

Washington Guitar Society



No. 27

July/August 1996

Fred Wilchek to Lead a Guitar Ensemble Session for WGS July 13 Meeting

Saturday, July 13 at 2 pm will be the very first time the Washington Guitar Society meets at the Washington Conservatory of Music. WGS member and WCM faculty member Fred Wilchek will get us started with a session of ensemble playing.

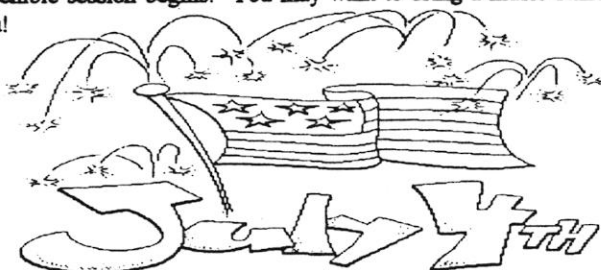
The WGS sponsored such an event in March of this year and it was so much fun, why not do it again? The music for this session will include: Two 17th and 18th Century Dances by Telemann, a Sonatine by Schubert, Bransle Double by M.P.C. and Volte II by M.P.C. All levels of players are welcome to participate, there is a part for everybody! If you would like the music in advance, call Fred Wilchek at (301) 445-7726.

Fred Wilchek studied music education and trumpet at Ohio State University and received his BM from American University in classical guitar performance. His teacher at American University was John Marlow. He continued his studies at the Peabody Conservatory, earning his MM in classical guitar performance with Aaron Shearer. He has also been in Master Classes with Jose Tomas and Michael Lorimer and studied jazz guitar with Larry Woolridge. Mr. Wilchek's teaching experience includes a position at the Silver Spring Nursery School as Music Consultant and Instructor. He was head of the guitar department at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond. In Maryland, he was instructor of classical guitar and director of jazz ensemble at Anne Arundel Community College; gave guitar instruction at the Community College of Baltimore; was instructor of guitar at Bowie State College; and gave private instruction at Wilchek Guitar Studio in Silver Spring. His performance career includes extensive ensemble work and accompaniment, encompassing a diverse range of music styles including pop, jazz and electric guitar. He currently plays classical guitar in the Windstring Duo with flutist Judy Moore and is on the faculty of the Washington Conservatory of Music.

Beginning this Fall, Mr. Wilchek will be directing two guitar ensemble classes at the WCM. One will be a classical guitar ensemble and the other will be jazz. Information on signing up for either of these will be available at the July 13th session.

See **A New Home for the WGS at the Washington Conservatory** for directions. (this Page)

NOTE: An Open-Stage Hour will take place from 1-2 pm before the ensemble session begins. You may want to bring a music stand with you!



Members' Recital for WGS August 10 Meeting

On Saturday, August 10 at 2 pm, the WGS will host a Members' Recital. This will be the perfect opportunity for you to perform for a very understanding audience. All levels are welcome to join in the fun from beginning students, adult hobbyists, college students to full-fledged professionals. If you are interested in playing duets, trios, quartets, etc... with anyone, please feel free to do so. You can find others to play with through the new WGS Membership Directory. Look for the letter "e" for ensemble and that will be a person that may want to play with you.

If you wish to perform for this event, no auditions are required. Simply pick up the phone and call Kevin Vigil (703) 644-1659 with the titles and composers of the pieces you plan to play. The program will not be printed until the morning of the performance, so that you can call at the last minute if you want.

This event will take place at the Washington Conservatory of Music. See **A New Home for the WGS at the Washington Conservatory** for directions. (this Page) **NOTE: There will be no Open-Stage Hour preceding this performance.**

A NEW HOME FOR THE WGS at the Washington Conservatory of Music

As of Saturday July 13, 1996, the Washington Guitar Society's monthly programs will be taking place at the Washington Conservatory of Music. These meetings will take place on the second Saturday of each month. Having one location and a set day will make remembering meetings very easy.

From American University: Go North on Massachusetts Avenue. You will come to the Westmoreland Circle after about 1-2 miles. Continue on Massachusetts Avenue for about 1/8 of a mile past the circle and the Briggs Memorial Church will be on your left. Enter the parking lot and drive around to the other side of the building. There is a sign above the entrance to the Washington Conservatory. *Enter only through this door* as the church doesn't appreciate people wandering around the rest of the building.

From the Beltway: Take the River Road Exit East (inside the Beltway). Continue on River Road for several miles until you come to Greensboro Rd where you will make a right turn. Soon after, you will come to Massachusetts Avenue where you can only turn left. Stay on Massachusetts Ave. for several miles. You will pass the Little Falls Public Library (where we used to meet) and shortly after the Washington Conservatory will be on your right. (If you start going around the Westmoreland Circle, you've gone too far). Enter the parking lot and drive around to the other side of the building. There is a sign above the entrance to the Washington Conservatory. *Enter only through this door* as the church doesn't appreciate people wandering around the rest of the building.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I was elected president of the Washington Guitar Society in March of 1994 for a term of two years. Since that time, the WGS officers have decided not to have elections every two years, but rather to hold positions for indefinite terms. As this is a volunteer organization, it is difficult to get people to run for office every two years and this system seems to be working well so far.

I have decided that I will officially step down from the office of president in September of 1997. We will elect a new president in June of 1997. This will give me three months to work with the president-elect to prepare him/her for the full responsibilities and duties of this office.

If you are interested in being president or know someone who would make a good president, start thinking about it now. The election will take place in one year.

I have thoroughly enjoyed being president of the Washington Guitar Society for the past two and a half years and I look forward to the year ahead. After I step down from office, I plan to stay involved with the WGS, but not as its president.

In the past two years we have incorporated in the state of Virginia, established a solid membership of 130+ members, taken the production of the newsletter to new levels, established a successful recital series, opened the door for performance opportunities, have continued our free monthly programs and have published our first membership directory.

During the next year, I would like to build our finances to the point that we have a cushion of at least \$1000. This would certainly keep the new president from sweating whether or not we could pay for the newsletter or our concert artists. We maintain an average of \$500 in our account year round. Before I step down, I want to make it between \$1200 and \$1500. This means fund-raising. I have a few ideas about how to go about this, so keep your eye on future newsletters and support your guitar society.

As organizations go, we currently have an extremely low membership dues of \$12 per year. This is just enough to cover our newsletter production. It gives us no cushion for paying artists. That is why we sell ads for the newsletter. Effective September 1, 1996, dues will increase to \$15 for individuals, \$20 for families and \$10 for non-local subscribers. This is still a very fair price for all that the WGS has to offer and it will aid in building our account toward financial security.

We will gladly accept donations, but remember that we are not a non-profit organization and you cannot deduct any donations from your taxes. Donations will be put to good use and will help to keep the WGS alive and well.

I believe that the WGS is important and would like it to continue to serve the needs of the guitar community in the greater Washington area. The people who serve as officers are all volunteers doing what they do for the love of it. Consider getting more involved as volunteers are people just like you.

-Kevin Vigil

Karl Wohlwend Gives Seminar/Concert

On May 24th, classical guitarist Karl Wohlwend visited Veneman Music in Rockville, MD and gave an informative lecture on the construction of the classical guitar. He compared several different guitars to one another demonstrating the playability and sound quality of each. It seemed that all who attended the seminar/concert could tell a difference - however great or subtle - between the guitars on which Karl played, from the expensive concert models to the lower end student models. Karl explained that many of today's guitar makers build their instruments with two goals in mind: 1) ease and/or comfort in playability and 2) a big rich sound. "Not everyone feels at home playing a .664 scale Ramirez 1A", he exclaimed! It was interesting to find out what all goes into the making of a good classical guitar from the wood used right down to the tuning pegs.

Karl proceeded to give a performance on his own personal guitar, a 1993 spruce Mikhail Roberts. This guitar had a warmth and depth of sound that many in the audience thought was superior to the other instruments which he played (including the Ramirez 1A!). He played works by Couperin, Scarlatti and J.S. Bach, followed by a set of Latin American pieces by Villa-Lobos, Brouwer and Lauro. His encore was *Requerdos de la Alhambra* by Tarrega, played at the request of an audience member.

Karl demonstrated his ability as a performer quite convincingly. His command of technique, beautiful tone and sensitive musicianship made for an enjoyable seminar/concert. A big thanks goes out to Steve Attix and Veneman Music for organizing this special event. Best of luck, Karl!

-Michael Bard

REGISTRATIONS ACCEPTED
July 17-20
FOR SPECIAL SUMMER MUSIC PROGRAM
 EXCELLENT GUITAR STAFF
 Some openings on Saturday

Violin, Piano, Clarinet, Alto Sax
 Free Consultation

SPRINGFIELD MUSIC CENTER
 (703) 451-1404
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 6125-C Backlick Rd.
 Springfield, VA

EFEL - The Most Recent Step in Footstool Replacements

When I began my studies of classical guitar in 1984, I was told to place my left foot on a footstool. While I understood the advantages of this sitting position, it bothered my lower back. This is common with people with shorter legs, as the angle created in the hip joint twists the lower back more than people with longer legs.

I stopped using the footstool in 1986 when I met someone by the name of Charles Stein who made a wooden block shaped to the contour of his thigh and the curve of the guitar. He used velcro to attach the "*Stein Block*" to his instrument. With his permission, I traced the outline of his block and made one for myself. I loved the comfort it gave me. I was able to put both feet on the floor and practice for hours free of lower back pain.

In 1988, I began my studies at Yale University with Benjamin Verdery who saw my *Stein Block* and introduced me to the *Guitar Adjuster*. This gadget cost about \$65 and did what my *Stein Block* did except it was adjustable. There were two models of this device. One was attached by a clamp that you could tighten with a screw and the other used four suction cups. They both had adjustable telescoping rods to adjust height and a curved plate to set the device on your thigh. The angle was adjusted by where you placed the device along the side of the guitar. This was an improvement over the *Stein Block* in that it was adjustable, but both the suction cup and clamp would come off from time to time. In addition, the joint that connected the clamp or suction cup frame to the rod would break after a period of time and the options were then to replace the gadget for yet another \$65 or to have it welded.

During the Summer of 1989, the ever popular *A-Frame* came out for only \$50. It attached to the guitar with four suction cups. It was more versatile for adjusting the angle of the guitar by the placement of the suction cups to the guitar and the height was adjusted by a velcro strap. I found this device to be relatively comfortable, but a bit on the flimsy side. The suction cups often pop off and the device itself tended to slide down my leg. At one point, one of my students (Bill O'Brien) solved the sliding problem by connecting the *A-Frame* to the front belt loop of his pants by means of a couple of clips and a strap. I did this for a long time, but every pair of pants is different and this adjustment was cumbersome.

At the GFA Festival in Buffalo, New York in 1993, I had the opportunity of trying out the *Dynarette Cushion* (made in Sweden). It was about \$40. It looked a lot like my *Stein Block* in shape, but it was a pillow, not a block of wood. The guitar comfortably sits on the cushion and is very stable. This is perhaps one of the most comfortable devices I have used. There are, however, two problems that I have found with the *Dynarette Cushion*. One is that it is too large to fit in a guitar case and the other is that it absorbs vibration which results in

slightly less volume.

In February of this year, Vittorio Brod (WGS member) had a gadget that I had not seen yet. It is called *EFEL* and it is made in Czechoslovakia and endorsed by Stepan Rak (one of my all time favorite guitarist/composers). Vic picked this device up in London. It attaches to the guitar with only one large suction cup and is designed so that it won't pop off while playing. It is adjustable only by its placement along the side of the guitar, but it works very well. It does not wobble like the *A-Frame* and it does not slide down my leg. Another unique thing about the *EFEL* is that it works on practically any guitar from 1/2 sized all the way up to large steel-string guitars. I am in love with this new gadget and I have to thank Vic for introducing it to me.

After I tried Vic's *EFEL*, he was kind enough to order a fairly large quantity from London. After shipping, the price was only about \$25. I sold them quickly to students and colleagues that saw them. As people saw me perform with the *EFEL* they wanted them, so Vic notified The Guitar Shop (202) 331-7333 about them and I notified Mike Kirkpatrick (410) 242-2744 about them and both began to carry them. It turns out that they are being distributed in the United States and that their retail price is \$29. This is about half the price of the *A-Frame* and I like it a lot more. I also happen to know that Sean Dodson (703) 273-3876 (from the Alexandria Guitar Quartet) ordered about 25 of them and he will sell them for \$25 to anyone interested.

-Kevin Vigil

Baroque Lecture/Recital Gets an A+

There was a relatively small turnout (about 15 people) for the WGS June meeting which featured a Baroque Guitar lecture/recital given by Beverly Ross, Don Sauter and Jim Stimson. Those that missed this meeting missed a truly educational and eye-opening event. I have a MM from Yale University and I learned several things from this event that I had not known before. To give an in depth review of all that was covered would take up this entire newsletter and more. All I can say is that this fine group of WGS members definitely did their homework and I give them an A+!

The one question that came to mind as I left this wonderful presentation is "Where are the students?" The WGS has so much to offer in terms of performance and workshop opportunities and I seldom see guitar students from the local colleges and universities at these events. I know that teachers are informing them of these things, but the result is little. Not to sound like an "old-timer", but when I was in school we (the students) went to every and any performance or workshop that we knew about, especially if it was free! I learned (and still do) from every event that I went to. The guitar society exists so that we can learn from each other. If these students really want to make a career out of playing music, they would benefit greatly

from attending workshops such as this.

Because of the small turnout to this event, I would like to encourage Beverly, Don and Jim to do this again during the next season and we will hopefully draw a larger group to benefit from their knowledge.

-Kevin Vigil

ANNOUNCEMENTS

July 7-13, 1996, Common Ground on the Hill will hold its 2nd annual Music and Arts Summer Camp at Western Maryland College in Westminster, Maryland. A wide variety of music styles will be presented. Classes will be taught in classical, blues, dobro and other guitar styles. Courses will also be offered in song writing, orchestration, banjo dulcimer, fiddle and many other widely diverse subjects including: story telling, dance, gospel singing and Celtic music. Guitar instructors will include: Garth Baxter (classical) Guy Davis (blues), Robin Bullock (fingerstyle), Joe Herrmann (beginning), Harry Orlove (studio) and Stacy Phillips, Paul Beard, David Giegerich, Paul Reisler, David Whitaker (dobro). Call Common Ground on the Hill at (410) 857-2771 or 857-2772 for more details and a catalogue.

Intimidated Performers Group Forming. If you find it hard to play in front of others, consider joining Vic Brod and Mike Davis once a week with other, similarly afflicted lovers of the guitar. The idea is to gather as a sympathetic and non-critical group and play something -- anything -- in each other's company just to get used to doing it. Could be a fun way to dissipate some of the stress; we wouldn't be performing, just playing the guitar. If interested, call or e-mail Vic (703/553-9073; vbrod@ix.netcom.com) or Mike (703/532-4755; 72007.3132@compuserve.com)."

Call for Scores. Scores are sought for the book *Music for Voice and Classical Guitar, 1945-1996*, an annotated catalog to be published in the Fall of 1996 by McFarland & Company, Inc. All music must be performable by the duo of one vocalist and one classical guitarist. Send scores, tapes (optional), and supporting information to: James Maroney, 257 Berkshire Rd., Southbury, CT 06488-2039, USA, no later than July 1996.

Performing Opportunities at Goodwin House West If you would like to give a performance or hold a recital, Goodwin House West would love to have you. Goodwin House is a retirement community and are able to provide an audience for anyone interested in performing. They cannot pay a fee, but they do not charge rent either. So if you're gearing up for a performance or you would just like to offer your gifts to the community, call Christine Asman at (703) 578-7222 to schedule your performance.

Visit the Guitar Foundation of America on the World Wide Web!

- Late Breaking News in the Guitar World
- Latest information about the GFA St. Louis Convention
- Visit the Guitar Societies and individual performers on the Net
- Link to Guitar Activity around the globe

Send us updates on your school, community or regional guitar activities Our Web address is: <http://www.cyberg8t.com/gfa>

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SPECIAL REPORT FOR THE JOHN E. MARLOW GUITAR SERIES

Support the John E. Marlow Guitar series when you purchase specially reserved, **prime orchestra seats** for Classical Master **Julian Bream's** performance at the Center for the Arts at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia. Mr. Bream appears on **Saturday, April 12, 1997 at 8 pm for one performance only**. If you've never been to the Center for the Arts Concert Hall, this is the perfect opportunity to visit one of the D.C. area's premier performance venues. Call Tim Healy at 301-654-6874 for information and reservations. Limited availability, first come first served.

Support the John E. Marlow Guitar series when you purchase specially reserved **prime orchestra seats** for **Manuel Barrueco** when he joins the National Chamber Orchestra, Piotr Gajewski, conductor to perform Rodrigo's **Concierto de Aranjuez** at the **Rockville Civic Center auditorium, May 30 and 31, 1997 at 8:30 pm**. Tickets are \$25. Call Tim Healy at 301-654-6874 for ticket information. Ticket availability is limited; first come first served basis.

Classified

Handmade Concert Classical Guitar made in Spain by Andres Martin. \$3,500. Call Bill McVeigh at (703) 486-3626.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 5 (Friday) 7:30-9:30 p.m. - The Alexandria Guitar Quartet will be performing at Borders Book Shop, 8311 Leesburg Pike, Vienna, VA. Free and open to the public. For information, call (703) 556-7766.

July 6 (Saturday) 9 p.m.-1 a.m. - The Philip Mathieu Group The 219 Restaurant (Old Town Alexandria) 219 King St. Alexandria, VA (703) 549-1141.

July 6 (Saturday) 11 a.m. - 1 a.m. - Rob Nathan will be playing at Quartermain Coffee Roasters 3323 Connecticut Ave. Cleveland Park Washington, DC (202) 244-2676.

July 13 (Saturday) 2 p.m. - WGS Guitar Ensemble Session led by Fred Wilcheck at the Washington Conservatory of Music, 5144 Massachusetts Ave., Washington, DC. (See article on page 1 for directions). **Open Stage from 1-2 p.m.** Bring your guitar or just your ears to enjoy some relaxed performing by anyone who wishes to participate. Free and open to the public. For information, call Kevin Vigil at (703) 644-1659.

July 28 (Sunday) 2 p.m. - Kevin Vigil will be giving a solo guitar recital at the Goodwin House West, 3440 S. Jefferson St., Falls Church. Vigil will be playing works by: Tarrega, Albeniz, Villa-Lobos, Verdery, York and more. For information, call Christine Asman at (703) 578-7222.

August 10 (Saturday) 2 p.m. - WGS Members Recital. This will feature any WGS members who wish to perform for an appreciative audience. All levels are welcome. This will take place at the Washington Conservatory of Music, 5144 Massachusetts Ave., Washington, DC. (See article on page 2 for directions). Free and open to the public. For information, call Kevin Vigil at (703) 644-1659.

August 22-23 - The Alexandria Guitar Quartet will be performing Joaquin Rodrigo's *Concerto Andaluz* with the Trujillo Orchestra in Peru. The Washington Guitar Society would like to wish Sean Dodson, Tim Evans, Jeff Baker and newest addition Richard Miller all the best on their venture outside the beltway!

STEADY GIGS

Amazonia Grill - Richard Miller playing solo Brazilian Music. Thursdays from 8-10 pm. The Amazonia Grill is located at 4615 Wisconsin Ave., Washington, DC (near Tenley Town). For reservations, call (202) 537-0421. Richard lets other guitarist sit in, just go up and talk to him.

Bistro Bistro - Max Sadtler playing solo classical guitar music for Sunday brunch 11:30 am - 2:30 pm. Bistro Bistro is located at 4021 28th Street South, Arlington, VA in the Shirlington shopping center. For reservations call (703) 379-0300.

El Bodegon Spanish Restaurant - Paco de Malega (guitar) and Anna Martinez (dancer) performing two shows of flamenco music and dance on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. The first show is at 8 pm and the second is at 10 pm. El Bodegon is located at 1637 R Street, NW, Washington, DC. For reservations, call (202) 667-1710.

Habana Village - Richard Miller playing Brazilian Music with bass and percussion. Wednesdays from 10-midnight. Habana Village is located at 1834 Columbia Rd (Adams Morgan near 18th St.), Washington, DC. For reservations, call (202) 462-6310.

Jasmine Cafe - John Butler and Kevin Vigil alternating on Fridays 7-10 pm. **David Arnold** on Saturdays, 7-10 pm. Classical Guitar music. The Jasmine Cafe is located at Lake Anne, 1633A Washington Plaza, Reston, VA 22090. For reservations, call (703) 471-9114.

The Park Cafe - Richard Miller, Ramon Gonzalez and Peter Richardson alternating Fridays and Saturdays from 7:30-10 pm. Classical and Latin American Guitar Music. The Park Cafe is located in the Capital Hill area on Lincoln Park, Washington, DC. For reservations, call (202) 543-0184.

Russia House Restaurant - Michael Bard (guitar) and Pam Ferguson (violin) playing Gypsy Music on Saturdays from 7-10:30 pm. The Russia House Restaurant is located at 790 Station St., Herndon, VA. For reservations, call (703) 787-8880.

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