



FESTIVAL 21  
APRIL 21  
2012

---

NEW  
MUSIC  
FOR  
GUITAR





NEW ENGLAND FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS





# FESTIVAL 21 APRIL 21 2012

---

## NEW MUSIC FOR GUITAR

Festival 21 is all about celebrating the present and future of the classical guitar. Since its 2008 foundation by Frank Wallace, this annual event has strived to bring together area professionals, aficionados, students, and ensembles for a spectacularly diverse, interactive musical offering.

Today's featured artist is the incomparable David Leisner, who is presenting a concert of epic proportions. Included on the program are three Boston premieres by David Del Tredici, Carlos Carrillo, and David Leisner. He will also play Benjamin Britten's Nocturnal, considered one of the great modern masterpieces for the instrument. As a set of contemporary variations on a Renaissance song from John Dowland, *Come, Heavy Sleep*, Nocturnal wonderfully embodies the ideals behind Festival 21: to highlight the guitar as an emotionally powerful tool that can take inspiration from the past and present to create deep, new, and lasting musical experiences.

The BCGS thanks the amazing performers, volunteers, supporters, and members who make this event possible. Principal grant funding comes from the Augustine Foundation. In addition, Festival 21 is funded in part by a grant from the MetLife Creative Connections program of Meet the Composer, Inc. and the New England Foundation for the Arts, with additional support from the six New England state arts agencies and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Daniel Acsadi

Director, Boston Classical Guitar Society

# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

---

**Gordon Chapel, Old South Church  
645 Boylston St., Boston**

- 9:00 am** Registration and Open Orchestra Rehearsal
- 10:00 am** Technique Workshop with Jerome Mouffe—*Program page 3*
- 11:00 am** Conservatories Recital featuring talented young guitarists representing NEC, Berklee, Boston Conservatory, Longy, and University of Rhode Island—*Program page 4*
- 1:30 pm** Members Concert with Jose Lezcano & Franziska Huhn, Robert Margo, George Attisano, Jim Davidson, Steve Rapson, Jeff Wyman, and Berit Strong & Greg Zavracky—*Program page 7*
- 2:30 pm** Coffee Break
- 3:00 pm** Ensembles Concert—*Program page 11*

**First Lutheran Church  
299 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA**

- 7:45 pm** Evening concert featuring David Leisner and combined Festival 21 guitar orchestras (directed by Scott Borg), premiering *Four Movements for Guitar Orchestra* by Anthony Paul De Ritis—*Program pages 13-16*

Notice: David Leisner will teach masterclass on Sunday, April 22nd, 3:00-6:00 pm at the Wolfensohn Room, Longy School of Music.

## TECHNIQUE WORKSHOP, 10 AM

---

**Jerome Mouffe** Jerome Mouffe is a virtuoso guitarist from Belgium who has dazzled international audiences with his passionate and spontaneous playing. Jerome has toured extensively as a soloist and chamber musician throughout the United States and Western Europe.

Recent solo performances include recitals for Boston Classical Guitar Society, South Bay Guitar Society, Masters of Tomorrow Concert Series in Rhode Island, and Boston GuitarFest. In November 2009, he was invited to perform at the International Agustin Barrios Mangore Festival in Brussels, where he shared the stage with his mentor Eliot Fisk in addition to performing his own solo recital at the prestigious Flagey concert hall. His performances were broadcast on Belgian national public radios Musiq3 and Klara.

Jerome has released his debut CD – Capriccio – in 2009 on the VGo Recordings label. The album features early nineteenth century virtuoso Italian music. Jerome got a Master Degree at the Conservatoire Royal de Bruxelles in Belgium and a Postgraduate Diploma at the Universitat Mozarteum Salzburg, in Austria. He is currently a doctoral candidate at the New England Conservatory in Boston, under the direction of Eliot Fisk.

# CONSERVATORIES RECITAL, 11 AM

---

Danza Brasileira  
Danza in E Minor

Jorge Morel  
(b.1931)

**Matt McCue, student of Jose Lezcano  
Keene State College**

Hay Harbor Waltz

Thomas Alger  
(b. 1991)

Suite "Prince's Toys"  
III mov. "Doll with Blinking Eyes"

Nikita Koshkin  
(b. 1956)

Tango en Skai

Roland Dyens  
(b. 1955)

**Jared Maynard, Student of John Dennewitz  
University of Rhode Island**

Last Waltz  
(arr. Toru Takemitsu)

Lou Reed  
and Barry Mason

Valse en Skai

Roland Dyens

**Billy Chi, Student of Berit Strong  
Boston Conservatory**

Prelude 2 "Doloroso Lontano"  
Prelude 3 "Senza Tregua"

Simone Iannarelli  
(b. 1970)

**Shon Boubli, Student of Ritchie Hart and Bret Willmott  
Berklee College of Music**

Royal Winter Music

Hans Werner Henze  
(b. 1926)

**Stefan Koim, Student of Eliot Fisk  
New England Conservatory**

Five Quiet Songs (Op. 37)  
I. Dirge in Woods  
II. Silence  
III. An Epitaph  
IV. Omar's Lament  
V. The Birds

John. W. Duarte  
(1919-2004)

**Elizabeth Sterling, mezzo soprano,  
student of Carol Mastrodomenico  
Tony Rizzotto, guitar,  
student of David Patterson Longy School of Music**

## CONSERVATORIES RECITAL BIOGRAPHIES

---

- Shon Boulbil** Shon Boulbil is a young Canadian classical concert Guitarist, born in Tel Aviv, Israel and now studying at the Berklee College of Music in Boston towards his BA in music. For the past three semesters at Berklee Shon was repeatedly on the Dean's list for excellent academic achievements. Shon is the Grand Prize winner of the Lee Riternour, Yamaha Six String Theory international guitar competition 2010 in Santa Monica and has made his debut recording on Six String Theory CD. Shon has won major national and international guitar competitions including: The current 2011 Barrios World-WideWeb Competition, semifinalist; Grand Prize winner of the Yamaha Six String Theory; the prestigious CMC (Canadian Music Competition), regional, provincial and National; 1st place at the International Classical Guitar Competition of Montreal. Shon was a student of Christoph Pratiffi, and Alvaro Pierri and David Newsam. He is currently studying with Ritchie Hart and Bret Willmott. Shon Boulbil is a Yamaha Performing Artist and a D'Addario Gold Performing Artist.
- Billy Chi** Billy Chi holds an undergraduate degree in music from UNC-Charlotte and is currently pursuing his Master's in music at the Boston Conservatory. He has taken masterclasses with distinguished professors, such as Alvaro Pierri and Jason Vieaux. Billy performs at venues all across North Carolina, Tennessee, South Carolina, and Boston, MA. He has played with the Musical Theatre Guild, Charlotte Choral Society, UNCC Wind Ensemble, Women's Choral, Men's Choral, and as a guest performer at various churches. He is currently a student of Berit Strong.
- Jared Maynard** Jared Maynard holds a B.M. in Music Education and Music Performance from the University of Rhode Island. Mr. Maynard's performances have included recitals at the University of Rhode Island, the Masters of Tomorrow series, Community College of Rhode Island, and as well as other performances throughout the state. Mr. Maynard's classical guitar instructors have included John Dennewitz, Mychal Gendron, and Daniel Salazar. He has also participated in master classes with Scott Tennant and Grisha Goryachev at New England Conservatory's Boston Guitar Fest. Mr. Maynard is the guitar director The Wheeler School in Providence, RI where he teaches Guitar Ensemble, Guitar Performance, and Middle School Guitar Activities. Currently, Mr. Maynard is completing his graduate studies at the University of Rhode Island in Guitar Performance. He has been teaching guitar for 6 years in southern Rhode Island and through the University of Rhode Island's Preparatory Program and still maintains a private teaching studio.
- Matt McCue** Matt McCue is a Music Theory student at Keene State College. He has been playing the classical guitar for three years and studies with Dr. Jose Manuel Lezcano. Matt is an avid composer and frequents the stage with original works, as well as standard classical guitar

# CONSERVATORIES RECITAL BIOGRAPHIES

---

repertoire. Now finishing his third year at Keene State, Matt looks forward to a career in music, and continues to grow as a classical guitarist.

**Tony Rizzotto** For the past 8 years Tony Rizzotto has been rising through the ranks as a top performer in New England. Since graduating Berklee College of Music in 2008 he has compiled a long list of performances including venues such as Rockwood Music Hall in NYC, The Avalon Theatre in Easton, MD and The House of Blues in Boston, Ma. In the summer of 2011 Tony was hired by R&B singer Ingrid Gerdes and went on a 3-month tour where they were the featured artists on NPR's 'All Things Considered' with host Robert Siegel. Tony works at Musical Instrument Service Center in Berklee College of Music and teaches an instrument repair class in Medford, Ma. He is also a guitar instructor for Waltham Public Schools. Currently Tony is studying at Longy School of Music in Cambridge, Ma for a Masters in Classical Guitar Performance. He studies with David Patterson. He has also studied with David Tronzo, Joe Rogers, Dave Fiuczynski and Zaira Meneses.

**Elizabeth Sterling** Mezzo-soprano Elizabeth Sterling is a versatile singer who endeavors to perform works of varied styles, including oratorio, art song, and opera. Her most recent opera scenes roles include Fidalma in *Il matrimonio segreto*, Dorabella in *Così fan tutte*, and Papagena in *The Magic Flute*. She takes great pleasure in performing in recital settings ranging from conservatories and concert halls to churches and classrooms, most recently performing in the Longy School of Music's Voice Showcase concert and Chamber Music concerts. Elizabeth holds a BM from Baldwin-Wallace College Conservatory of Music, where she studied with Tracy Grady, and enjoyed singing as a member of the Motet Choir and as a soloist for the BW Bach Festival's 2011 Buxtehude concert. She is currently a graduate voice student at the Longy School of Music, where she studies with Carol Mastrodomenico.

**Stefan Koim** Stefan Koim, born in 1986 in Hamm Westphalia, Germany, began his musical education at the Municipal Music School in Hamm, guided and encouraged by his teacher, Bernd Kortenkamp. In the context of the European exchange program ERASMUS, he studied at the Mozarteum University in Salzburg, Austria from October 2009 to June 2010 in the class of Professor Eliot Fisk. Stefan Koim has won several prizes at regional and federal levels such as the first prize in the all-Germany "Jugend musiziert" competition in the categories "Solo Guitar" "Chamber Music" and "Contemporary Music". In 2006 he was given the first prize for "Solo Guitar" in the age group VI. In 2005 he won the third prize in the Heinrich-Albert Competition. Concert tours have taken him to Russia, Italy, Switzerland, Austria and the USA. He has received a scholarship for the 2011-2012 academic year from the Fulbright Commission and the Rotary Foundation to enable him to continue his studies in the US.



# MEMBERS CONCERT, 1:30 PM

---

Suite Mágica for Harp and Guitar

Máximo Diego Pujol  
(b. 1957)

I. Preludio

II. Vals

III. Tango

IV. Candombé

**Franziska Huhn, harp - Jose Lezcano, guitar**

\* \* \* \*

The Autumn

J. Goodin  
(b. 1951)

Diferencias

V. Kioulaphides  
(b. 1961)

**Robert Margo, octave mandolin**

\* \* \* \*

From El Decameron Negro

Leo Brouwer  
(b. 1939)

Ballada de la Doncella Enamorada

**George Attisano, guitar**

\* \* \* \*

Etude 10

H. Villa-Lobos  
(1887-1959)

Sunburst

A. York  
(b. 1958)

**Jim Davidson, guitar**

\* \* \* \*

Pavane pour une infant défunte

M. Ravel  
(1875-1937)

Triste

A. Jobim  
(1927-1994)

Morocco

S. Rapson

**Steve Rapson, guitar**

\* \* \* \*

Etude I: The Long Childhood

J. Wyman

Etude II: 12-Tone Etude

Etude III: At Play in the Quantum Fields

Prelude I: Diatribes with an Amazon Queen

**Jeff Wyman, guitar**

\* \* \* \*

Chinese Gardens

Alec Roth  
(b. 1948)

1. The Tarrying Garden

2. The Master-of-Nets Garden

3. The Gentle Waves Pavillion

4. The Humble Administrator's Garden

**Greg Zavracky, tenor - Berit Strong, guitar**

## MEMBERS CONCERT BIOGRAPHIES

---

**Steve Rapson** *"Nobody wishes on their death bed they had spent more time at the office."* Or, in Steve Rapson's case, *any* time at the office. After life in corporate America he is now a recording artist, songwriter, and performing musician. Steve's debut CD, *Christmas Guitar*, is sold around the world. He has followed up with five more to date: *Romantic Guitar*, *Half Irish Guitar*, *Patriotic Guitar*, *Original Guitar*, *My Favorite Guitar Solos*. Among his guitar teachers (all briefly) were Mordy Ferber Robert Sullivan (NE Conservatory), and Lenny Breau. As a producer and performance coach, Steve works with songwriters, performers and public speakers. His approach to stage work has helped further the careers of many artists including Kevin So, [kevinso.com](http://kevinso.com), and Mary Gauthier, [marygauthier.com](http://marygauthier.com). Steve performs around the United States—occasionally Europe—and is often found at fairs & festivals where he demonstrates the beauty of solo guitar and teaches beginners their first chord. He is the author of *The Art of the Solo performer: A Field Guide to Stage & Podium*, [soloperformer.com](http://soloperformer.com). Steve holds a Masters Degree in Communication Management from Simmons College. He lives in Boston, Massachusetts with Rosemary, his wife of forty years. They married young, it was quite a scandal at the time.

**Robert A. Margo** Robert A. Margo studied classical guitar with William Newman in Philadelphia and John Johns in Nashville, and renaissance lute with Catherine Liddell in Boston. Margo performs on mandolin family instruments in concert and on recordings with the Providence Mandolin Orchestra, and he was a prizewinner at the 2005 Classical Mandolin Society of America national performance competition. When he is not making music, Margo can be found teaching and conducting research at Boston University, where he serves as Professor and Chair of the Department of Economics.

**Franziska Huhn** Harpist Franziska Huhn has given numerous solo recitals throughout the United States in Illinois, Indiana, Rhode Island and Texas, as well as international recitals in Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Turkey, Georgia, Russia, Syria, Pakistan and Germany, including several performances for the German President (Johannes Rau and Horst Koehler). She also was featured in a recital on WGBH in "Live from Studio 1." Ms. Huhn has participated in the Gustav Mahler Youth Orchestra, the Pacific Music Festival in Japan and the Tanglewood Music Center in Lenox, Massachusetts. She later returned to Tanglewood to perform contemporary music as a Fromm player. Ms. Huhn is also active in and around the Boston area performing as a substitute harpist with the Boston Symphony Orchestra and playing regularly with the Walden Chamber Players and Mistral Chamber Players. As a member of Callithumpian Consort and Sound Icon, Ms. Huhn is a strong proponent of contemporary music and has works written for her by composers such as Lior Navok, John Heiss and Daniel Pinkham.

## MEMBERS CONCERT BIOGRAPHIES

---

Ms. Huhn studied with Lucile Lawrence at Boston University and then continued with Ann Hobson Pilot at the New England Conservatory of Music, where she completed a Masters Degree and Graduate Diploma, in addition to becoming the first ever harpist to be awarded the Artist's Diploma by the Conservatory in 2005. In 2007, her album *Harp Solo* was released, followed by *Bejeweled* (flute and harp) in 2009. Since 2003, Ms. Huhn has been the Assistant Director of the Harp Seminar at Boston University's Tanglewood Institute. Ms Huhn serves as harp faculty at the New England Conservatory and Longy School of Music.

**Dr. Jose Lezcano** A twice grammy-nominated guitarist and composer, Dr. Lezcano has performed for audiences on four continents. His programs featuring traditional and Latin American repertory, and his own original compositions have taken him as recitalist, collaborative musician, and concerto soloist from Carnegie Recital Hall and the North-South Consonance Series in New York City to major venues and festivals in Spain, South America, China, the Czech Republic and Germany. Dr. Lezcano coordinates and teaches in the KSC Guitar program and courses in Latin American music. In 2010 Dr. Lezcano and members of the KSC Guitar Orchestra toured and performed at universities in Quito and Northern Ecuador, at the invitation of the Casa de la Música. Dr. Lezcano's own *Guitar Concerto* (2004), which he premiered in New York City as soloist with the North-South Consonance Chamber Orchestra directed by Max Lifschitz, received critical acclaim after release on the North-South label in 2007 as "Remembrances/Recuerdos." For his work on the CD, Jose received two Grammy nominations and was semi-finalist for "Best Contemporary Composition" (for his *Guitar Concerto*) and "Best Performance, Soloist with Orchestra" (for his solo performance in the *Concerto*). For more information see, [joselezcano.com](http://joselezcano.com),

**George Attisano** George Attisano has played classical guitar for over 30 years. His eclectic repertoire spans several centuries and a variety of styles, includes works by Latin American composers Agustín Barrios and Manuel Ponce, transcriptions of works by the Baroque composers Bach and Scarlatti, pieces by Spanish guitar composers Fernando Sor and Francisco Tarrega, as well as contemporary guitar solos by Steve Hackett and Andrew York.

**Jeff Wyman** Jeff Wyman graduated cum laude from Berklee School of Music in 1976 with a degree in composition. It was in the early days at Berklee that he first became interested in Bach's music, which later became a life-long journey of delving deeply into the complexities of counterpoint. Jeff's book was published by MelBay: "J.S. Bach – The 15 Two-Part Inventions, Edited for Solo Guitar" in September, 2010, a project which took over two decades to complete. During the years of working on this project, Jeff has taught all types of guitar playing, from classical to classic rock. He has played locally at many venues and art galleries in the Boston area. Jeff is an active member of the Boston Classical Guitar Society.

## MEMBERS CONCERT BIOGRAPHIES

---

**Greg Zavracky** Gregory Zavracky is enjoying an active performance schedule on both the opera and concert stages. Among his roles are Tamino in *The Magic Flute*, Ferrando in *Così fan tutte*, Almaviva in *The Barber of Seville*, Ramiro in *La Cenerentola*, Ernesto in *Don Pasquale*, Nemorino in the *Elixir of Love*, Don Ottavio in *Don Giovanni* and the title role in *Candide*. He has recently performed with Boston Lyric Opera, Chautauqua Opera, Lake George Opera, Townsend Opera, Cape Cod Opera, Opera in the Heights, Utah Symphony, Chautauqua Symphony, Cambridge Community Chorus, Falmouth Chorale and Orchestra, Nashoba Valley Chorale, Quincy Choral Society, the Fine Arts Chorale, Choral Arts Society, Connecticut Virtuosi, Harvard University Choir. A doctoral candidate in voice performance at Boston University, Gregory received his Bachelor of Arts in music from Emory University, followed by two Master of Music degrees from New England Conservatory in voice performance and opera studies. He has been a young artist with Chautauqua Opera, Lake George Opera, Utah Opera and Opera North.

**Berit Strong** Berit Strong won a Top Prize in the 1988 Guitar Foundation of America International Competition which launched her international performing career. She has toured Europe several times, once with guitarist Alice Artzt, and then as a soloist, appearing in major festivals in Hungary, the former Yugoslavia, Italy, and Denmark. Ms. Strong has also performed solo recitals throughout the U.S., including the Cleveland Institute of Music, the University of Akron, Mechanics Hall in Worcester, Mass. and Jordan Hall in Boston. She was a soloist with the Wellesley Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Max Hobart in a performance of the Concerto de Aranjuez' by Joaquin Rodrigo. She has also performed with pianist Virginia Eskin on NPR, for Amnesty International gala benefit, and at the Monadnock Music Festival. Her radio and television appearances include National Public Radio, WGBH Radio, Swissradio, Hungarian Radio, Belgrade Radio, and World Service International. Boston Globe critic Richard Dyer wrote that "Berit Strong was a colorful and commanding interpreter." Soundboard Magazine wrote "Overall, Miss Strong displayed an intense and original musical personality with an outgoing and communicative stage presence." As the Artistic Director of the Boston Classical Guitar Society for six years Ms. Strong restored its non-profit status, and included in her concert series debut recitals of Paulo Bellinati and Juan Martin. Berit Strong is on the faculty of Bridgewater State University, Boston Conservatory, and the Indian Hill Music Center in Littleton, MA.

# ENSEMBLES CONCERT, 3 PM

---

In C

Terry Riley

**Boston Guitar Orchestra, Scott Borg - conductor**

Guitar 1: Omar Diaz, Mike Hurley, Bob Margo, Jared Maynard, Andy Robinson

Guitar 2: Tom Alger, Leah Ferjulian, Michael Hession,  
Robert Teweï Luo, John Zevos

Guitar 3: Leo Carroll, Raffi Donoian, Karen Godoy, Lin Hymel,  
Frank Papineau, Hernando Patino, Chuck Spyropulos

Guitar 4: Don Hague, Richard Joh, Jan Roll-Mederos, Ivy Schram,  
Ben Torrey, Bruce Hagist

\* \* \* \*

Summer Suite

Romana Hartmetz

Divergent Rondo

Jeff Tanner

Festival

John Zevos

**Timberlane Regional High School Guitar Orchestra, John Zevos - director**

Danielle Arena, Shaun Berthel, Zachary Blanc, Devan Bradley, Janelle Colon,  
Parker Croak, Adam Frey, Kristina Fuccillo, Timothy Garofano, Ronald Ham-  
mond, Mark Johnston, James McCoy, Joshua McNamara, Andrew Rice, Raina  
Sheldon, Tyler Smith, Seth Thornhill, Victoria Wolfe

\* \* \* \*

Izika Zumba

arr. Chris Lee

Hedwigs Theme

John Williams

Harrys Wonderous World

arr. Victor Lopez

Selections from Harry Potter and the Sorcerers Stone

**The Wheeler School Guitar Ensemble, Jared Maynard - director**

Grace Evans, Omri Galor, Taylor Lee, Will Lupica, Jacob Mukand,

El Choclo

Angel Villoldo

arr. Chris Lee

Rhumba ( after BWV 846)

Chris Lee

**The Wheeler School Guitar Performance, Jared Maynard - director**

Chris Gemma, Lauren Hyman, Arden Morris

\* \* \* \*

*(program continued on next page)*

# ENSEMBLES CONCERT

---

They are coming Joseph V. Williams II  
2 minutes

Dancas Populares Brasileiras Celso Machado  
Fredo (isquenta ô pé)  
Catira (bati sola)  
Cantiga (...de ninar)  
Ciranda (rodo, roda)  
Ponteio (agalopado)

**Rhode Island University Guitar Ensemble, John Dennewitz - director**

Thomas Alger, Connor Ragas, Bruce Hagist, Raffi Donoian,  
Jared Maynard

\* \* \* \*

And then Voices (2011) Ron Pearl  
Beatles Rhapsody (Fantasy on Beatles themes) José Angel Perez Puentes  
Concertino for 2 guitars and guitar orchestra Jan Bartlema  
Allegretto con brio

**Keene State College Guitar Orchestra**

**Dr. José Manuel Lezcano - director**

Soloists: Paul Mazzolla, mandolin; Harold Jones, Kyle Phaneuf,  
Guitars: Jack Anderson, Jordan Chase, Thomas Fox,  
Harold Jones, Andrew Johnston, Steven Lenhard,  
Paul Mazzolla, Matthew McCue, David Pastore, Kyle Phaneuf

\* \* \* \*

Nocturne Frank Wallace  
Neponsett Valley Suite, Mvts 1 & 2 (River Bottom, Currents) Owen Hartford

**Providence Mandolin Orchestra**

**Mark M. Davis - conductor**

1st Mandolin: Joshua Bell (concertmaster), Yvette Cote,  
Duane Golumb, Chang Lee  
2nd Mandolin: Christine Chito, Owen Hartford  
Mandola: Mark Chuoke, Mack Johnston, Robert Margo,  
Gayle Raposa  
Mandocello: Dan Moore, Matt Snyder  
Classical Guitar: Mark Armstrong, Beverly Davis, ,  
Sylvie Harris, Michael Hession  
Bass: Hiatt Knapp

# FESTIVAL 21 ORCHESTRA

## PERFORMANCE, 7:45 PM

---

Four Movements for Guitar Orchestra

Anthony Paul De Ritis  
(b. 1962)

**Performed by Festival 21 Orchestra, conductor Scott Borg**

Composer Anthony Paul De Ritis, born on Long Island, New York, is currently Professor and Chair of the Music Department at Northeastern University in Boston.

De Ritis' music has been described as having "absorbing play of texture, exciting use of color" (San Francisco Chronicle); "...intriguingly beautiful... cutting-edge" (Tech TV); "...brash, rhythmic, propulsive and completely engaging" (Contra Costa Times) and sounding "like a rich tapestry in the spirit of Charles Ives" (The Boston Globe). He has received performances nationally and internationally, including at the Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center, Harvard's Sanders Theatre as part of the Bank of America Celebrity Series, Taipei's Zhong Shan Hall, and UNESCO headquarters in Paris, where his *Melody for Peace* was premiered by the Prague Philharmonic.

De Ritis' *Devolution*, a Concerto for DJ and Symphony Orchestra, features Paul D. Miller aka DJ Spooky That Subliminal Kid as the soloist. Performances include the Oakland East Bay, New Haven, and Alabama Symphonies, and the Boston Modern Orchestra Project. His compositions for the pipa, a Chinese traditional instrument, includes commissions from pipa virtuosos Min Xiao-Fen and Wu Man. Reviews of his compositions and performances have appeared in national and international publications, including the New York Times, Village Voice, Los Angeles Times, San Francisco Chronicle, San Jose Mercury News, Boston Globe, New Haven Register, Symphony magazine, Classical Guitar (England), La Nouvelle République (France) and Le Nazione (Italy).

De Ritis completed his Ph.D. in Music Composition at the University of California, Berkeley, where he studied with Richard Felciano and Jorge Liderman, and worked with David Wessel at Berkeley's Center for New Music and Audio Technologies (CNMAT) (1992-1997). He received his M.M. in Electronic Music Composition from Ohio University under Mark Phillips (1990-1992) and his B.A. in Music with a concentration in Business Administration from Bucknell University, studying composition under William Duckworth, Jackson Hill and Kyle Gann, and philosophy with Richard Fleming (1986-1990). De Ritis engaged in summer study at the American Conservatory in Fontainebleau, France under Phillipe Manoury, Tristan Murail, and Gilbert Amy (1991, 1992), the University of Southern California (1990) and New York University (1989). De Ritis also holds a certificate in Internet Technologies and a Masters in Business Administration with an emphasis in high-tech. In 2006 De Ritis was named the Alumnus of the Year for the College of Fine Arts at Ohio University.

Since 2007, De Ritis has participated in a number of activities related to Music and Cultural Diplomacy; established the Boston GuitarFest collaboration between the New England Conservatory and Northeastern University (which also premiered his work *Jeu de Paume* for pipa and guitar featuring Wu Man and Eliot Fisk); received a 3-year one-million dollar grant for the Fusion Arts Exchange program in music composition and performance from the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, and led Northeastern's Creative Industries initiative, which exists at the intersection of digital media, information technology and business entrepreneurship.

## DAVID LEISNER

---

David Leisner is an extraordinarily versatile musician with a multi-faceted career as an electrifying performing artist, a distinguished composer, and a master teacher. “Among the finest guitarists of all time”, according to *American Record Guide*, Leisner is a featured recording artist for the Azica label, with 7 highly acclaimed solo recordings, including the most recent, *Favorites*, with Bach, Britten, Paganini and Ivanov-Kramskoi. Other recordings are on the Naxos, Telarc and Koch labels, with a concert DVD published by Mel Bay. David Leisner's recent seasons have taken him around the US, a major tour of Australia and New Zealand, and debuts and reappearances in Japan, the Philippines, Germany, Hungary, Switzerland, Austria, Denmark, Sweden, Ireland, the U.K., Italy, Czech Republic, Greece, Puerto Rico, Canada and Mexico. An innovative three-concert series at Weill Recital Hall in Carnegie Hall included the first all-Bach guitar recital in New York’s history, and he is currently Artistic Director of Guitar Plus, a New York series devoted to chamber music with the guitar. Celebrated for expanding the guitar repertoire, David Leisner has premiered and commissioned works by many important composers, including David Del Tredici, Virgil Thomson, Ned Rorem, Philip Glass, Richard Rodney Bennett, Peter Sculthorpe and Osvaldo Golijov, while championing the works of neglected 19<sup>th</sup>-century composers J.K. Mertz and Wenzeslaus Matiegka. He has performed at the Santa Fe, Rockport, Vail Valley, Bargemusic, Bay Chamber, Cape Cod and Islands and Angel Fire chamber music festivals. Mr. Leisner is also a highly respected composer noted for the emotional and dramatic power of his music. *Fanfare* magazine described it as “rich in invention and melody, emotionally direct, and beautiful”. His music has been performed worldwide by such eminent artists as Sanford Sylvan, Wolfgang Holzmair, Thomas Meglioranza, Patrick Mason, William Ferguson, Paul Sperry, Juliana Gondek, Susan Narucki, D’Anna Fortunato, Eugenia Zukerman, David Starobin, Benjamin Verdery, St. Lawrence Quartet, Enso Quartet, Los Angeles Guitar Quartet, Cavatina Duo, Arc Duo, as well as orchestras around the US. An extensive discography includes the much-praised Cedille CD, *Acrobats*, performed by the Cavatina Duo, and his compositions are published mostly by Theodore Presser Co. Recent works and commissions include *Das Wunderbare Wesen* for baritone Wolfgang Holzmair and solo cello, *A Timeless Procession* for Holzmair and string quartet, *Vision of Orpheus* for the St. Lawrence Quartet and Leisner, *Embrace of Peace* for the Fairfield Orchestra, and *Battlefield Requiem* for cellist Laurence Lesser and the New England Conservatory Percussion Ensemble. A distinguished teacher as well, Leisner is currently co-chairman of the guitar department at the Manhattan School of Music.

[www.davidleisner.com](http://www.davidleisner.com)



# DAVID LEISNER, GUITAR

## AN EVENING OF NEW AND RECENT MUSIC

---

Mariluna (2012)\* (Boston Premiere) Carlos Carrillo  
reflejo de la luna sobre la superficie de (b. 1968)  
el agua y la mar se refleja en la luna

Labyrinths (2007) (Boston Premiere) David Leisner  
Shimmer (b. 1953)  
Shado  
Shiver  
Shatter  
Shelter

Nocturnal, op. 70 (1963) Benjamin Britten  
Musingly (1913-1976)  
Very agitated  
Restless  
Uneasy  
March-like  
Dreamin  
Gently rocking  
Passacaglia  
Slow and quiet (Theme)

### Intermission

Facts of Life (2009)\* (Boston Premiere) David Del Tredici  
First Things First (b. 1937)  
Fugue, my Fetish  
Farewell, R.W.  
Flamenco Forever

\*Commissioned by and dedicated to David Leisner

### Facts of Life program notes

Generally recognized as the father of the Neo-Romantic movement in music, David Del Tredici has received numerous awards (including the Pulitzer Prize) and has been commissioned and performed by nearly every major American and European orchestral ensemble. "Del Tredici," said Aaron Copland, "is that rare find among composers — a creator with a truly original gift. I know of no other composer of his generation who composes music of greater freshness and daring, or with more personality." Please visit his website, [www.daviddeltredici.com](http://www.daviddeltredici.com), for more biographical information.

David Del Tredici writes: "Though I have used the electric guitar in a recent song cycle (*A Field Manual*, 2008) and guitar-like instruments -- the mandolin and banjo -- in many of my *Alice* works, the thought of writing a solo guitar piece for such an accomplished artist as David Leisner, filled me with trepidation. As it turned out, however, this was the happiest 'co-creative' experience of my composing career. David has a knack for turning my crude 'base' elements into pure guitar 'gold'.

Movement I, *First Things First*, is an adaptation of a recent piece for piano, left hand alone. With little change, it fits quite naturally into the guitar range and technique. The phrase 'first thing first' is familiar to many, but is of special significance to people in 'recovery' (from various addictions)-- one of which is myself. Recovery is a fact of my own life.

The movement has a discursive quality, ranges through many keys and includes an elaborate recapitulation not unlike the first movement of a Sonata-Allegro form. The principal material is an oscillating triplet figure that, in the middle section, takes on a Spanish flavor and, at the end, a *cantabile* expressivity.

Following without pause is Movement II, *Fugue, My Fetish*. Another fact of my life is that I love to write fugues. This became an increased challenge with the guitar-- an instrument not naturally given to counterpoint. On the other hand, there are the amazing Bach fugues for lute and solo violin that inspired me.

After an introduction, a rising scale line, capped by a triplet figure, is the theme of a fast-moving, extensively developed fugue in three voices. It acts as a kind of scherzo movement.

Movement III, *Farewell, R.W.*, is the slow movement and 'soul' of the work. Tranquil, even ecstatic, it was inspired one afternoon by feelings surrounding my most recent relationship breakup (from my fifth husband)-- a sad fact of my life.

And, for the finale, there is *Fandango Forever*-- the most elaborate and lengthy of the movements. It was conceived as an act of pure perversity: early on, I was searching for musical ideas and asked David Leisner about what style guitar music he would *least* like me to compose. Without hesitation he answered vehemently, "Spanish--it is so hackneyed!" I liked his intensity, took his words as a challenge, and responded, laughing, 'Then *that's* what the finale will be!' And so it was.

My intention was to write completely idiomatic and highly virtuosic flamenco music -- fast moving multi-string chords, seductive harmonies, triplet rhythms -- even some indigenous percussive effects. I wanted this movement to seem inconceivable on any other instrument-- except of course for the contrasting middle section, which is another of my knuckle-busting fugues. Irrepressible, the clangorous flamenco music returns and yields to an even more brilliantly virtuosic coda, capped finally by an outburst -- from the guitarist himself!

The work is dedicated to David Leisner, 'my dear friend and peerless performer.'"

*Facts of Life* was commissioned by David Leisner, John Jr. and James D'Addario, Ralph Jackson, ASCAP (Francis Richard), Eleanor Eisenmenger, Carol Haber, Jonathan Sheffer, Elissa Ely and Jay Sandvos, Gregory Brown and Linton Stables, Vivian Perlis, Jane Polin, Laura Kaminsky, Joseph Caldwell, David Segarnick, Jeffrey Wilt and Rainer Gross.

We wish to thank the following  
for their generous support of the  
Boston Classical Guitar Society:

**BENEFACTOR (\$1000 and up)**

Augustine Foundation  
D'Addario Music Foundation  
Robert Margo

**PATRON (\$500 and up)**

New England Foundation  
for the Arts  
Sheridan Kassirer  
La Bella Strings

**SPONSOR (\$150 and up)**

Alain Callewaert  
Arthur Golden  
Don Hague  
Michael Hurley  
Arthur Ness  
Karen and Jon Parsons  
Thuy Wagner

**CONTRIBUTOR (\$75 and up)**

Daniel Acsadi  
Oscar Azaret  
Carl Belack  
Leo Carroll  
David Clive  
Steve Donhowe  
Larry Fine  
Eliot Fisk and Zaira Meneses  
Jonathan Francis  
Jerald Harscher  
Melvin Herbert  
Chris Murray  
Donna Ricci  
Will Riley  
Robert Squires  
Joan Stern  
Ben Torrey  
George Ward



*Classical &  
Jazz Guitar Lessons*

Gerry Johnston

New England  
Conservatory  
Graduate

Haverhill, MA  
[www.gjguitar.com](http://www.gjguitar.com)  
(978) 372-2250



P.O. Box 470665. BROOKLINE, MA, 02447 [WWW.BOSTONGUITAR.ORG](http://WWW.BOSTONGUITAR.ORG)