
Washington Guitar Society

No. 49

March/April 2000

Risa Carlson Performs for WGS Friday, April 21

Since beginning her study of the guitar at age six, Risa Carlson has brought her dynamic and lyrical performance to stages across the United States, including appearances for President and Mrs. Clinton, at the Coolidge Auditorium of the Library of Congress and for the Washington Guitar Society here in D.C., in Columbia Artist Management Hall of New York City, at the Meyerhoff Symphony Hall in Baltimore, at the National Guitar Summer Workshop in Connecticut, for the Miami Classical Guitar Society, and at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles.



A young musician of diverse talents, Risa Carlson frequently joins other musicians to perform in chamber ensembles, including the acclaimed Duo Virago with flutist Alison Potter, the New Horizons Contemporary Music Ensemble, the Peabody Renaissance Ensemble (where she plays both lute and baroque guitar), the Peabody Camerata, and Baltimore Concert Artists. She has premiered several works, including Michael Daugherty's *I Loved Lucy* and Paul Mathews' *devil gits sat on*, both for flute and guitar.

Risa has distinguished herself with many top prizes at numerous solo and chamber music competitions, such as the 1995 and 1997 Baltimore Chamber Music Award and the 1994 and 1995 National Guitar Summer Workshop Competition.

Risa Carlson is currently on the guitar faculty of the Levine School of Music where she will be co-directing the Levine School Guitar Festival 2000. She is a Visiting Artist of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra's educational outreach program Arts Excel. Risa received her Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore, Maryland under the tutelage of world-renown concert artist Manuel Barrueco. She has also studied with Ray Chester, and her father, guitarist Bill Carlson. Later this season, Risa will be joining the

Baltimore Concert Artists in several concerts honoring the late Astor Piazzolla and other tango composers. She will also appear at the Phillips Collection Sunday Concert Series.

Risa's performance for the WGS will take place on Friday, April 21 at 8:00 pm at the Chevy Chase Community Center, 5601 Connecticut Ave., NW. It's just south of Chevy Chase Circle at the corner of Connecticut Ave. and McKinley St., across the street from the Avalon movie theater. There is plenty of free parking.

WGS Members Recital Friday, March 17

That's right... it's time to build up your courage and play for your fellow guitarists at the upcoming members recital. This is the perfect opportunity for all you amateurs and students to try out those pieces that you've been working so hard on. Share your playing with others like yourself.

If you don't want to play solo.... get a duet partner, form a trio or quartet. Bring a non-guitarist musician to perform with you. All are welcome.

If you don't feel like playing, you may still enjoy the fun as a bunch of fun loving, adrenaline addicts walk out on stage to perform.

This members recital will take place on Friday, March 17 at 7:30 pm at the Chevy Chase Community Center, 5601 Connecticut Ave., NW. It's just south of Chevy Chase Circle at the corner of Connecticut Ave. and McKinley St., across the street from the Avalon movie theater. There is plenty of free parking. If you are interested in performing, call WGS president John Rodgers at (202) 686-1020.

From the President

I'm very pleased to announce that our new meeting place is now open to us. The Chevy Case Community Center is at 5601 Connecticut Ave., NW. Phone number: 202/282-2204. It's just south of Chevy Chase Circle at the corner of Connecticut Ave. and McKinley St., across the street from the Avalon movie theater. There is plenty of free parking and a friendly, helpful staff. This building has been closed for more than a year for extensive renovations, and it's really nice. Many thanks fo the DC Dept. of Recreation and Parks for making it available for our use

John Rodgers

Benjamin Verdery Master Class in Maui, Hawaii

Benjamin Verdery announces the 3rd annual guitar class on the island of Maui in **Hawaii** from **Tuesday, August 8 – Monday, August 14**. Mr. Verdery has been visiting the island of Maui, both as a performer and tourist since 1985. It is one of his favorite places on the planet. Because of its extraordinary beauty and warm audiences, it is a perfect setting for a master class. Classes will be held daily for approximately three hours at St. Theresa's Church, located in walking distance to the Hale Kai O'Kihei Condos. In addition to the master class each day there will be ensemble coaching and discussions on certain topics such as technique, practicing, posture, performance anxiety and recital preparation. Mr. Verdery will teach any repertoire including original compositions and/or any aspect of their playing that the student would like to work on. Students should come with two or more solo pieces of any level of difficulty that could be performed within a few days of arrival. After June 15th, a schedule for the week will be set, and repertoire will be announced so that people will have a chance to borrow/buy music that will be studied.

As in the past, virtuoso flutist and renowned pedagogue, **Keith Underwood** will be giving a flute master class during this week in a location in beautiful upcountry Maui and guitarists will have the opportunity to practice and perform flute and guitar repertoire throughout the week. Those guitarists who want to work with flutists should come with pieces well prepared so that they can begin rehearsals and coaching at the beginning of the week. Mr. Verdery can suggest repertoire ideas prior to the class based on your level and experience. Mr. Verdery will hold a special class for auditors where he will hear them play.

All students will get a chance to perform at two or more concerts during the week. The atmosphere of the class is very casual but active. Those who choose to play in trios, quartets, or in duos with flutists can find themselves busy, as concerts may occur as soon as a few days after arrival. In the past there have been group trips to other beaches, rain forests and the Haleakala volcano arranged around the classes and concerts.

Accommodations are reserved at the **Hale Kai O'Kihei Condos** on the beach in Kihei, South Maui.

The two bedrooms have two bathrooms and the one bedrooms have one bathroom...both units have a queen sized hideabed in the living room. All have AC, VCR's, TV, fully equipped kitchens & private lanais (terraces) FACING the ocean. Amenities include a fresh-water pool, a putting green, laundry facilities and outdoor barbecues. It is a short walk to a major grocery market, specialty shops, drug store and post office.

Rates are \$110 per night plus tax for up to four persons in a two-bedroom unit and \$75 per night plus tax for up to two



*Benjamin Verdery and Kevin Vigil in a lesson
in Maui, Summer 1999*

people in a one bedroom. Extra person rate in either case is \$10 per night plus tax per person. One bedrooms - \$75 per night plus tax (for two persons) \$85 for three, etc. Two bedrooms - \$110 per night plus tax (for four persons) \$120 for five, etc. (Tax is 11.5% and not included). Best efforts will be made to accommodate people that would like help in finding a roommate for the week.

Tuition for the week is \$250 for performers and \$100 for auditors, which does not include room and board. Interested participants should send a \$50 check deposit by June 15th payable to Benjamin Verdery.

For further information call Rie Schmidt at (212) 662-8795, fax at (212) 864-9166 or email at: flforce@gateway.net



Kirkpatrick Guitar Studio
4607 Maple Avenue
Baltimore, Md 21227
(410) 242-2744
Classical Guitar Specialist
Fine Concert Instruments &
Student Guitars

The Levine School Guitar Camp 2000**July 17-21**

The Levine School Guitar Camp 2000 offers intensive, specialized instruction for classical guitarists of all levels in a five-day seminar. Hosted by award-winning guitarists Risa Carlson and Kevin Vigil, the camp includes daily group workshops addressing issues such as technique, sight-reading and performance as well as daily master classes. Each attendee will also be placed according to level and receive daily coaching in a small ensemble and in a guitar orchestra. Exciting performances by the instructors and guest artists will end each day. The seminar culminates in a student recital featuring the guitar orchestra, small ensembles and selected solo performances by the attendees to which family and friends are invited!

A week surrounded by enthusiastic musicians and outstanding teachers allows for unsurpassed musical growth; learning becomes much easier around people who have similar goals and who want you to succeed. Levine School Guitar Camp 2000 offers a unique and stimulating learning experience, and, beyond that, LSGC 2000 offers fun, new music, and new friends.

The camp is open to all levels. Students must be able to read music in first position. The camp will take place at the Levine School - Arlington, VA. For further information, please call (703) 237-5655.

The Stetson International Guitar Workshop**June 9-14, 2000**

Stetson University will host the 10th anniversary International Guitar Workshop, June 9 - 14, 2000. The event invites classical guitarists of every level to participate in daily master classes, seminars, and guitar ensemble. In addition to performance opportunities, this year's workshop will present recitals and personal coaching by the distinguished artist faculty of Stephen Robinson, Artistic Director, Amadeus Guitar Duo, Javier Calderón, Roland Dyens, Oscar Ghiglia, Antigoni Goni, Tom Johnson, Dennis Koster, and the Minneapolis Guitar Quartet. Participants will live and work with the faculty on Stetson's DeLand campus, situated between the two vacation areas of Daytona Beach and Orlando. Accommodations in the air-conditioned University residence facilities and meals in the student cafeteria are available. Check-in is Friday, June 9, 1:00 - 3:00 pm, and check-out is Wednesday, June 14, 1 - 3 pm.

Participants may fly into either Daytona Beach International (20 minutes from campus) or Orlando International Airports (1 hour 15 minutes from campus). Discount airfares and ground transportation may be arranged through Travel Concepts, (1-800-422-1664), the official travel agency for the Stetson International Guitar Workshop.

NEXT....

This is the last WGS newsletter that I will be producing. I am now handing this labor of love over to Corey Whitehead. Some of you may have met Corey as he performed for the WGS in February. If you want to know more about him, simply look at the last edition of your WGS newsletter.

I will still make contributions to the newsletter from time to time and I encourage you to contribute news, articles, jokes, music, etc... to keep our newsletter fresh and vibrant.

Happy Practicing,
Kevin Vigil

WGS/WCM MEETINGS

The Washington Guitar Society (WGS) has meetings one Friday of every month. Specific dates and performers are listed in the calendar of events. 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. A hat will be passed for voluntary contributions to the artist. For information call John Rodgers at (202) 686-1020.

WGS OPEN STAGE

The Washington Guitar Society hosts an open stage before each of its meetings. This is a great time to try pieces out for a very interested audience. It's not a competition, just plain fun. The open stages start at 7:30 followed by the featured performer at 8 pm. The next open stage is set for April 21. It will take place at the Chevy Chase Community Center, 5601 Connecticut Ave., NW. It's just south of Chevy Chase Circle at the corner of Connecticut Ave. and McKinley St., across the street from the Avalon movie theater. There is plenty of free parking. For information, call WGS president John Rodgers at (202) 686-1020.

Officers/Editors

President:	John Rodgers	(202) 686-1020
Vice-President:	Bill Carlson	(703) 548-3703
Treasurer:	Beverly Ross	(301) 927-7833
Secretary:	Morris Lancaster	(301) 469-7599
	e-mail: mlancast@bellatlantic.net	
Newsletter Publisher:	Kevin Vigil	(703) 644-1659

Calendar of Events

If you know of a performance that does not appear, please send the information to us to include. This includes everything from professionals, degree recitals to teacher studio recitals.

Mar. 17 (Fri.) 7:30 pm - WGS Members Recital.

Chevy Chase Community Center, 5601 Connecticut Ave., NW. It's just south of Chevy Chase Circle at the corner of Connecticut Ave. and McKinley St., across the street from the Avalon movie theater. There is plenty of free parking. If you are interested in performing, call WGS president John Rodgers at (202) 686-1020.

Mar. 22 (Wed.) 7:30 pm - Andrew C. Waldron performs at the Gaithersburg Library. For information, please call (240) 687-1374.

Mar. 24 (Fri.) 8 pm - Paul Galbraith. Performing at the Bradley Hills Church, 6601 Bradley Boulevard, Bethesda, MD. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. For information, call (301) 654-6874 or (202) 265-3915.

Mar. 26 (Sun.) 3 pm - Franco Platino. Presented by the Montpelier Classical Recital Series at the Montpelier Cultural Arts Center, 12826 Laurel-Bowie Road, Laurel, MD 20708. Free, but reservations required. Call (301) 953-1993.

Apr. 8 (Sat.) 2 pm - Kevin Vigil will be performing the world premiere of Bobby Gibbs *The Intricacies of Strings* for violin and guitar. This will be one of many pieces by Bobby Gibbs for his degree recital at Howard University.

Apr. 21 (Fri.) 8 pm - Risa Carlson will perform for the Washington Guitar Society at the Chevy Chase Community Center, 5601 Connecticut Ave., NW. It's just south of Chevy Chase Circle at the corner of Connecticut Ave. and McKinley St., across the street from the Avalon movie theater. There is plenty of free parking. For information, call WGS president John Rodgers at (202) 686-1020.

Apr. 29 (Sat.) 8 pm - Andrew York will perform for the Baltimore Classical Guitar Society. The concert will take place at Catonsville Community College, Q Theatre. For information, please call (410) 247-5320 or visit: www.bcgs.org

May 19 (Fri.) 8 pm - Paul Moeller will perform for the Washington Guitar Society at the Chevy Chase Community Center, 5601 Connecticut Ave., NW. It's just south of Chevy Chase Circle at the corner of Connecticut Ave. and McKinley St., across the street from the Avalon movie theater. There is plenty of free parking. For information, call WGS president John Rodgers at (202) 686-1020.

Review of Benjamin Verdery's**EASY CLASSICAL GUITAR RECITAL**

The National Guitar Summer Workshop and Alfred Publications have just published a wonderful new anthology for guitar. It is called *Easy Classical Guitar Recital* by Benjamin Verdery.

Unlike other anthologies, this has a purpose. The goal is for students or players to perform a successful recital. Many players know what it's like to get up in front of an audience and attempt to play something that is barely in their grasp. The concept of this book is to take really great pieces of music that are not terribly difficult and perform them in a recital. The book even includes two templates for recital programs with "Your Name Here" printed at the top.

Every piece is prefaced by comments by Mr. Verdery. Sometimes quite personal... for example, "If you were on a desert island with a guitar, which composer's music would you want to have? My answer would have to be the music of Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750). One of the reasons I decided to play classical guitar was because I heard a harpsichord recital given by the great Bach interpreter, Anthony Newman." This personal touch helps to motivate and inspire the student as the author shares his convictions about the music he presents.

Benjamin Verdery is professor of guitar at Yale University and has just been appointed head of the Purchase (New York) Conservatory of Music guitar department. His teaching has been recognized and appreciated by guitarists all over the world. The user of this book is treated to some lessons by Mr. Verdery in the Appendix of the book. He writes about *How to Learn a Piece of Music, Some Practice Ideas, Memory, Preparing a Recital, Nerves and Praise*. Mr. Verdery's writing on these subjects is worth the price of the book alone.

The pieces that Mr. Verdery has chosen for this collection is quite varied. There are familiar composers like Tarrega, Bach, Dowland, de Visee, Sor and Giuliani, but there are also pieces by living composers like Owe Walter, Frederic Hand, Allan Jaffe, Daniel Asia, Freddie Bryant and the author himself. I have selected excerpts of a few pieces to include in this edition (see page 5).

The book is available with or without a CD. You'll want to have the CD as Mr. Verdery's playing demonstrates his conviction and love for the pieces he offers to the reader.

While the title says "Easy...", these pieces are really geared toward students who have been studying for 2-3 years. This is not for beginners. Terms like "Easy" are relative and are subject to interpretation. The word "Easy" also helps publishers to sell music. Despite the slightly misused term, this anthology is a 'must have' for any serious student of the classical guitar.

Kevin Vigil



TIBETAN PRAYER SONG

Traditional Tibetan Song
arr. by B. Verdery

♩ = 52
⑥ = D

f *long* *XII* *tasto* *vib.* *vib.*



BLIND MARY

Turlough Carolan
arr. B. Verdery

♩ = 56
⑥ = D

Dolce *p*



RAG #2

Allan Jaffe

Swing 8ths
♩ = 138

mf *p* *a* *m* *i*