

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

12 FROM 1000.

Much time and money have been spent by our experienced buyer in examining over a thousand samples of guitars and from all the vast array of instruments, good, bad and indifferent, he has selected twelve of the choicest, made by the acknowledged leading manufacturer of the world. No sharper contrast exists between the heaped-up-profit prices of the retailer and our Factory-to-Consumer prices than on Guitars. Our cash purchases of guitars to meet the season's demands exceed the combined yearly purchase of hundreds of retailers. Furthermore, buying direct from the factory, and not from the wholesaler as in the retailer's case, we have a further immense advantage. Buying for spot cash, the manufacturer is absolutely safe from bad accounts. These three important facts secure to us, prices that no retailer can even approach, and enable us to place these elegant guitars in your hands at the actual cost to make, with only one small margin of profit added. Aside from the matter of price, the quality is beyond criticism. In fact, few retail dealers outside of very large cities, carry in stock such elegant instruments as are herein illustrated and described. The manufacturer has a reputation for superior goods that is second to none. The fact is that the name of the maker is so widely known and the products of the factory have become so justly famous, that the mere name is sufficient guarantee of the superb quality.

Every scrap of wood that enters into the construction of these guitars has been seasoned in the drying rooms of the factory for from one to two years, thus insuring the instrument against cracking or checking in any climate. The most expert workmen only are employed. The skilled artisans in our factory are amongst the highest salaried workmen in the world. Material and workmanship are absolutely guaranteed, and we warrant each instrument for one year. No other house can compete with us on price and no other concern can meet our liberal terms.

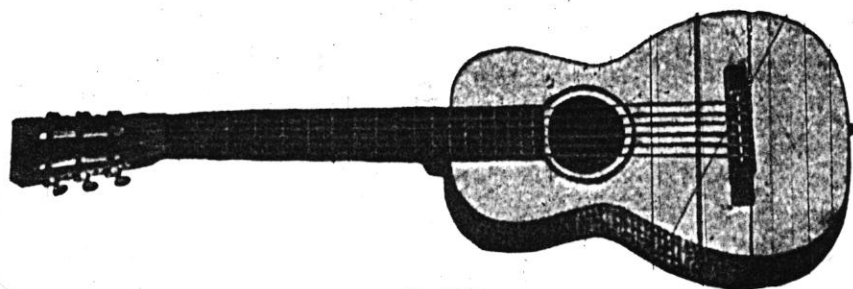
On receipt of \$1.00 we send any guitar C. O. D., subject to examination. You have the privilege of making a rigid examination of the instrument, and if you find it just as represented and satisfactory in every respect, pay the express agent the balance with express charges and the guitar is yours.

THIS LIBERAL OFFER is intended for the benefit of those who are not acquainted with our house and our business integrity. Old customers almost invariably send full cash in advance, thus taking advantage of our 3 per cent. cash discount, which we allow on all orders accompanied with full amount.

SPECIAL GUITARS.

Anybody can learn to play without a teacher. We include a complete instruction book free. Full set of strings with each guitar. Every instrument comes ready to play. On account of the general inferiority of imported Guitars and the constant tendency of some to check and crack, we have entirely ceased carrying them in stock. We hence quote below only the American made instrument, the finest in the world.

Bear in mind that even after the acceptance of any guitar, you are extended the privilege of returning the instrument prepaid, after 5 days' fair and honest trial, if it does not meet your requirements. We shall refund your money in full in such a case, or will send another instrument as you may wish. We desire in all cases that you shall be entirely pleased with each and every purchase.



No. 7100.

No. 7100. **Our Spanish Guitar.** American make. The best low priced guitar on the American Market. Not only well constructed and handsome in appearance, but made to withstand all climates. So far as quality and tone is concerned, it will far exceed the expectations of the most critical buyer. We can safely say that this instrument is far superior to other makes, retailed at double our price. Has select birch back and sides, finished in imitation mahogany, with imitation cedar neck, accurately fretted, inlaid sound hole, and patent head. Weight packed, 15 lbs.

Our price, each \$3.95

No. 7101. **Our Columbian Standard American Guitar.** Regular size, solid birch back and sides, fine rosewood finish, colored wood inlaying around sound hole, ebonized finger board, position dots. We caution intending purchasers against imitations of this instrument. While it is true that imitation is the sincerest flattery, it is also true that the imitation is always inferior to the original. Weight, boxed, 15 lbs.

Our Special price \$5.20

No. 7102. **Our "Euterpe" Guitar,** made in selected quartered oak, a most desirable and resonant wood when selected and properly prepared. The finish is extremely handsome; the scale is perfect; the neck delicately proportioned; the patent head is of American make and the best in the world. The strings furnished are of the very best quality. Our old customers who have purchased this guitar have been delighted with it and pronounce it far superior to any instrument ever seen at anything near our price. As stated, it has solid quartered oak back and sides, antique finish, inlaid around sound hole, ebonized fingerboard, position dots, orange top, patent head, standard size. Weight, boxed, 15 lbs. Our price \$5.75



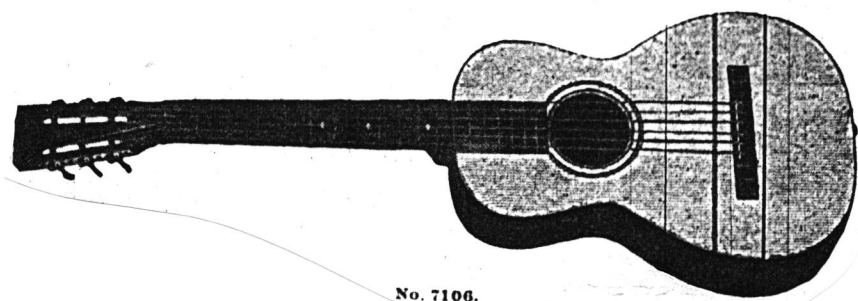
No. 7102.

No. 7103. We have the same instrument as Guitar No. 7102 above described, but in special concert size. The concert size is a much larger instrument than the regular size and possesses a much more powerful tone. A size especially in favor with professionals. Weight, boxed, 18 lbs. Our Special price **\$10.65**

Bear in mind our liberal C. O. D. terms. We ship any guitar C. O. D., subject to examination. Note terms at head of the page. You will find a full line of guitar cases and all other furnishings further on.

No. 7104. **Our "Collegian" Guitar.** A guaranteed guitar that is the most thoroughly satisfactory low priced instrument ever put on the market. As with all our guitars, this instrument is warranted for one year. Instruction book with each guitar. This beautifully modeled guitar is made of quartered sycamore, the stock being selected from handsomely figured wood. The instrument is most attractive in appearance. It is finished in imitation rosewood and mahogany, and is neatly inlaid around sound hole. The neck is imitation cherry, nicely finished, ebonized finger board, position dots, with patent machine head of American make. We present the "Collegian" as the best guitar for anything like the price that has ever been offered. The tone is remarkably good for such a low priced instrument, and the general appearance is such as to command for it immediate recognition. Weight, boxed, about 15 lbs. Our Special price **\$6.45**

No. 7105. **Our "Famous" Guitar.** This instrument is made by a celebrated manufacturer whose guitars have a world wide reputation. Absolutely guaranteed to stand all climates. Is made of the finest bird's-eye maple sides and back with beautiful cedar front. Dark rosewood oval fingerboard. Inlaid sound hole and position dots. Patent machine head. One of the most beautiful guitars made. You would pay \$20.00 or \$25.00 for a guitar at retail, and not secure an instrument so fine in construction or perfect in tone. Weight, boxed, 15 lbs. Our Special price **\$9.65**



See another page for guitar strings and other furnishings.

No. 7106. The "Troubadour" was the first mahogany guitar to score a success. Previous to its appearance, the few instruments that had been offered in this wood had proven failures; but the "Troubadour" with its splendid tone, neat and substantial appearance, fine finish and absolutely correct scale, leaped at once into public favor and is now one of the standard guitars of the country. The result was that many

cheap dealers began to copy it, and now these imitations are legion. The best of them is not for a moment to be compared with the original and reliable "Troubadour." Be sure to see and try this guitar, you will buy no other. "Troubadour," solid mahogany back and sides. Brazilian cedar neck, ebonized convex fingerboard and bridge, pearl position dots, patent machine head, colored wood inlayings around sound hole, finished with orange colored top, handsomely hand polished **\$8.65**

No. 7107. Same as No. 7106, with white celluloid inlaid edges **\$8.95**

We offer Nos. 7106 and 7107 guitars as products of the finest factory in the land. As such, they are warranted positively flawless in construction and possessing a beautiful tone found only in the very highest grade of instruments. See another page for guitar furnishings and strings. Do not forget that we ship any guitar C. O. D. subject to examination.

No. 7108. Our improved "American Artist" guitar. A beautifully modeled instrument that is pleasing alike to amateur and artist. Every piece and part that enters into its construction is the most selected and perfect. Finely finished solid rosewood back and sides. Handsome French polished, beautiful orange colored front, patent American made machine head, cedar neck. Absolutely correct in scale, as all guitars offered by us are guaranteed to be. Colored wood inlaying around sound hole, white inlaid stripe down the back, plain edges, ebonized finger-board, position dots. Weight, boxed, 15 lbs. Our Special price **\$11.95**

No. 7109. "American Artist" guitar precisely the same as No. 7108 above described, but extra large concert size. Weight packed, 18 lbs. Our Special price **\$13.95**

No. 7110. **The Celebrated Washburn Guitar.** Standard size. A guitar perhaps better known than any other make. It is as perfect in all the details of construction as the most expert and experienced workmen can make it. Not an ounce of inferior material enters into its make-up, but on the contrary, the markets of the world provide no better than that used in making the Washburn guitar. Made of beautiful rosewood, with plain finished edges. Colored wood inlayings around sound hole, and handsome inlaid stripe down the back. Oval fingerboard, with pearl position dots. Weight packed, 15 lbs. Sent C. O. D. anywhere on receipt of \$1.00. Our Special price **\$22.00**

No. 7111. We have the Washburn guitar exactly same as No. 7110 above described, but in large Concert size. Weight, boxed, 18 lbs. This special concert guitar is particularly designed to meet the demands of expert players who are only satisfied with the choicest in the market. Our Special price **\$27.00**

Note.—On our American guitars gut and silk wound strings are recommended under all circumstances. The efforts of the manufacturers are directed toward the production of a rich mellow tone, and in order to accomplish this result they use a sensitively constructed sounding board, which is not made to withstand the strain of wire strings. By using great care some of them will stand this heavy strain without serious detriment, but we wish it understood that we will not be responsible for the failure of a guitar where steel strings are used. See another page for guitar strings and all kinds of guitar furnishings.

Guitar Music, Vocal and Instrumental.

No. 71800. Royal Collection of Vocal Guitar Music. A fine selection of vocal music arranged specially for the guitar; 80 pages. Our special price \$0.40

Postage, 5 cents.

No. 71802. Brainard's Vocal Guitar Folio. One of the most popular collections of vocal music for the guitar ever published; 96 pages. Our special price \$0.40

Postage, 7 cents.

No. 71804. Guitar Jewels, a magnificent collection of vocal and instrumental selections for the guitar, together with a number of duets and trios. This folio contains 112 pages of popular and classical music. Our special price \$0.40

Postage, 8 cents.

No. 71805. Royal Collection of Instrumental Guitar Music. This folio contains some of the choicest selections of guitar music, including both popular and classical airs with an excellent proportion of dance music. Our special price \$0.40

Postage, 5 cents.

No. 71806. Brainard's Instrumental Guitar folio. A most popular edition of instrumental music for guitar only; 96 pages.

Our special price \$0.40

Postage, 6 cents.

Mandolin Music.

Arranged for Mandolin and Guitar.

No. 71826. Benjamin's Amateur Mandolin and Guitar Collections. No. 1 contains thirteen easy and popular pieces, arranged for mandolin or violin, with guitar accompaniment; also the piano accompaniment. Our special price \$0.30

Postage, 4 cents.

No. 71828. Excelsior Mandolin and Guitar Folio. This book has become immensely popular and has a great and increasing sale; contains 72 pages of the very choicest music for mandolin and guitar. Our special price \$0.40

Postage, 5 cents.

No. 71829. Champion Mandolin and Guitar Folio. Containing the latest arrangements and compositions for these popular instruments; printed on fine supercalendared paper; 96 pages.

Our special price \$0.40

Postage, 8 cents.

No. 71831. Ideal Mandolin and Guitar Folio. A very superior collection of instrumental music arranged for the mandolin and guitar duets; 2 parts, 40 pages each. Our special price \$0.40

Postage, 3 cents.

No. 71833. Superior Mandolin and Guitar Folio. A choice collection of music by eminent composers, arranged mandolin and guitar; printed on fine supercalendared paper, and containing 92 pages. Our special price \$0.40

Postage, 7 cents.

Guitar Instruction Books.

No. 71948. Winner's Eureka Method for the Guitar. An instruction book for this instrument that meets all requirements and is very widely recommended by the most noted music teachers.

Our special price \$0.55

Postage, 6 cents.

No. 71949. The common Sense Guitar Instructor. A new and concise method in which the instructions are so simply treated that anybody may become a performer on this favorite instrument. This book also contains the elements of music and a complete collection of the newest songs and pieces arranged for this work to be found nowhere else. Our special price \$0.50

No. 71951. Bower's Standard Method for the Guitar. Positively the most popular instruction book for the guitar ever published, bound in paper. Our special price \$0.25

Postage, 4 cents.

No. 71952. Elite Guitar Instructor, arranged by Arling Shaeffer, particularly with reference to a thorough and complete understanding of the instrument itself and proper knowledge of its methods for learning it thoroughly. The purpose of this book is to furnish a course of instruction for the guitar, which if clearly observed and diligently practiced will enable those who are lovers of this most beautiful stringed instrument to become accomplished and artistic performers; bound in boards. Our special price \$1.85

Postage, 12 cents.

No. 71953. Carcassi's Guitar Method. Complete. \$1.00

Extra, by mail, 12 cents.

No. 71954. Winner's Instruction Book for Guitar; retail price 25 cts. Our price \$0.12

No. 71955. Instruction Book of Chords for the Guitar. A new system of learning to play the chords of the guitar without notes or teacher. Each \$0.25

Extra, by mail, 1 cent.

WGS Classified Ads

(Compare today's prices with the past!)

1978 Jose Ramirez 1A guitar for sale. This is about the finest sounding Ramirez I've ever heard. Good condition for a twenty year old guitar. Asking \$3,500. Call John Rodgers at (202) 686-1020.

For the three guitars below, contact Francois-Marie Patorni, (202) 473-6265 office, (202) 291-4523 home, e-mail: fmpatorni@worldbank.org

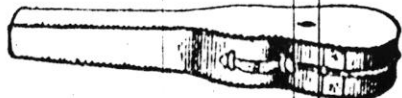
Jesus Marzal (Valencia, Spain), Concierto Model, 1987. (Featured in the John E. Marlow Guitar Series 1997/98) Spruce/Indian Rosewood, 65cm, fast, easy to play, with strong projecting and crystalline sound. A very minor nail nick on top. \$2,500

Aria Concert Guitar (Japan). I bought it for \$800 new in 1976. Immaculate condition. Surprisingly good looking, feeling and sounding for the price. Great buy for practice or second travel guitar. \$800

Requinto, Concierto Model 8, 1987, by Esteve (Spain). This is a small classical guitar, it plays like one but with smaller fingerboard (53cm), much faster and brilliant. Immaculate condition. \$800.

GUITAR FURNISHINGS.

Guitar Cases.



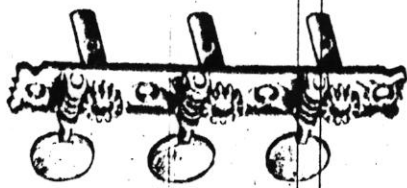
No. 71067.

No. 71066. Wood, superior quality, American made, half lined, with lock, handle and handles, for standard size guitar. Each.....\$2.00
 No. 71067. Brown canvas, as illustrated, leather bound edges, open on end, complete with strap, buckle and handle. Standard or regular size. Each.....\$1.50
 No. 71068. Same, for concert size. Each.....\$1.50
 No. 71069. Hand sewed leather, embossed, black or russet, very superior quality, for standard size guitar. Each.....\$0.75
 No. 71070. Same, for concert size. Each.....\$0.75

Guitar Bags.

No. 71062. Fine green cloth with buttons for ordinary concert or grand concert guitar. Each.....\$0.75
 No. 71061. Canvas, fleece lined, patent fasteners, fine quality, for ordinary concert or grand concert size guitar. Each.....\$1.25

Guitar Patent Heads.



No. 71104.

No. 71104. Brass, good engraving on sides, bone buttons, fine quality. Per set.....\$1.50
 No. 71107. Nickel plated, good engraving on sides, bone buttons, fine quality. Per set.....\$1.50
 No. 71106. Brass, polished and lacquered, white celluloid buttons, (see cut). Per set.....\$1.50

Guitar Tailpieces.



No. 71102.

No. 71101. Celluloid, imitation ivory or amber, for ordinary size guitar. Each.....\$1.00
 No. 71102. Brass, nickel plated, for any size guitar. Each.....\$0.50

Guitar Fingerboards.

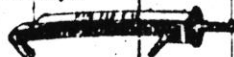


No. 71107.

No. 71106. Ebony, plain, without frets. Each.....\$0.50
 No. 71107. Ebony, with frets, (see cut). Each.....\$1.00

Guitar Capo D'Astros.

Used to clamp on fingerboard to facilitate playing in flat keys.



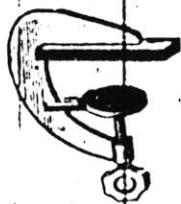
No. 71110.

No. 71111. Capo D'Astro, nickel plated, spring action, felt covered clamps. (See cut). Price, each.....\$0.30
 No. 71112. Same as above made of aluminum, polished. Each.....\$0.50

No. 71110. Brass, nickel plated, rubber covered clamps, vest pocket model. Our price, each.....\$0.30



No. 71111.



No. 71113.

No. 71113. Capo D'Astro, made of brass, polished and lacquered, cork lined clamps, improved model, extra weight and strength. Each.....\$0.25
 No. 71116. Same, brass, fine nickel plated. Each.....\$0.30

Guitar Furnishings.

GUITAR BRIDGES.



No. 71121.

No. 71119. Ebony, plain, best model and finish. Each.....\$0.20
 No. 71120. Ebony, best pearl inlaying at each end. Each.....\$0.50
 No. 71121. Ebony, engraved and pearl inlaying at each end. Each.....\$1.00
 No. 71122. Celluloid, imitation amber or ivory. Each.....\$0.45

GUITAR BRIDGE PINS.



No. 71123.

No. 71124. Maple, black stained, polished head. Each.....\$0.75
 Per set of six.....\$4.50
 No. 71125. Ebony, polished pearl inlaying in head (see cut). Each.....\$0.75
 Per set of six.....\$4.50
 No. 71126. Ivory, polished pearl inlaying in head. Each.....\$1.00
 Per set of six.....\$6.00
 No. 71127. Celluloid, imitation amber, tortoise shell or ivory. Each.....\$0.75
 Per set of six.....\$4.50

GUITAR END PINS.



No. 71129.

No. 71129. Ebony, plain, polished heads. Each.....\$0.05
 No. 71130. Ebony, plain, polished heads, with dot inlaid. Each.....\$0.04

GUITAR PINS.



No. 71133.

No. 71133. Brass, in sets of eighteen. Per set.....\$0.17
 No. 71134. German silver in sets of eighteen. Per set.....\$0.20
 No. 71135. German silver, in coils. Per pound.....\$1.75

WE ALLOW A DISCOUNT OF THREE PER CENT. WHEN FULL CASH ACCOMPANIES ORDER. OUR C. O. D. TERMS ARE ALSO VERY LIBERAL. WE ARE WILLING TO MEET YOU HALF WAY TO GET A SHARE OF YOUR TRADE.

"Pansy Blossom Waltz" arranged by Justin Holland

"Pansy Blossom Waltz" is taken from **Brainard's Instrumental Guitar Folio**, which we see advertised in the **Sears Catalog** (No. 71806.) This is a 2-page cut-and-paste job from a 3-page original. The first page helpfully tells us that Pansy Blossom Waltz comes from the Pansy Blossom Waltz. (Hmmm... but where does the Pansy Blossom Waltz come from???)

WARNING!!! Decoration only! Not "great"! Never recorded by Williams. Do not play at $\text{♩} = 72$. Do not play at *any* speed! *NOT* Lagrima; not even Villa-Lobos. Return to your scales! (Who needs some old waltz anyhow.)

The copyright date for this piece is 1886, the year before Holland's death. For more information on this remarkable man, definitely track down some of the references listed below.

Brainard's Instrumental Guitar Folio and its follow-up volume 2 also have some arrangements by Holland's son, Justin Minor Holland.

As always, thanks to the Library of Congress.

Donald Sauter

References:

- "Justin Holland: African-American guitarist of the 19th century" by Barbara Clemenson. *Soundboard*, Fall 1994, page 13.
- "The Life and Times of Justin Holland" by Ernie Jackson. *Fingerstyle Guitar* magazine, No. 16, July 1996, page 43.
- The Guitar In America** - a historical collection of classical guitar music. Annotated by Peter Danner. Page 10.
- "Return With Us Now - Soundboard's Featured Facsimile", annotated by Peter Danner.
 - Angel's Serenade. *Soundboard* III/2, page 28.
 - The Last Rose Of Summer. Spring 1982, page 44.
 - Variations on Dixie's Land. Summer 1989, page 41.
 - Weston's March To Chicago. Winter 1994, XX/3, page 50.

PANSY BLOSSOM WALTZ.

FROM THE
PANSY BLOSSOM WALTZ.



Arranged for the Guitar by JUSTIN HOLLAND.

GUITAR.

The guitar score is written on six staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#), and a 3/4 time signature. The music is in a waltz style, featuring a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes in the right hand and chords in the left hand. The first staff includes a dynamic marking of 'mf' (mezzo-forte). The subsequent staves continue the melody and accompaniment, with various musical notations such as slurs, ties, and accidentals. The score concludes with a final cadence on the sixth staff.

This image displays a page of musical notation, likely for a piano or organ, consisting of ten staves. The key signature is G major, indicated by two sharps (F# and C#). The notation includes a variety of rhythmic values, including eighth, quarter, and half notes, as well as rests and ties. Dynamics such as *mf* (mezzo-forte) are present. The music is written in a style typical of 19th or 20th-century sheet music, with clear staff lines and note heads. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps. The notation is arranged in a single system, with each staff containing a line of music. The overall layout is clean and professional, with ample space between the staves for readability.

For Lovers of Stringed Instruments (and Fine Vodka)

I had the good fortune of being invited out by a friend back in May to what I thought would be a typical music program at George Washington University's Lisner Auditorium. GWU presents some fine artists but my music tastes lie in modern music and in classical guitar music. I was invited by this friend at a party and didn't think much of it except that it would be a good get together on a Saturday night. I picked my friend up and we drove down to find parking near Lisner. On the way we had some conversation about the event. I in my usual stupor of still thinking about work, or what I had to do tomorrow or wouldn't it be nice to put my hands on my guitar to practice, woke up when the lady said "Balalaika". She knew about my fixation with classical guitar. One of her colleagues is a participating member of the Washington Balalaika Society Orchestra and had informed her of the "Russian Festival" to occur on Saturday, May 30. I became excited at the prospect.

The Washington Balalaika Society Orchestra gives a yearly concert. The Russian community in the US is very tight knit. This being the case, the performers, in addition to the Balalaika Society Orchestra, included the husband-wife-son team of Alexander Tsygankov, Inna Shevchenko, and Yevgeny Tsygankov. Alexander "...is regarded as the world's foremost soloist on the three-stringed Russian domra. Inna is a concert pianist who studied at the Russian Academy of Music in Moscow, and Yevgeny grew up in this talented family, taking up the balalaika, performing his debut at the age of 11 with the Osipov Orchestra.

The whole festival was a joy to hear. Music ranged from Russian Orchestra music for domra and balalaika, to Russian folk music, to Hava Nagila on domra and balalaika, to an arrangement of flamenco guitar music played by domras, and even to American country style music. All I have to say is that if you don't like American country instrumental music, then you haven't heard it played on domra and balalaika by the Tsygankov's.

The highlights were too numerous to mention except that, as an added touch, Vladimir Rozenblat, a celebrated baritone gave excellent performances of Russian folk tunes and guest conductor Leonid Shulman brought a new appreciation to Russian folk music. In addition, I hope we can recruit a new member in Evgenia Tochenaya who accompanied the flamenco piece on classical guitar.

I suggest we all look for this event to come around next year. In the mean time, if you are at all interested in seeing the Washington Balalaika Society perform or to join them, contact Mr. Maxwell B. McCullough, Musical Director at (703) 893-5545 or at maxwellm@aol.com and/or visit their web site at <http://www.balalaika.org>.

Morris Lancaster

Call for Volunteers

Like any volunteer organization, the Washington Guitar Society is in need of volunteers. If you are interested in helping in any fashion, we can more than likely use you. If you are interested in volunteering, please call John Rodgers at (202) 686-1020.

Newsletter Folding Session. On the last Sunday of every other month, there will be a newsletter folding, stapling, labeling and stamping session. It should be quick, easy and fun for anyone who participates. The next scheduled session is for August 30. If you are interested in joining the team, please call John Rodgers at (202) 686-1020.

Lawyer Wanted. The Washington Guitar Society is currently incorporated in the state of Virginia. We would like to be incorporated in D.C. and Maryland as well. If you are a lawyer and you would be willing to help us out pro bono, please call John Rodgers at (202) 686-1020.

WGS MEETINGS

Meeting Dates

July 19, 1998, 1-5 pm
July 26, 1998
August 21, 1998

Performers/Workshops

Pool Party at the Carlsons' House
Rain date for the Pool Party
Ensemble Session

Dates and performers are subject to change.

The Washington Guitar Society has meetings one Friday of every month. Specific dates are listed above. Meetings with a featured performer begin with an open stage from 7:30-8:00 pm and continue with the performance at 8 pm. Meetings are free and open to the public.

Meetings take place at the Washington Conservatory of Music which is located at 5144 Mass. Ave, Bethesda, MD...just 1/2 block from the District line. Housed in the Briggs Memorial Baptist Church. Plenty of free parking.

As you enter the parking lot, 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.

Officers/Editors

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