

Sunday April 19, 2025  
from 9am to 5:30pm

Inspiration, discovery, and unforgettable music all in one vibrant celebration.

- PCGS Classical Guitar Competition (Junior and Adult divisions)
- Students Recitals
- Workshops:
  - Introduction to Flamenco Guitar – Pat D’Aprile
  - Efficient Technique on the classical guitar with Gohar Vardanyan
  - Don’t Blame the Music Theory Guy! with Dr. Miroslav Loncar
- **ANA VIDOVIC** Masterclass
- PCGS Ensemble Performance
- Competition Awards
- **GOHAR VARDANYAN** closing concert.

**More Information:** <https://www.phillyguitar.org/philadelphia-classical-guitar-festival/>

## New York City Classical Guitar Society Events

### **“The Ultimate Workshop with Gohar Vardanyan,” Open Mic and Guitar Society Social to follow**

Thursday, April 2, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

Sunlight Studios

321 W 44th St Suite #202, New York, NY 10036

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

*Join virtuoso NYC local, Gohar Vardanyan, and advance your techniques and musical insights to transform your classical guitar playing. Benefit from her popular expertise and discover the secrets to achieving a truly compelling performance. NYC loves Gohar!*

### **Leonela Alejandro, GFA winner, at Carnegie Hall**

Co-sponsored by the Guitar Foundation of America

Friday, April 9, 2026 at 8:00 p.m.

Weill Recital Hall, Carnegie Hall

154 W 57th St, New York, NY 10019

Tickets starting at \$46.00

*Hear the winner of the Rose Augustine Grand Prize in the 2024 Guitar Foundation of America (GFA) International Concert Artist Competition in her Carnegie Hall debut. This will be one of the most celebrated concerts of her prize-winning national tour.*

*“In the figure of Leonela Alejandro I see a great player. She is bold and unique as a musician and as a person.” – René Izquierdo*

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

### **Concert: Soprano Sungji Kim & Classical Guitarist Stanley Alexandrowicz**

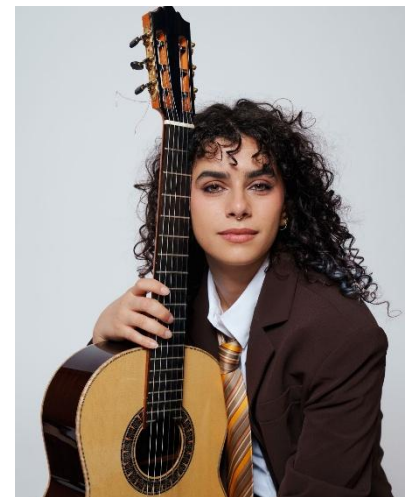
Saturday, April 18, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Moorestown Library,

111 W. 2nd St, Moorestown, NJ 08057

*Please join the internationally renowned voice and guitar duo of soprano Sungji Kim and classical guitarist Stanley Alexandrowicz for a concert of arias, songs, and guitar solos ranging from the Baroque through the Contemporary periods. Included will be operatic masterpieces by Vincenzo Bellini, guitar solos by Johann Dubez and Brian Fennelly, Contemporary French songs by Georges Migot, and Priaulx Rainier’s magical African inspired songs “Ubunzima & Dance of the Rain!”*

**More Information:** <https://events.moorestownlibrary.org/event/15586061>



# GUITARFEST 2026

Saturday, April 25th, 2026

**JOSÉ MALDONADO**

Dynamic soloist, chamber musician and musical curator



**JAYSON MARTINEZ**

Award-winning music educator and NJGO conductor



11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

William Paterson University Guitarists

1:00 p.m.–1:45 p.m.

Seth Himmelhoch on the Suzuki Guitar School featuring the short movie *Sounds of Success* followed by Q and A

2:15 p.m.–3:00 p.m.

New Jersey Guitar Orchestra led by Jayson Martinez

4:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m.

Master class with Guitarist José Maldonado

8:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.

**José Maldonado in concert**

**SETH HIMMELHOCH**

WPU Professor and Suzuki Teacher Trainer



All events in Shea Center, Room 101  
300 Pompton Rd. Wayne, NJ

- Admission: \$20/FREE with WPU student ID
- Performing in the master class with José Maldonado is \$60 (includes admission to all Guitarfest events)
- For information, or to perform in the master class, contact professor Seth Himmelhoch:  
(201) 486 7744    himmelhochs@wpunj.edu

**More Information:** <https://www.wpunj.edu/cohss/departments/music/concerts-and-events?trumbaEmbed=view%3Devent%26eventid%3D1345410952> ↓

# March 21 Meeting at the Morris County Library in Whippany

## Program



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

- La Maja de Goya (Tonadilla) – Enrique Granados, arr. F. Noad
- Duet in D, Op 34 No 1 – Ferdinando Carulli,

### Rick Florio

- Medley of Traditional Irish Pieces – Arr. J. Loesberg
  - Airdí Cuan;
  - Eileen Aroon
  - Báidín Fheilimí
  - Sí Beag Si Mór
  - The Boys of Bluehill

### Robert Ey

- Give Me Your Hand – "Rory Dall O'Cahan," arr. Glenn Weiser
- Nowhere – Angela Mair

### Jeff Griesemer

- Jigs: Sliabh Russell – Traditional Irish, arr. Griesemer; Rock Hopper Jig – Jeff Griesemer
- Holy Manna – William Moore, arr. Jeff Griesemer

### Marsha Rohe

- French Lullaby – David Brandon
- Maria Luisa – J. Sagreras
- Tango No. 3 – J. Ferrero

### David Starbuck

- Fantasia Op. 40 – Fernando Sor

### Bob Hansen

- Fantasia – Francesco da Milano (1497-1543)
- Mazurka-Choro – Heitor Villa-Lobos (1887-1959)

### Trang Steinbaum

- Tango No.3. – J.Ferrer
- Venezuelanischer Waltz – Tatiana Stachak
- Canarios. – Sanz
- Estudio 6 – Sor
- Bolero. – Julian Arcas
- Fantasia – S.L. Weiss



## March 9 Zoom Meeting

### Program

#### Stella Kosim

- La Rose, Opus 46 No 9 – Mauro Giuliani
- Etude No 1 – Giulio Regondi

#### Joe Carbone

- Elegy – Jeremy Collins



*This meeting was hosted by Gad Berger. 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. ♪*