



Dear AGS Members,

Our AGS April meeting was a very fine and most enjoyable evening. The program was full, with a roster of excellent performers including Miguel Mireles, Darien Mann, Diego Dal Mas, Howard Lutwak and Andrew Hull. Lovely guitar music, a delightful reception, and with our own brand of camaraderie!

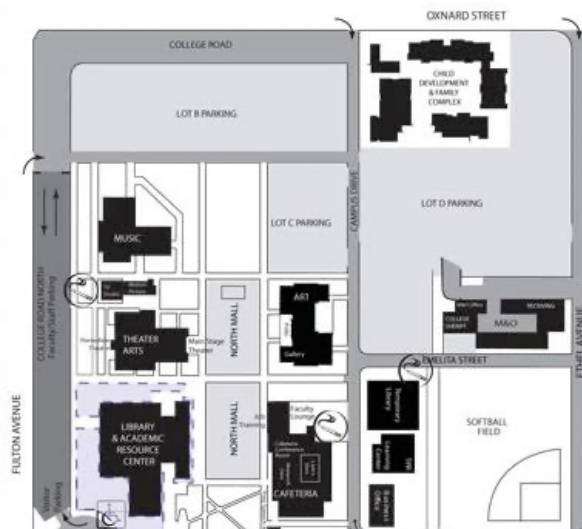
Our next meeting will be May 4th, this coming Saturday. Following the performance program, we will present the annual Richard Denner Memorial Scholarships, and will present the first annual Paul and Diane Newton Memorial Scholarship. Some of our award recipients will be performing. Please do mark you calendar and please join us.

Here are the details:

Saturday, May 4, 2024, 7:30pm
Music Department, Room 104
Los Angeles Valley College

The Music Building at Los Angeles Valley College, Valley Glen, is located in the northwest corner of the campus, at the corner of Fulton Avenue and Oxnard Street. Ample parking is available in Lot B, to the north of the Music Building. Please do not park in Lot C or the Faculty/Staff lot. One may enter Lot B from either Fulton Avenue, just south of Oxnard Street, or from Oxnard Street by turning into Campus Drive. Parking is free during the concert.

Note, the Orange Line Busway (which connects to the Red Metro Line) has an exit for Valley College at Burbank Blvd. and Fulton Ave., then walk (about 10 minutes) north on Fulton Ave. to the Music Building.



There is still room on the program, so if you wish to perform, submit in the next few days! All you need to do is visit the AGS website, click on Meetings, scroll down a little, then follow the simple guidelines. It's quick and easy. Here is the direct link:

<https://www.americanguitarsociety.org/monthly-meetings>

PLEASE DO ATTEND! WE WILL LOVE TO SEE AND HEAR YOU! SEE YOU ON MAY 4TH!

- Gregory Newton, AGS President

It may be the end of April but our annual AGS membership drive continues! Now is the perfect time to go to www.americanguitarsociety.org and press the JOIN button or tab. If you are paying by credit card, scroll down and select STUDENT \$20, SENIOR \$20, INDIVIDUAL \$25, or FAMILY \$35. A PayPal dialogue will open up to pay by credit card. You can also pay by check by going to the very bottom and printing the form. Your membership funding is crucially important to help the AGS continue its mission. You may also make donations to AGS. And if you go to our AGS LIBRARY, you can make a donation and download and/or print out a copy of any Vahdah Olcott Bickford classical guitar music edition of interest to you. Many to choose from - all are professional quality scores, crafted with love and attention to detail by VOB. PLEASE JOIN OR RENEW AGS TODAY!!!

- Mark Achuff, AGS Community Liaison

Many thanks to all who have renewed this year. If you haven't yet, no judgment! Please do visit the website and renew, or join, for which we will be most grateful. Don't forget! :)

- Gregory Newton, AGS President

AGS Bickford Competition

The American Guitar Society is pleased to announce that our 2024 AGS Bickford Guitar Competition event for young guitarists is now scheduled to take place on Saturday evening, November 2, 2024 at Los Angeles Valley College, starting at 7:30 PM. AGS honors young guitarists in this competition in order to focus upon the future of the classical guitar.

AGS will again offer two separate divisions within our competition based upon age. Division 1 is a competition for guitarists from the age of 8 to 13. Division 2 includes guitarists from 14 to 17 years of age. We are pleased to maintain the generous amount of prize money for winners in the Division 1 and 2 categories, along with awards for the runners-up in each Division. Each Division is limited to 8 (eight) competitors. Enrollment applications will be accepted beginning September 1st, 2024. In past years all slots were filled, so please apply early.

Please note: For each participating guitar teacher's studio, a maximum of 4 applicants per Division may be accepted as contestants (4 applicants in Division 1, and 4 applicants in Division 2). The AGS reserves the right to close the application process at any time. The AGS reserves the right to change or modify the rules of the competition at any time, without notice.

Please use this announcement as an invitation to alert your junior classical guitar students of an excellent opportunity to develop skills and reap the rewards of participating in a friendly competition. The application form for the 2024 AGS Bickford Guitar Competition with full instructions can be found on our website at: <https://www.americanguitarsociety.org/ags-bickford-competition>

Enrollment applications will be accepted beginning September 1st, 2024.

We look forward to a large participation of junior classical guitarists in this year's 2024 AGS Bickford Guitar Competition which will be held on Saturday evening, November 2, 2024 at Los Angeles Valley College, starting at 7:30 PM. Thank you for your kind support to AGS, and for all the guitarists it benefits.

- Jordan Charnofsky, AGS Vice-President



From Eddie Healy came the bracing news that the distinguished performer, pedagogue and scholar Dr. Enric Madriguera (1950-2024) passed away unexpectedly on April 14. On a personal note, I first met Ric and his wife Sabine at the Rust Guitar Festival, Austria, in 2001, where we were all taking part. We always managed to keep in touch after that. Ric was a brilliant artist, who mentored countless students over a long and successful career. One of the nicest guys on the planet, he was an individual who could, and would, genuinely uplift you - whether in person, on the phone or by email. Rest well, dear friend. Eddie's homage to Ric is below.

-Gregory Newton, AGS President

Hello Everyone,

I'm sad to report that Dr. Enric Madriguera, one of the most pivotal figures in the classical guitar community in Texas in general, and Dallas/Fort Worth specifically, has passed away. I began my guitar studies with him at Eastfield College in 1995 (a program he had chaired starting in 1976). He helped me get my start as an aspiring professional guitarist and musician and many of the things I learned from him in those early stages remain firmly fixed in my mind today. Please read on to learn a bit more about him:

Dr. Enric Madriguera was the Russell Cleveland Endowed Professor of Guitar Studies at the University of Texas at Dallas. Madriguera performed as a solo guitarist locally and internationally. In 2001, he toured Vietnam performing and teaching in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh Conservatories of Music. In 2002, he was invited to the International Festival at Charles Darwin University, Australia. Most recently, he performed at The Rust Festival in Burgenland, Austria, the ChamberArt Festival in Madrid, and the Ramon

Noble Festival in Pachuca, Hidalgo State, Mexico. Enric Madriguera received a Fulbright grant to perform and teach in Mexico for a period of one semester during the 2009-2010 academic cycle.

Having formed a guitar duo in 1996, Madriguera and his late wife, Sabine Madriguera, performed in festivals in the Americas and Europe including prestigious halls such as the Sala Manuel M. Ponce at the Palace of Fine Arts in Mexico City and the concert hall of the Villa de Madrid for the Guitar Society of Spain. They performed with the Plano and Mesquite Symphony Orchestras in Texas. In Mexico, the duo was featured with the Guanajuato Symphony Orchestra. Duo Madriguera's CD, Music of Europe, Asia, and the Americas, is on the Encore Label.

Enric performed and recorded with the New Music Ensemble Voices of Change: Voces Americanas, A Tribute to Eduardo Mata; Frida -- Concert Suite, by Robert Xavier Rodriguez, on the CRI label; Voz y Guitarra with soprano Kathryn Evans featuring songs by composers John W. Duarte and Ernesto Cordero; Guitars of the Americas, with Felix Casaverde of Peru, on the Documentary Arts Label; and Old World/New World. His final album, Remembranzas de Mi Guitarra, was released in 2015 and features a number of compositions by his one time teacher, Andrés Segovia.

Enric was a co-founder and artistic director for the Texas Guitar Competition and Festival, and the Guitar Series at UT Dallas. The Texas Competition attracts an elite level of competitors from around the world. He directed the festival for 22 years, enabling those competitors from all over the world to be exposed to some of the greatest living concert guitarists including David Russell, the Los Angeles Guitar Quartet, and many more.

As opportunities to pay tribute to him emerge I will pass that information along. In the meantime, I'm sure you'll join me in wishing Ric's family, friends, and current and former students the best during this very difficult time.

AGS member Michael Gullo recently recorded another set of videos for Guitar Salon International, performing works by Agustín Barrios Mangoré, Andrew York, Jonathan Roth and Stanley Myers:

<https://www.guitarsalon.com/blog/michael-gullo-records-at-gsi>

That's not all. Elite Guitarist published a six-part interview with Christopher Parkening. Tavi Jinariu, the founder of Elite Guitarist who performed on our series this past Spring, conducts the interview. In six parts, you can watch all of it for free:

https://www.eliteguitaristclassical.com/programs/parkening?cid=3633421&permalink=01_christopherparkening_interview_partone_03-c2e009

From Decca:

Decca Classics proudly presents the highly anticipated release of the complete Mercury recordings from the iconic 'Royal Family of the Guitar'-LOS ROMEROS-available now to order.

This limited-edition box set showcases the family's groundbreaking journey, from their inaugural quartet recordings on Mercury Living Presence to their influential performances of Flamenco and Baroque masterpieces. Newly remastered in high-definition 192-24 digital clarity, the set also includes the first-ever HD remaster of Celedonio, Celin, and Pepe Romero's 1960 Contemporary Records albums.

Delve into the Romeros' musical evolution, spanning Flamenco artistry, Baroque elegance, and collaborations with the San Antonio Symphony. Accompanied by liner notes from Romeros biographer Walter Aaron Clark and a sessionography by producer Thomas Fine, this deluxe collection honors six decades of timeless virtuosity, earning Los Romeros the Recording Academy President's Merit Award in 2007.

Don't miss this extraordinary musical journey captured in a lavishly illustrated box set.

<https://losromeros.lnk.to/MercuryMasters>

From the USC Thornton School of Music:

Upcoming Classical Guitar Student Recitals

Saturday, April 27

8:00pm

Ashley Lucero Flamenco Recital

Guitar Salon International, Santa Monica

Saturday, May 4

3:30pm

David Hernandez BM Junior Recital

(Bach, Ponce)

Newman Recital Hall

Saturday, May 4

4:30pm

Doris Cosiç MM Recital

(Bach, Domeniconi, Hernandez)

Newman Recital Hall

We hope you can join us! Thank you for your interest and support.

Best,
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USC Thornton School of Music
jiepark@usc.edu
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From Música en Compostela, Spain:

I am sending information about the LXVI Edición de Música en Compostela from July 28th to August 10th, 2024, that will be held at the Conservatorio Profesional de Música de Santiago and the Hostal de los Reyes Católicos. The course was founded by Maestro Andrés Segovia in 1958, 66 years promoting Spanish music.

<https://www.musicaencompostela.es/en/information>

The 2024 coordinator at the conservatory is José Manuel Dapena, and we will have a masterclass and competition by professor José María Gallardo Del Rey.

<https://www.musicaencompostela.es/en/lessons-and-teachers>

Sincerely,
Marcos Taboada
Secretaría de Música en Compostela
secretaria@musicaencompostela.es
<https://www.musicaencompostela.es>



On a historical note, I was accepted to, and attended, the Música en Compostela course in the summer of 1980. The professor at that time was Maestro José Tomas (1934-2001), and one of my classmates was José María Gallardo Del Rey. Now, José María is the professor! Some AGS members may recall that José María performed on the 1994-95 AGS series, and at the GFA Convention in 1995 held at California State University, Northridge.

In the attached collage which still hangs on my wall, the top left photo is from the closing ceremony; bottom left photo is the guitar class group picture. In the top right photo you will see José Tomas in the white jacket, second from the right, during the opening ceremony. In the bottom right photo, also from the opening ceremony, the student in front of me (blonde hair) is Canadian guitarist Stephen Rollins. We were the only native English speakers in the class, so we connected and instantly became pals for the three weeks. To the right of me is Pablo de la Cruz, from Madrid. To the right of him is Ignacio Rodes, from Alicante. Some AGS members may remember that Ignacio performed on the 1996-97 AGS series.

-Gregory Newton, AGS President

From Denis Azabagic:

2024 Chicago Guitar Festival and Competition

June 7-9, 2024

We invite guitarists and musicians of all ages, levels and backgrounds. Internationally celebrated artists will visit Chicago to judge the competition, lead ensembles, give masterclasses, clinics and lectures, and present concerts that are sure to impress.

Competition:

The competition is open to all guitarists across four age divisions:

Junior - 13 and under

Senior - 17 and under

Collegiate - 21 and under

Open- 22 and older

Compete for a total of \$5000 in cash prizes and special prizes for Senior, Collegiate and Open categories, guitars made by Saers.

Concerts:

Friday, June 7th, Kenny Reichert and Ana Everling

Saturday, June 8th, Bokyung Byun

Festival performance will be on June 9th followed by the competition award ceremony.

Everyone is welcome!

Join us to play, learn and have fun together.

Music will be available for download one month before the festival.

Master classes, Lectures and Clinics

Bokyung Byun

Denis Azabagic

<https://www.chicagoguitarfestival.com/>

From the Guitar Foundation of America:

Convention Registration

Registration for the 2024 Convention at Cal State University Fullerton, California, is now open! Join us for a week of performances, competitions, lectures, workshops, masterclasses, private lessons and vendor expo. Featured artists include Bandini & Chiacchiaretta Duo, Srdjan Bulat, Steve Cowan, András Csáki, Jérôme Ducharme, Paul Galbraith, Christ Habib, Kupinski Guitar Duo, Adam Levin, Patterson/Sutton Duo, Petra Polácková, Jacob Reuven, Gaëlle Solal, Marko Topchii and Louis Trépanier.

Save the dates, the Convention takes place from June 17-22, 2024, visit our website today!

Convention Guitar Orchestra

Don't miss the chance to be part of something extraordinary at the Guitar Foundation of America 2024 Convention! All registered participants are invited to join the Guitar Orchestra, where you'll collaborate with fellow guitarists and open for the Kupinski Guitar Duo on Saturday, June 22nd. Whether you're a seasoned musician or just starting out, this is your opportunity to showcase your talent and be part of a truly unforgettable performance. Space is limited, so be sure to indicate that you would like to be part of the Guitar Orchestra during the registration process to reserve your spot and make beautiful music together at the Convention!

The Bridge: GFA's Teen Academy

The Bridge is an unparalleled experience for guitarists aged 11-18, taking place during the annual GFA convention, in Fullerton, CA, offering a platform for young musicians to perform, learn, and socialize with peers and world-famous GFA artists.

- What can you expect?
- Daily studio class performances
- Exclusive technique workshops
- Special sessions for The Bridge students
- Afternoon and evening concerts by world-class artists
- Exciting excursions within the convention environment
- Play in The Bridge's guitar orchestra and open for the Bandini & Chiacchiaretta Duo on Friday, June 21.

Visit our website today to secure your spot for this unique experience!

Competition Registration Deadline

Competition reminder! The registration deadline for the 2024 Guitar Foundation of America competitions is rapidly approaching on May 1st. This is your chance to become part of GFA history. By participating, you not only have the opportunity to win cash prizes, a recording contract, and guitar products generously provided by our sponsors, but also to embark on a 50-city tour, culminating in a concert at the legendary Carnegie Hall!

Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to showcase your talent, connect with fellow musicians, and take your career to new heights.

Convention Housing

We are thrilled to announce that registration for your preferred housing option during the upcoming Guitar Foundation of America (GFA) convention is now open! Whether you

opt for the comfort of the Fullerton Marriott Hotel or the convenience of the California State University, Fullerton (CSUF) dormitories, the choice is yours.

All relevant details regarding accommodation options, including amenities and pricing, can be found on our website. Secure your spot today and ensure a seamless experience at the GFA convention. We look forward to welcoming you to an unforgettable convention. See you in Fullerton!

<https://www.guitarfoundation.org/>

Also from the Guitar Foundation of America:

Kathleen Mayes has just published a light suspense novel called Don't Blame the Guitarist.

It stars a female classical guitarist suffering the ups and downs of a working musician until she gets caught up in a world of scandals, blackmail and murder. GFA members will be pleased to see many aspects of a classical guitarist's gigging life highlighted throughout the book.

Don't Blame the Guitarist is for sale on Amazon in electronic form, paperback and hardcover.

Orange County Guitar Circle - Classical Guitar Events in Southern California:

<http://ocgc.org/pages/SoCalEvents.htm>

Guitar Foundation of America - Community Calendar:

https://www.guitarfoundation.org/events/event_list.asp?

We hope everyone had a Happy Easter and send our warm wishes for the close of Passover. We look forward to seeing you on May 4th!

Quote of the Month:

"I've always wanted to smash a guitar over someone's head. You just can't do that with a piano."

- Elton John