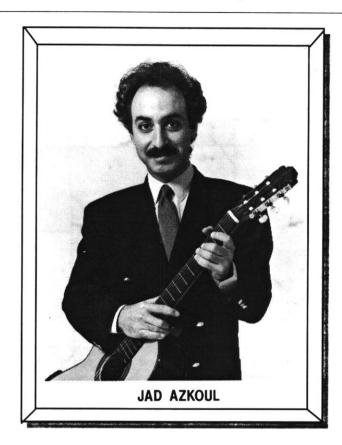
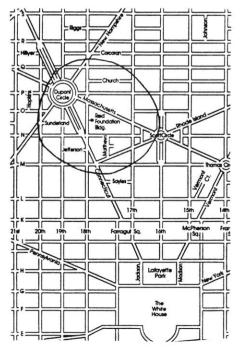
Washington Guitar Society

No. 18

Volume 3 Issue 2

November/December 1994





November Featured Performance

JAD AZKOUL

On Sunday, November 13, at 3 P.M., Jad Azkol will perform his classical guitar skills at the Reid Foundation Building, 1319 18th St NW, Washington, D.C. (see map below).

Mr. Azkoul is a highly accomplished guitarist and instructor, with international experience; his performance should be memorable. Please see the full biography on page 7. Jad will also be giving a workshop for the WGS on November 12; see the Calendar of Events for details.

Tickets: \$10 WGS Members \$13 Non-WGS Members

Send check to: Washington Guitar Society 2301 Jefferson Davis Hiway Suite 726 Arlington, VA 22202

Tickets are also available from:

The Guitar Shop
(202) 331-7333
1216 Connecticut Ave. NW
Washington, D.C.

In this month's WGS Newsletter Issue:.

Interesting Music Reviews...
Performance Announcements...
Article on Lute Tuning...
Savings on Music Books...
Sessions You Can Participate In...
Special Events and Entertainment...
And of course, Classifieds for that
special item you're looking for.

NAME THE NEWSLETTER CONTEST

The following names have been entered in our "Name the Newsletter Contest:

Free Strokes PLUCK!

Potowmack Pluck The Potomack Guitar Journal

String Notes PIMA

WGS Classic Notes WGS Classic Columns

Fretworks Classical Fretwork

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Please vote on your name of choice by sending your first, second and third choices to:

Kevin Vigil

Washington Guitar Society

P.O. Box 3120

Arlington, VA 22203

Votes are due by December 15.

SOME CHANGES ON MEETING DATES!!! PLEASE READ THIS!!!

In the scheduling of our monthly meetings with the Public Library System, there was some confusion. Please note the following meeting dates and mark them on your calendar. This list will be published in all following newsletters until the confusion is gone.

DATE/PLACE

Dec. 10, 1994 Chevy Chase Library

Jan. 21, 1995 Bethesda Library

Feb. 18, 1995 Bethesda Library

Mar. 11, 1995 Bethesda Library

Apr. 8, 1995 Bethesda Library

May 6, 1995 Bethesda Library

June 10, 1995 Bethesda Library

The Chevy Chase Library is located at: 8005 Connecticut Ave.

Chevy Chase, MD

The Bethesda Library is located at:

7400 Arlington Rd.

Bethesda, MD



Simple Gifts Philip Mathieu

PM78012*

constic guitarist Philip Mathieu and contemporary jazz producer Ken Navarro have combined forces to create a fresh new eclectic Christmas album in sync with the music of today. Philip's arrangements of traditional and contemporary holiday classics are exciting and sophisticated and Navarro's production is crisp and natural. This beautiful, all acoustic album features Phil on classical, steel string, and 12 string guitars with supporting performances by Ken Navarro on guitar and Dan Reynolds on acoustic piano.

· Also available on cassette.

P O S I T I V E music

REVIEWS

by Steven Seidenman

JOHN GIUNTA

For the October WGS meeting we were treated to an informative workshop on "Yoga for Musicians" by John Giunta, M.A. Among the points covered were limboring up before practicing (he had us do quite a bit of this), maintaining good posture while practicing, the benefits of meditation and related concepts.

Mr. Giunta gave testimony to how meditation helped him to focus during his preparation and performance for his degree recital. Given the pressures of practice and/or performance schedules, it is easy to lose sight of the artistic and spiritual motives which lead us to music in the first place. He portrayed meditation as a means of achieving equilibrium with ourselves and of discovering who we really are; a very important and worthwhile enterprise, to say the least (I've often thought of music, at its best, as a form of meditation). Finally Mr. Giunta left us with a useful visualization technique geared towards preparing for performances of any sort.

John Giunta is available for group and private workshops and may be reached at (703) 281-5498.

PHILIP MATHIEU - SIMPLE GIFTS

Philip Mathieu's debut CD, "Simple Gifts" (Positive Music PMD 7801-2), presents a judicious selection of Christmas favorites in tasteful arrangements for classical guitar and small jazz combo.

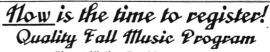
These very skillfully crafted arrangements are all by Mathieu himself, except for "In Dulci Jubilo," one of John Marlow's many arrangements for Guitar, Flute and Cello.

Mathieu's guitar playing is clean and polished, and the sound of his Ramirez guitar adds a glow of instrumental warmth to this timeless seasonal music. Above all, however, he instills a tastefully improvisatory slant to the music, admirably combining the spontaneity of a jazz ensemble with the clarity and control of the classical guitar. Such favorites as "Sleigh Ride," "Let it Snow," and "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" are re-cast in a fresh and convincing new light.

His one solo rendition, dedicated to the memory of his be-loved teacher John Marlow, provides adequate testimony to his sensitivity as an interpreter.

As Mattieu acknowledges in the liner notes, credit also goes to the musicians who contribute on the album: Ken Navarro-guitar and keyboards, Jon Nazdin-acoustic bass, Dan Reynolds-acoustic piano and keyboards, Tim Murphey-flute, and Barbara Brown-cello.

As far as I can tell, "Simple Gifts" is the answer for anyone seeking Christmas carols performed in a light jazz context highlighting the classical guitar.



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Some Thoughts On Lute Tuning by Don Sauter

Almost from the moment I started playing guitar I've been on the lookout for guitar duet partners. Duet playing is a lot of fun. You probably already know that, but, if not, don't take my word for it give it a try. Opportunities for duo playing have increased greatly with the formation of our guitar society.

One good source of guitar duet music is transcriptions of Renaissance lute duets, such as those in Frederick Noad's "Renaissance Guitar" book. These are generally lively note-y and not too hard, at least if you play them with the guitar tuned like a lute - that is, with the 3rd string tuned down a half step. But there's the problem - almost no one I've played with is willing to tune the 3rd string down. A few have grumbled and gone along with it reluctantly, but most become hysterical at the mere suggestion.

Not retuning almost always creates a few stumbling blocks in an otherwise easy piece. (Relatively speaking, that is. I would argue that no guitar piece is truely easy). I can see it coming a mile away - the cranky chord with the 4th string F# that would be child's play with an open string F#. Yep, there goes my partner, doing the usual crash and burn.

Come on, people! It's not that hard getting used to the lute tuning. All you have to think is "F# can now be played open, and add one fret to all 3rdstring notes." What was an open G is now at the first fret, the A is at the 3rd fret, etc. You won't be required to go too far up the 3rd string, but even if you have to, it's no big deal - just add one fret! Neatly written fingerings will keep you on track.

Frederick Noad was kind enough to let me reprint the "Round Battle Galliard" by John Dowland from Mr. Noad's "Renaissance Guitar" anthology (p.43). I've refingered it here for lute tuning. If you have the book (and all guitarists should), try it both

ways to see if Dowland's tuning doesn't work better. It ought to!

In his introductory remarks to the book (p.20), Mr. Noad says that he occasionally had to drop a note when transcribing to guitar tuning, but "inexperienced players have such a resistance[to tuning the 3rd string down a semitone that I have in general avoided the expedient." In my view, that's downright heart- breaking. (To restore dropped notes in the Round Battle Galliard, add an open string F# to measure 3/beat 1; measure 9/beat 1; and measure 20/beat 1. Add a 4th string D# to measure 7/beat 3 and measure 16/beat 3.)

This tuning applies to vihuela music as well as the Renaissance lute. After you've started to play this music in the tuning intended by the composer, you won't turn back. It solves many more problems than it creates, and it just "feels right" for these pieces. Playing your "lute" or "vihuela" is sure to transport you back about 400 years. The only problem is the future shock you may experience when the last notes fades away and you find yourself back again in the modern world. Bummer.





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M 1 block Clarendon - 2 mi. from Georgetown

The Round Battle Galliard

by John Dowland

Transcribed by Frederick Noad.

Published in "The Renaissance Guitar" by Ariel Publications.

Refingered for lute tuning by Don Sauter.

Printed here with the kind permission of Frederick Noad.

Note: "C" implies position only.



PERFORMANCE



SERGIO AND ODAIR ASSAD

The Assad brothers will be playing works by Lawes, Bach, Albeniz, S. Assad, Morel, Dyens and Ginastera on Saturday, November 12 at 8:00 p.m. at the Center for Adult Education at the University of Maryland (University Blvd. and Adelphi Rd., College Park).

Tickets are: \$19.00 full price; \$16.50 Seniors; \$16.50 Washington Guitar Society Members; and \$9.00 for full-time students with ID. For phone charge and information call: (301) 403-4240

GUITAR INSTRUCTION

Kevin Vigil

has openings available for new students in the following locations:

The Guitar Shop 1216 Connecticut Ave. Washington, D.C. Call (202) 331-7333

Performing Arts Ministries 405 Glenn Dr. Sterling, VA Call (703) 444-5289

Springfield Music Center 6125 C Backlick Rd. Springfield, VA Call (703) 451-1404



Ä

Start Spreading the News...

JAY KAUFFMAN Gets Ready For His New York Debut

by Kevin Vigil

The Washington Guitar Society presented its first ticket selling concert on Sunday, October 16. The concert featured classical guitarist Jay Kauffman, who will be giving his Carnegie debut in early December.

Jay's presentation for the WGS was a run through of his debut program which consisted of: Three Studies by Frederic Hand, Lute Suite, BWV 996 by J.S. Bach, Grand Overture by Mauro Giuliani, Night Shade Rounds by Bruce McCombie, Assertions/Reflections by Sebastian Currier, Song of the Vampire by David Bond and Two Waltzes by Augustine Barrios.

With tone that reaches for the very depth of one's soul, Jay took the audience on a tour of music that spans a wide range of emotion. Of particular interest was the Assertions/ Reflections by Sebastian Currier (winner of the Prix de Rome) and Song of the Vampire by David Bond. It is wonderful to hear such incredible new music written for the guitar by such gifted composers as these.

From witnessing this concert, it is apparent that Jay Kauffman will perform beautifully in his New York Debut.

The attendance was moderate, but promising for this first concert. About half of those in attendance were WGS members and the other half were there in response to advertisement. This "Start spreading the news..." is about our next concert featuring concert guitarist Jad Azkoul. Details are provided on the cover, page 7, and in the Calender of Events.

JAD AZKOUL

Classical Guitarist Jad Azkoul is a frequent performer at music festivals all over the world. He has played in England, France, Belgium, Italy, Switzerland, Poland, Russia, Hungary, the United States, Uruguay and Venezuela, as well as in countries of the Middle East.

Among the better known festivals are the "Festival Estival de Paris", the "Festival International de Musique de Chambre" in Menton, France, the "International Festival of Jerash", Jordan, and the International Guitar Festivals of Esztergom in Hungary, and of Krakow in Poland, as well as the D'Addario Series and the Guitar Foundation of America in the U.S.A. In addition to being a guest performer, he is often invited to teach as well as to adjudicate at international guitar competitions.

Several composers have written for him, notably Lourival Silvestre (Brazil), Bernard Schule (Switzerland), Abel Carlevaro (Uruguay) and Francis Schwartz (USA).

Among the awards he has obtained are the Lebanese government decoration "Order of the Cedar", the American "Affiliate Artists Award", and French and Uruguayan government music scholarships, as well as the inclusion of his biography in the prestigious "International Who's Who in Music" published in England.

His full-time classical music training started in Paris where for five years he worked under some of the most eminent teachers: Alexandre Lagoya, Oscar Caceres and Alberto Ponce for the guitar, and Nadia Boulanger and Pierre Petit for composition and orchestration. Then he went to Uruguay to study for three years under Abel Carlevaro, the creator of an innovative approach to the guitar.

As a professional classical musician, Jad Azkoul's background is varied: he obtained a Master of Arts degree in psychology from the Americal University in Beirut, Lebanon, has studied jazz at the Berklee

College of Music in Boston, and speaks four languages fluently.

He records for the French label Forlane. His CD "Latin Illustrations for Guitar" has received the praise of the public and of music critics alike.

He is presently on the music faculty of the American University in Washington, D.C., and is on an extended leave of absence from his tenured teaching position at the Conservatoire Populaire de Musique in Geneva, Switzerland.

Jad Azkoul was born in New York when his father represented Lebanon to the United Nations.

Jad Azkoul will be giving a free workshop for the Washington Guitar Society on Saturday, November 12 and a concert the following day. Please see cover and Calendar of Events for details.

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More Successful Open-Stage Hours...

A big thanks goes out to the members who made good music during the open-stage hour of the August, September and October meetings. This was particularly welcome at the last two meetings which featured workshops instead of performances. Smiley faces go to Bev Ross, Brian Kent, Don Sauter and Joe Bianco. They played a wide ranging batch of music in the form of solos, duets and trios. It can be seen that some "major" works are getting an airing here.

Brian and Don: Sonata in C by Heinrich Albert, Fandango by Mario Gangi, Divertimento for wind trio by W.A. Mozart. Bev, Brian and Don: Citharoedia Strigoniensis by Ferenc Farkas, Vortragsstuecke by Fred Walter, Samba Quica by Klaus Wuesthoff. Bev and Don: Prelude and Minuet by Guido SantorsolaBrian: Mood for a Day by Steve Howe (of YES) Don: La Marcial by Julio Sagreras Joe: Stairway to the Stars, Somewhere Over the Rainbow and other standards, Snowy Morning Blues by James P. Johnson, Prelude by Bach/Genesis and Two Studies by Leo Brouwer.

In the true spirit of this informal playing setting, a piece occassionally gets restarted or redone if things go a bit haywire. It's no big deal!

The spirit here is not, "I'm the performer up here, and you're the audience out there." It is more like, "Hey, I'll play for you if you'll play for me." In the words of folk guitarist Laura Weber, "You don't have to be a big deal in music - just dosomething on your own level."

Happy Thanks Giving and Holiday Season to Everyone







Happy New Year Too!!!

DECEMBER MEETING - OPEN STAGE

Saturday, December 10, 1994 1:00-4:00 Chevy Chase Library, 8005 Connecticut Ave.

Chevy Chase, MD

That's right! An entire meeting dedicated to the participation of all those interested in a major Jam Session. You do not need to reserve a spot to play, just bring your guitar and play for a very enthusiastic audience. If you don't feel the urge to perform, that's O.K., come anyway and join the fun!!!!!

REAL CHEAP THINGS YOU CAN DO... to make our guitar society a big success

to make our guitar society a big success

- 1. Show up at monthly programs.
- 2. Play for the open-stage hour.
- 3. Bring refreshments. (Thanks to Cathy Cutrell for taking this upon herself so far).
- Submit articles to the newsletter. Anything from "Something neat I've been doing lately" to "Sub-Atomic Decay in the Aging of Guitar Strings."
- 5. Submit music to the newsletter. Do you have any original compositions or arrangements you'd like to share?
- 6. Host a drop-in ensemble session.
- 7. Typing. Enter handwritten or typed newsletter contributions onto computer disk.
- 8. Take notes at meetings that feature a workshop. Put together a summary for the next issue of the newsletter.
- 9. Put WGS promotional materials in music stores.
- 10. Donate a guitar magazine subscription to the society library.
- 11. Librarian. Organize our newsletters and other publications received, and control the lending of whatever material the society accumulates.
- 12. Historian (perhaps same person as librarian.)
 Archive material related to society activities,
 and the D.C. area guitar scene as well. Collect
 concert programs, promotional materials,
 newspaper ads, etc...
- 13. Let our calendar of events editor know of any guitar related concerts taking place so that he may publish them in the newsletter.

The Washington Guitar Society Proudly Presents

A Holiday Concert Featuring

THE AVALON CHAMBER PLAYERS

Playing music from the Renaissance on: Lute, Recorders, Viola da Gamba, Cornetto and Singing

Composers on the program will include: King Henry VIII, John Dowland, Thomas Morley, William Byrd and many more.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11 AT 3p.m. at

The Reid Foundation Building 1319 18th St., NW Washington, DC

Tickets are \$10 for WGS members; \$13 for Non-members Tickets are available by mail by sending a check payable to: Washington Guitar Society 2301 Jefferson Davis Hwy. Suite 726 Arlington, VA 22202

Tickets also available at The Guitar Shop: 1216 Connecticut Ave., NW Washington, DC (202) 331-7333

GREGORY GARRETT- Hail from Joliet, IL where he studied trumpet and voice. Later studies took him to Meadowbrook School of Music, Oakland Conservatory, University of South Florida (all on full scholarship) and the Roosevelt Conservatory (under the Beverly Sills Scholarship for Operatic Studies).

Gregory toured the U.S. with the SPURRLOWS before singing on with the Chicago Lyric Opera, from which he was drafted into the U.S. Army where he continues as a member of the Army Chorus. Mr. Garrett also appears as a regular member of MUSICA ANTIQUA.

HEIDI GARRETT studied music at the University of South Florida where she met Gregory and encouraged him to take up recorder, having played recorder fromearly childhood in Germany. Heidi is a guest member of MUSICA ANTIQUA. LJ PENDLEBURY is a soloist with extensive theatre and concert experience. She first entered the realm of instrumental music when she was given a flute in 1984, followed shortly by the purchase of her first recorder. LJ is on the music staff of Calvery United Methodist Church (Crystal City, VA) as a vocal and flute soloist and is a former member of MUSICA ANTIQUA.

THE AVALON CHAMBER PLAYERS have performed extensively as an ensemble. Their performances have included appearances at:

The Maryland Renaissance Festival (since 1989) Mt. Vernon Ladies Association First Night (Leesburg) The Smithsonian The Folger Shakespeare Library The Lycium Strathmore Hall Carter Baron Ampitheatre.



Guitar Music - CHEAP!

The Mel Bay "Music for Classic Guitar" catalog for '94-'95 has arrived. Here's an opportunity to acquire a lot of good guitar music very inexpensively. If we put together an order of 25 items or more, we get a 30% discount. Even at full price, Mel Bay editions are an excellent value. This offer is extended to regular meeting-goers only. The catalog and order form will be displayed at the next meeting.

For more information, contact Don Sauter.

CLASSIFIED

Classified ads are free to WGS members. To place an ad, send it to: Brian Kent, 10416 Fawcett St., apt. 4, Kensington, Maryland, 20895, or call Brian at (301) 942-1663 (leave your classified ad. on the answering machine).

Classical guitar case by **Mark L. Leaf** (number 1053), black, fiberglass, burgundy velvet lining, barometer, shoulder strap. Price: \$300.00 Call Gail at (202) 338-0807.

Guitar by **Thomas Rein.** 645 mm. Honduras true Rosewood back and sides, Cedar top. Built in 1992 (#89). \$3,400. Call Sean Dodson, (703) 273-3876.

Guitar by **Thomas Rein.** 650 mm. Old Brazilian back and sides, Spruce top. Built in 1987 (#32). \$3,000. Call Sean Dodson, (703) 273-3876.

Guitar by **Richard Fletcher**. 627 mm. Rosewood sides and back. Spruce top. 10 years old. Just refinished. \$2,000. Call Alicia Kopfstein-Penk (301) 564-1467.

Classical Guitar by **Pedro Perez Valbuena** (trained by Ramirez). Made in Madrid 1990. Brazilian rosewood back and sides, Cedar top. 650 mm. Like new condition. \$2,900 with a ProTec case. Mention WGS and get an instant \$100 discount. Call Joe Bianco (301) 540-3536 or (301) 546-2514.

I would like to connect with another classical guitarist in my area (two blocks from the Clarendon Metro) to practice with, exchange ideas, etc.... Call Chris Rightmer, (703) 243-2331.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Every Wednesday and Thursday at 8 p.m.-Richard Miller (guitar) playing a mixture of Brazilian classical and popular music. Amazonia Grill, 4615 Wisconsin Ave., NW, Washington, DC, phone: (202) 537-0421.

October 28 (Friday evening), Phillip Mathieu with Charlie Byrd and Carlos Barbosa Lima, at the Maryland Inn, Annapolis, Maryland. Please call for reservations.

October 29 (Saturday), 8:00 p.m. - Ronn McFarlane - lutenist, at Walters Art Gallery, 600 North Charles St, Baltimore, Maryland. To Order tickets, call (410) 247-5320. Sponsored by the Baltimore Classical Guitar Society.

October 29 (Saturday), 6:45 - 7:45 p.m. - Alexandria Guitar Quartet, Sean Datsun, Tim Evans, Jeff Baker and John Graham, at the Kennedy Center, Grand Foyer Series. Free!!!

November 2 (Wednesday), 8:00 - 10:00 p.m., Phillip

Mathieu Group, at the Montgomery College Recital Hall, Rockville campus. This quartet (two guitars, bass and drums) will perform a selection of classical and jazz pieces. Admission free.

November 3 (Thursday) at 8 p.m. Le Salon Magique. Peter Trofimenko (classical balalaika) and Eugenia Tochenaya (guitar). At the Market Five Gallery, 7th St. and No. Carolina Ave., SE, Washington, DC. Tickets \$10 at door or in advance at Mission Traders or Market 5 Gallery. For info. call (202) 543-7392 or (301) 530-1749.

November 4 (Friday), 8:00 p.m., Teatro de Danza Espanola, at the G.W. Lisner Auditorium. The company of 30, including tow guitar players, is considered by some to be S[pain's pre-eminent flamenco dance company.

November 5 (Saturday), 7:00 p.m., Julian Grey (classical guitar) and Roberto Diaz (viola), at LeClerc Auditorium, the College of Notre Dame in Maryland, 4701 N. Charles Street in Baltimore.

November 6 (Sunday) at 7 p.m. **Christopher Parkening** (classical guitar). Kennedy Center Concert Hall. Tickets available atKennedy Center Box Office, Instant Charge (202) 467-4600.

November 12 (Saturday), 2:00 p.m., Jad Azkoul Workshop. Bethesda Public Library, 7400 Arlington Road, Bethesda, MD., near Bethesda Metro, free/open to the public. For more information, call Kevin Vigil, 703-516-9745. Note: Anyone interested in playing for Mr. Azkoul, please contact Keving Vigil (703) 516-9745.

November 12 (Saturday), 8:00 p.m. - Assad Duo, at the University of Maryland, Adult Education and Conference Center, University Blvd. and Adelphi Rd, College Park, Maryland. Tickets: \$19.00. Mention you are a WGS member and pay only \$16.50! Will be performing works by William Lawes, J.S. Bach, Albeniz, Surgio Assad, Jorge Morel and more!

November 13 (Sunday), 3:00 p.m. - Jad Azkoul, classical guitarist, at the Reid Foundation Building, 1319 18th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. Tickets: \$10.00 WGS members, \$13.00 non-members. Sponsored by the Washington Guitar Society.

November 19&20 (Saturday/Sunday), 2:00-6:00 PM, Guitar Masterclass with Jad Azkoul, Thoreau Middle School Lecture Hall, 2505 Cedar Lane, Vienna, VA \$10.00 at the door, \$5.00 Conservatory Students. Fairfax Conservatory 703-591-8663 December 2 (Friday), 8:30 - 9:00 p.m., Earl Klugh (classical jazz guitar) and Toots Thielemans (jazz

harmonica), at the Kennedy Center Concert Hall.

December 9 (Friday), 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., **Phillip Mathieu**, classical guitarist, at Borders Books, Rockville, Maryland. Open to the public - admission free.

December 10 (Saturday) 1:00- 4:00 PM Open Stage Chevy Chase Library 8005 Connecticut Ave., Chevy Chase, MD.

December 24 (Saturday), 1:00 - 4:00 p.m., **Phillip Mathieu**, classical guitarist, at Borders Books, Rockville, Maryland. Open to the public - admission free.

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Ed Kinney, Publisher 7101 Triad Way Springfield, VA 22151

Remember:

Check the expiration date located on the mailing label of this newsletter for your annual membership expiration in the Washington Guitar Society.

WGS is an important vehicle for the promotion of classical guitar activities and events for everyone who enoys the art as well as the music. Through your membership you enjoy savings, gain knowledge, meet others with similar interests, and support the profession.

So, RENEW NOW! Even those of you who are approaching your renewal date, go ahead and send in now and be sure to not miss an issue of the WGS newsletter.

Advertisement Rates:

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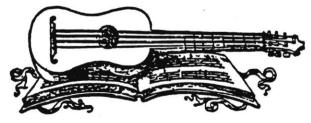
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Dear Guitarist: Non-local membership is \$8 per year. Bimonthly newsletters all have music.

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Interest in En	semble playing OTHER((S):		
What activities would you like	to see the society take on	?		
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Washington Guitar Society

c/o Kevin Vigil P.O. Box 3120 Arlington, VA 22203