

Washington Guitar Society

No. 39

July/August 1998

WGS Picnic and Swim Party 1-5 PM July 19, 1998

Our "meeting" for July will be a picnic and swim party hosted by Bill and Doris Carlson, 2905 Maplewood Place, Alexandria, VA. This meeting will be devoted to eating, drinking, swimming, socializing and fun. Please bring a swim suit, towel, food and drink for yourself and to share. All members, their families, and all those who performed for us this past year are invited. Guitars are optional. If you would like to join the Washington Guitar Society, you may bring your \$15 and pay at the door. If you have any questions or need further directions call Bill or Doris at (703) 548-3703. *Rain date July 26.*



Directions:

Take I-395 to Exit 5/King St. East (Route 7).

Take a left at the 6th light (0.8 mile) onto Kenwood.

Go 8 blocks on Kenwood to the 4th stop sign at Valley Drive.

Go through the intersection (still on Kenwood) and

Turn right onto Maplewood Place (only 1/2 block from Valley Dr.)

2905 is on the left side of the cul-de-sac.

Parking: Maplewood, Allison, Valley and school parking lot.

There will be no WGS meeting at the Washington Conservatory in the month of July.

Ensemble Session for WGS Meeting Friday, August 21 at 7:30 pm

Kevin Vigil will be leading all interested members in an ensemble session for the August meeting (there will be no open stage.) We have done this in the past and it is always a blast.

Here's how it works.... You can pick up the music in advance at the WGS Picnic and Swim Party or it can be sent to you in the mail. This will give you plenty of time to practice your part and be prepared for the actual session. There are parts written for all different levels, so if you just want to wing it, you can simply show up for the session and read your way through.

At the actual ensemble session, we will rehearse the piece and record it by the end of the session. Tapes can be made available to anyone interested in having a copy, just bring a blank tape to the session and a dollar for postage (or you can pick it up at the September meeting.)

The piece that will be rehearsed and recorded at this session is John Duarte's *English Suite #5*. It was written for 6 guitars, but additional participants can simply double up with others on their part.

If you would like the music sent to you by mail, please contact Beverly Ross at (301) 927-7833.

From the President

I was delighted to hear from a number of volunteers for our newsletter folding, stapling, labeling, and stamping session. This is a new plan to try to spread around some of the work of getting our newsletter sent out. This should be fun, and it won't be much work or take very long with a group of us doing it. This will also give us a chance to visit and get to know each other a little, since we usually don't have much time to socialize at meetings. We hope to be holding these sessions at different locations every other month, so hopefully some of them will be convenient for each of you

I recently received a letter from Columbia Music Co. announcing the publication of a new biography of Sophocles Papas by his daughter. Its called **Sophocles Papas: The Guitar, His Life** by Elizabeth Papas Smith. I haven't seen this book yet, but I'm sure I will soon. Also in this letter was an announcement regarding the Sophocles Papas Memorial Guitar Concerto composed by Steven Stuckey. This will be performed by Manuel Barrueco and the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra on Sept. 17, 18, and 19 in Meyerhoff Symphony Hall in Baltimore.

I hope to see a lot of you at our July Picnic and Swim Party and our August Ensemble Session.

John Rodgers

The Guitar in an Early Sears Catalog - Round 2

In the January 1996 WGS newsletter, we reproduced all the guitar-related material from the 1894 Sears, Roebuck & Co. catalog. Since there was a good response to that (someone actually called to purchase a guitar from the catalog!), and some time has passed, here is the next (and surely last) installment. Just as the first batch of guitar-related material appeared identically in at least 3 consecutive catalogs (1894, 1895 and Fall 1896), this material appeared in two: Fall 1896-97 and Spring 1897. Again, all of the advertised guitars were gut-strung.

Last time around, the microfilm copies required massive amounts of doctoring to make them presentable - and just barely, at that. This time they were simply too far gone, so the text has been retyped. Sorry if that takes some of the fun out of it.

Donald Sauter