
Washington Guitar Society



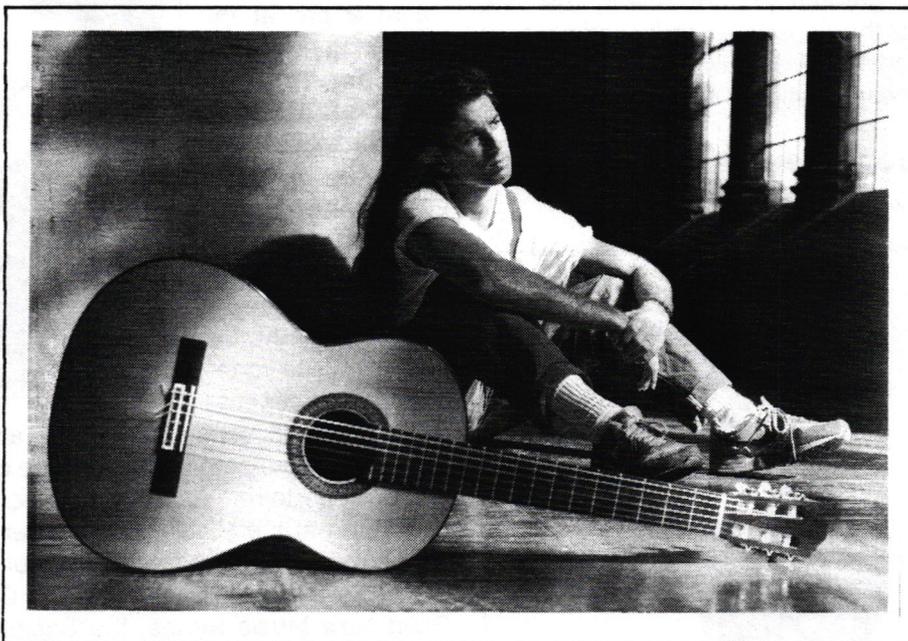
No. 28

Sept./Oct. 1996

Michael Nicolella To Kick Off WGS 1996-97 Series Thursday, Oct. 3

Classical guitarist Michael Nicolella poured out a few thousand of the most difficult notes in the repertoire. Easy as opening a valve. No Spills,

The Washington Guitar Series is now entering its third season of presenting concerts. The first season was presented in the Riggs Foundation Building in Washington, DC. The second season was presented in the Dorchester Tower. This year the series will take place at the Lyceum in Old Town Alexandria, VA. The first season was kicked off by New York guitarist Jay



Kauffman, the second by LA guitarist Scott Tennent and this year by Seattle guitarist Michael Nicolella!

no clicks, no buzzes, no muffles. No sweat. His articulation was so clear that each note and rhythm, phrase and breath between phrases had its distinct life and edge. He never compromised tempo to enhance articulation, and he didn't fuss over his fine detail. It was more like he allowed the

details to fall into place... incredible speed...objectively intense...acute, lucid, moment by moment awareness of what the music is.

-THE MILWAUKEE JOURNAL

exceptionally immaculate and articulate...soulful...sophisticated melodic sense and technical command.

-GUITAR PLAYER MAGAZINE

Michael Nicolella has performed throughout the U.S. and in Mexico, Italy and Canada as soloist, chamber musician and soloist with orchestra. Performances include Palazzo Chigi Saracini (Siena, Italy), Dame Myra Hess Series (Chicago, IL), American Landmarks Festival (NYC) the Internacional Festival de Guitarra (Jalapa, Mexico), Basilica di Santa Agata (Asciano, Italy) and the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival. Television and radio appearances include broadcasts on National Public Radio and WFMT-Chicago. In 1993 he released his debut CD featuring guitar works of Bach, Britten and Martin. Michael has been a prizewinner in several competitions, the most recent being first prize in the 1996 Northwest Guitar Competition. Events this past season included a performance of Berio's **Sequenza XI** at a concert celebrating the composer's 70th birthday at Meany Theater (Seattle, WA) and a lecture/performance of the **Sequenza** at the University of Victoria B.C., as well as recitals and master classes throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Michael is part of a growing trend in classical music to revitalize the role of the composer/performer. As a concert artist, he frequently programs his own works for guitar, in solo recital and chamber music settings. His concern in incorporating the guitar more into the mainstream of classical music, has especially led him to compose chamber music utilizing the guitar and perform frequently as a chamber musician with other instrumentalists, including guitarist Benjamin Verdery, cellist Ravenna Helson and the

Lawrence Chamber Players. As a composer, he was awarded a 1993 Fellowship from the Wisconsin Arts Board. In addition to his usual activities in classical music, Michael has also performed as a jazz musician. **Guitar Player** magazine has noted his "rare command of the jazz and classical idioms".

Michael received the Diploma di Merito from the Accademia Musicale Chigiana in Siena, Italy where he was a scholarship student of Oscar Ghiglia. He pursued undergraduate studies at Berklee College of Music, where he studied improvisation with Gary Burton and Billy Pierce. He received an MM degree from Yale University, where he was awarded the George Knight Hout Memorial Scholarship. There, he was a student of Benjamin Verdery and studied composition with Martin Bresnick, Jan Radzynski and Jonathon Berger. Upon graduation from Yale in 1991, he was appointed as head of the classical guitar departments at Lawrence University and the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music. In 1995 he left these positions relocating to Seattle.

WGS September Meeting Features Eric Swanson

The WGS is proud to present Eric Swanson in a recital on Saturday, September 14 at 2 pm at the Washington Conservatory of Music (see calendar of events for details). This will mark Eric's second performance for the Washington Guitar Society and we are glad to have him back.



Currently residing in Florida, he is considering a move. One of the locations that interests him is the Washington, DC metropolitan area. It would be great to show him an example of the kind of support he would get should he chose our guitar community.

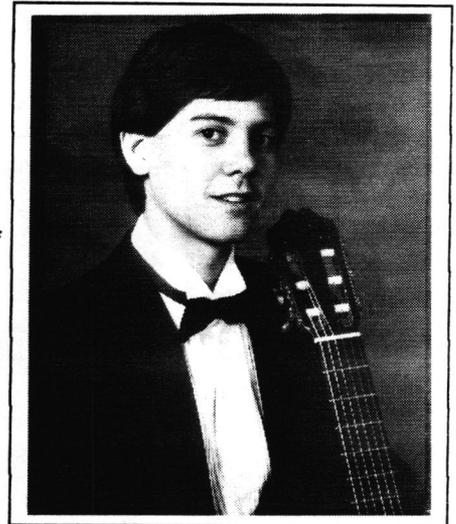
Eric Swanson began guitar studies at the age of 12. Two years later he was awarded a scholarship to study in Santiago de Compostela, Spain with Jose Tomas. He has worked with Elliot Fisk and Juan Mercadal while earning a Master of Arts degree from the University of Denver. Mr. Swanson was the recipient of the outstanding performers award at the University of Miami and served as the teaching assistant at the University of Denver. He has performed in master classes with Manuel Barrueco, David Tannenbaum

and Gilbert Biberian.

For his program, Eric has chosen to play works by Rodrigo, Barrios, Sor, Castelnuovo-Tedesco, Regondi and Bach. This should make for a wonderful listening experience. Especially in our new home at the Washington Conservatory of Music. If you haven't been there yet, make plans to attend now.

WGS October Meeting Features Christopher Teves

The WGS is proud to present Christopher Teves in a recital on Saturday, October 12 at 2 pm at the Washington Conservatory of Music (see calendar of events for details).



Christopher Teves has been praised for his "high artistic level of performance, refined technique, and exquisite tone". He is a distinctive performer who seeks to educate and delight audiences with imaginative programming of the classical guitar's richly unique repertoire. As an active recitalist, Mr. Teves has performed at the Cincinnati Summer Guitar Workshop, at the NOW New Music Festival (Columbus), live on WGUC Fine Arts Radio in Cincinnati, the Cincinnati Composers Guild New Music Series, the Society of Composers Inc. National Conference in Iowa City, the University of Rochester Student Musical Celebrity Series, the George Eastman House Musicales Series, and as the soloist in Joaquin Rodrigo's **Concierto de Aranjuez** with several Ohio Orchestras. Other musical activities have included tours with the Capital University Chapel Choir, a guest performance with Eastman's Capella Antiqua, and solo recitals in New York City, Washington, DC, Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Buffalo, Columbus, Madison, Parkersburgh (WV), Rochester (NY), Columbia (SC), Dayton (OH), and Winchester (VA). Mr. Teves has participated in numerous premieres of new music including two works specially composed for him by American composer Richard Jordan Smoot and Taiwanese composer Sally Chen. The premieres occurred at the New York Public Library Center for Performing Arts in Lincoln Center's Bruno Walter Auditorium.

Career honors include being Winner of the WGUC Fine Arts Radio Auditions, Finalist at the Music Teachers National Association Competition, and Semifinalist in both the Guitar

Foundation of America International Competition and the first Luigi Legnani International Guitar Competition (Italy). He is currently on the Approved Artist Rosters of the Virginia Commission on the Arts and the South Carolina Arts Commission.

In addition to performing, Mr. Teves has taught classical guitar to students of all ages in both collegiate and community settings. In this capacity he has served on the faculties of Capital University, Otterbein College, and the Eastman School of Music Community Education Division.

Christopher Teves began serious musical study during his senior year of high school at the Carnegie Mellon University Preparatory Department. Later, he went on to study at the University of South Carolina, and the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. At the Eastman School of Music, he was the recipient of a fellowship and teaching assistantship under the direction of Nicholas Goluses who described him as "a musician of exceptional talent and dedication." Other primary teachers have included Clare Callahan, Christopher Berg, and James Ferla. Mr. Teves has also studied in master classes with some of the world's most noted performers, including Pepe Romero, Oscar Ghiglia, and David Russell.

For his WGS program, Christopher will be performing works by Brouwer, Kramskoi, Smoot, Bobrowicz, Barrios, Villa-Lobos, Korchmar, Rodrigo and York.

A WGS Presidential Fundraiser featuring Michael Bard and Kevin Vigil Saturday, November 16

The Washington Guitar Society will be presenting the first of two fundraising recitals with Michael Bard (vice-president) and Kevin Vigil (president) on Saturday, November 16 at 2 pm at the Lyceum in Old Town Alexandria, VA. The second fundraiser will feature the Alexandria Guitar Quartet on May 10 (see calendar of events for details).

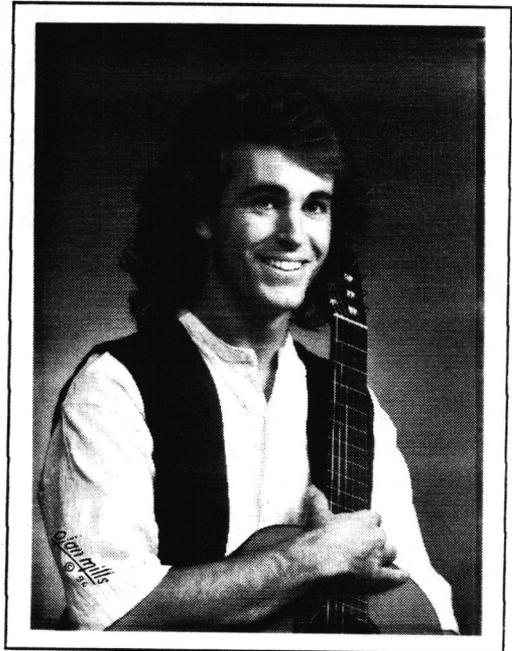
On the surface, this concert will be no different from any of our other concerts. There will be wonderful solo and duo guitar music featuring Michael and Kevin with refreshments afterward. What makes this a fund raiser is that the performers are donating the performance to the WGS. That means that after the expenses for presenting the concert are met, the remainder goes directly into the WGS bank account. The more people in attendance, the more the WGS will benefit.

As it stands now, the membership fee for the WGS basically covers the cost of publishing and mailing out the bi-monthly newsletter. Rental for the Lyceum, printing of the programs, artist fees, etc... for our series will have to be

paid by the money taken in at our concerts. This makes our series a self-supporting series. The two fund raiser performances will help to make a cushion in case one or more of the other performances does not break even. So show your support for the WGS and come on out to this fun and variety packed performance.

About the performers...

Michael Bard holds a Master degree from Arizona State where he studied with Frank Koonce and a Bachelors degree from Wright State University. He has also studied jazz guitar at Michigan Technological University.



Michael is a musician with a wide variety of activity, not only playing solo recitals but also a few radio appearances and playing in the orchestra for the musicals **Grease, A Chorus Line, They're Playing Our Song, Somethings Afoot, Seven Brides for Seven Brothers** and **Closer Than Ever**. In addition, he was the guitarist in the show **Summer Rhythms** at Paramount's Kings Island in Kings Island, OH from 1989-92.

In 1993, he was awarded a full scholarship to study at Accademia "Ottocento" near Lago Maggiore, Italy, a school which specializes in 19th century music. While there, he participated in a concert tour of Northern Italy and Switzerland, sponsored by the Academy.

Since moving to the area in the Fall of 1994, Michael has been very helpful to the Washington Guitar Society by serving as its Vice-President and by getting his better half, Debbie, to serve as our treasurer. He brought to the position his experience serving as Vice-President for the Dayton Classical Guitar Society from 1990-91.

As well as his commitment to the WGS, Michael has developed a definite place for himself as both a performer and instructor in the Washington metropolitan area.



"As a classical guitarist, Vigil may play the Boy Scout to his road-bashed, Alice Cooper look-alikes on the magazine page. But when it comes to the fretboard of his guitar, his fingers dance with the best..."

-CHRIS
LASONDE,
*The Potomac
News*



Since completing his formal studies in 1990, **Kevin Vigil** has become widely recognized as a performer, composer and teacher. His articles have been published in international guitar journals such as *Soundboard* and *The European Guitar Teachers Association Journal* as well as others. He has performed on television and radio as well as numerous recitals as a soloist and chamber musician.

Kevin holds a B.M. from the University of Memphis, where he studied under John Stover and a M.M from Yale University, where he was the student and teaching assistant of Benjamin Verdery. He also spent a Summer studying with guitarist/composer David Leisner at the Bodoin Music Festival.

Kevin is currently a very active guitarist in the Washington, DC area. He performs frequently as a soloist and chamber musician as well as being a member of **Duo Con Brio** with his better half, Barbara (flute/piccolo). He teaches on the faculties of the Washington Conservatory and Springfield Music Center and is president of the Washington Guitar Society.

Silly Songs for Six Strings **It's Wacky and It Works!**

As a teacher, I am always looking for better ways of instructing students at different levels of development. One of the most challenging stages is the beginning. Teaching beginners to read music on the guitar has been a mission of mine. I am now able to get many students to read through fifth position in one month's time. While I have developed a good teaching strategy for this task, I am always open to improving. While my method is concise and

free of confusion, I have been relying on the students' ability to read as the gratification. That's not bad, but the process could possibly be more **fun!**

Silly Songs for Six Strings is a new book by Howard Vance. In describing the book, a paragraph from Mr. Vance's preface says it best:

*People gain and retain knowledge effectively through humor. **Wacky lyrics** are crafted to relate to the notes being learned and are used throughout to introduce every song and each string. The teacher's job will be much easier with this spoon full of sugar to help the medicine go down.*

Some might think that this book is intended only for children, but I think it can be effective for adults as well. It really helps to keep us from taking ourselves too seriously.

This book is not intended to replace any method book, but is simply to be used as a supplement to any guitar method, book one. I find that it is also a good supplement for position studies as I make my students read the same songs in at least three different positions. Being that the melodies are very familiar, students let their ears guide them to the right notes and therefore are introduced to positions in a less fearful manner.

Another strength of the book is the fact that it presents the same melody in more than one key. This introduces the student to concepts of transposition.

To really appreciate this book, you have to see it. I have included some excerpts from it (with the author's permission) and encourage you to order it for the rest!

The book sells for \$10 (plus \$3 shipping/handling) and is available from:

TootPick Publishing

a division of Howard Vance Guitar Academy
978 Reddoch Cove
Memphis, TN 38119
(901) 767-6940
FAX: (901) 767-5124

-Kevin Vigil



Mom Says Wear Clean Underwear

G D7 G

Mom says wear clean un - der - wear. You might need doc - tor's care.
 Don't you hate to walk to school. When it rains, it's not cool.

G D7 G

No one ev - er wants to stare at dirt - y un - der - wear.
 I would ra - ther be a fool than walk five miles to school.

Duct Tape

C C7 F C Dm C G7 C

Duct tape can't quack, it just rolls. How its sil - ver lin - ing shows.

Em Dm C G7 Em Dm C G7

Duct tape's ug - ly but is king. It can fix most an - y - thing.

C C7 F C Dm C G7 C

Sim - ply grab your - self a roll. Tear some off and mend your soul.

Twinkle, Twinkle

G G7 C G Am G D7 G

Cer - tain peo - ple I won't name, play this song 'till I'm in pain.

Bm Am G D7 Bm Am G D7

Not con - tent to play it twice. Just a thou - sand would suf - fice.

G G7 C G Am G D7 G

Cer - tain teach - ers I won't name, hear it 'till they go in - sane.