

The Guitar Garden

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

October 2026

Robert Ey, Editor

October Meetings

The *Classical Guitar Society of Warren County* starts the month off with a meeting on **Saturday, October 3 at 3:00 p.m.** in the Knowlton Presbyterian Church in Columbia.

Next, NJCGS has a very busy weekend in the middle of the month. We will meet at the Morris County Library in Whippany on **Saturday, October 17, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** Then,

Shane McKevitt will host the Zoom meeting on **Sunday, October 18 at the usual 4:00 p.m.** (eastern time).

Our September meeting at the Lindeblad School of Music was rained out by the Nor'easter, but has been rescheduled for November 14.

As usual, please watch for a Reminder with directions and other information a day or so before the weekend starts. J

October Events

Philadelphia Classical Guitar Society presents Alexandra Whittingham

Friday October 2, 2026 – 7:30 p.m., Venice Island Performing Arts Center, 7 Lock Street, Philadelphia, PA 19127 (Manayunk). Tickets: General \$30; Senior \$25; Student 13 to 25 (School ID required) \$10; Child 12 and under (must be accompanied by adult) \$0

Saturday October 3, 2026 – 3:00 p.m., Zlock Performing Arts Center, 275 Swamp Rd, Newtown, PA 18940. Tickets: General \$30; Child under 12 \$2.

Sunday October 4, 2026 – 3:00 p.m., Settlement Music School – Mary Louise Branch, 416 Queen St., Philadelphia, PA 19147. Tickets: General \$30; Senior \$25; Student 13 to 25 (School ID required) \$10; Child 12 and under (must be accompanied by adult) \$0

Alexandra Whittingham is one of the most widely followed classical guitarists of her generation. Since first sharing performances online as a teenager, she has attracted a global audience of more than 50 million video views while building an international performing career spanning Europe and North America.

Alexandra began her studies at Chetham's School of Music before continuing at the Royal Academy of Music in London, where she completed both undergraduate and postgraduate degrees. During her studies she received numerous distinctions, including the Timothy Gilson Guitar Prize, the Diploma of the Royal Academy of Music, and the Regency Award for Distinguished Studentship.

Signed exclusively to Decca Classics, Alexandra released her debut album, My European Journey, in 2021. Praised by BBC Music Magazine as "a superb debut," the recording showcases her passion for romantic guitar repertoire and for introducing audiences to lesser-known composers

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



New York City Classical Guitar Society presents Gabriel Bianco

Friday, October 9, 7:30 p.m.

TENRI Cultural Institute of New York

43A West 13th Street, New York, NY 10011

Tickets: General Admission, \$44.52; senior/student/NYCCGS member, \$33.85 (including fees).

*Calling all music lovers and guitar enthusiasts! Get ready for a deeply moving, virtuosic performance by **Gabriel Bianco**, widely celebrated as one of the finest classical guitarists of our time. This isn't just a concert; it's an immersive musical journey. Critics and audiences alike frequently marvel that when he takes the stage, "Gabriel and his guitar become one."*

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



University of Rhode Island Guitar and Mandolin Festival 2026

October 18-25

University of Rhode Island Fine Arts Center

105 Upper College Road Kingston, RI 02881

The University of Rhode Island proudly presents the 11th Annual Guitar & Mandolin Festival, taking place October 18–25, 2026. Celebrating a decade of music-making, this week-long event brings internationally acclaimed artists (Eliot Fisk, Jorge Caballero, Eleonora Strino, Antoine Boyer & Yeore Kim, Vincent Beer-Demander & Fabio Gallucci, Ian Coury & even more!) to Southern Rhode Island for an immersive celebration of plucked strings. Highlights include concerts, masterclasses, lectures, workshops, a composer-in-residence program, luthier expo, youth guitar program, and three divisions of performance competitions offering over \$12,000 in prizes.

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



Ema Nikolovska, mezzo-soprano & Sean Shibe, guitar: Orlando at 92Y

Friday, October 23 at 7:30 p.m.

In-Person and Streaming

Buddenwieser Hall at The Arnhold Center

1395 Lexington Avenue

New York, NY 10128

Tickets Starting at \$45.00

Two of music's most daringly original artists – mezzo-soprano Ema Nikolovska and guitarist Sean Shibe – trace the legendary troubadour Orlando's journey across centuries and continents, as they mix passages from Virginia Woolf's fantastical novel with music by Schubert, Dowland, Bob Dylan, Laurie Anderson, and more. An immersive and imaginative program from two artists blending historical storytelling with modern musical innovation, as they explore themes from courtly love to identity.



More Information: <https://www.92ny.org/event/ema-nikolovska-and-sean-shibe>

Kanahi Yamashita: NYC Debut Concert at the Brooklyn Classical Guitar Society

Friday, October 23, 2026 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.
Concert Hall at the Brooklyn Conservatory of Music
58 7th Ave, Brooklyn, NY
Tickets: \$40

Please join us in welcoming Kanahi Yamashita to Brooklyn for her New York City debut! Kanahi Yamashita has a fantastic program prepared of music by Bach, Tedesco, Mompou, and Barrios at the historic Brooklyn Conservatory of Music. Don't miss this very special concert with us in October!

Today, Kanahi Yamashita is regarded as one of the leading guitarists of her generation and performs internationally as a soloist across Europe, Mexico, China and Australia, earning international acclaim. Following her solo tour in 2024, she attracted significant attention in Japan as a "master of the new generation" and has since established herself as a highly sought-after soloist.



More Information: <https://www.bkcgs.org/upcoming-events/kanahi-yamashita>

Seasons: Boyd Meets Girl at Gather NYC

Sunday, October 25
10:30 a.m. Doors, 11:00 a.m. Show
Jazzcultural, 349 West 46th St, New York NY 10036
Tickets: \$30.75



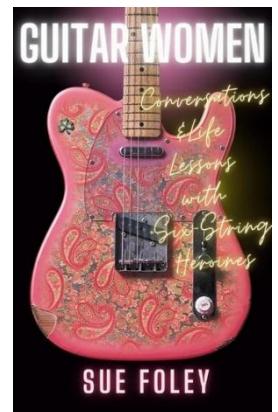
GatherNYC's 2026-27 Season Opener, Seasons featuring Boyd Meets Girl, with special guests Doori Na, violin & Vanessa Perez, piano

More Information: <https://gathernyc.org/schedule> J

Book Release

Guitar Women: Conversations & Life Lessons with Six-String Heroines, Sue Foley, Sutherland House, 2026, 406pp.

Award winning Canadian blues guitarist, singer, and song Writer Sue Foley interviewed over 100 female guitarists for a dissertation needed to earn her musicology degree from York University. Her book consists of a selection of 25 of those interviews. According to a book review by Trish Melanson, *Each interview is preceded by full-page introductory bio, celebrating the influence and accomplishments of each guitarist. The interviews are then presented in Q & A format, giving the reader a sense of intimacy and of "being there."* Most questions are specific to each artist; however, the overall mission of the book was to uncover the experience of each female guitarist in what is considered by most a "man's world." Classical guitarists Sharon Isbin and Liona Boyd are among the interviewees, as is Alice Artzt who spoke about Ida Presti.



Web Site Update

Links to these sites have been added to our *Guitar Links* page, . <https://njguitarsociety.org/guitar-links/>.

- Joe's Vintage Guitars — helping authenticate and appraise vintage guitars.
- FaChords Guitar — A free, browser-based learning site with interactive tools for chords, scales, rhythm, and the fretboard, helping guitarists connect theory with what they play. ↓

September 13 Zoom Meeting

Program

Joe Carbone

- Lesley's Song — Frederic Hand
- Petite valse des cinq cordes (Little Five String Waltz) — Francis Kleynjans



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 McKevitt, and Marsha Rohe. ↓