

10 Steps to the Stage-Part II

By Corey Whitehead

The following lessons are a continuation of the first four "steps to the stage" from the article I wrote for the July/August issue. These exercises are aimed at improving facility and creating security in both hands. In order to improve facility guitarists need to focus on the problematic technical issues within the repertoire they have programmed for the next recital, concert, or recording. Brief periods of intense concentration on specific issues will reduce the probability for error in performance under the most adverse circumstances.

The issues covered in the first article were 1) Scale velocity, string crossing, and synchronization. 2) Slurs in monophonic and polyphonic musical textures. 3) Right hand arpeggio patterns. 4) Right-hand arpeggios with left-hand synchronization.

The remaining exercises can be used as a warm up for a performance or rehearsal. 5) Right-hand finger independence. 6) Left-hand finger independence. 7) Vibrato 8) Relaxation 9) Visualization 10) Beginnings and endings. In this article I will only discuss right-hand finger independence.

5) Right-hand finger independence

Place the thumb on one of the bass strings, place the index finger on the third string, the middle finger on the second string and the ring finger on the first string. Make sure they are placed at the point where the nail and the flesh make contact at the same time and place on the string. The fingers on the right-hand should be stacked closely against one another so that they form a single unit that resembles a staircase ascending from the index finger up to the ring finger.

Now play only the thumb on one of the bass strings in quarter note rhythm at 60 bpm. Play the bass note while your fingers are placed in the previously described position. Do not move your fingers sympathetically. Watch the treble strings.

Are they moving at all? Play the thumb in this manner at faster and faster tempi until your thumb runs out of gas.

Next place all of the fingers on their proper strings, and play only the index finger while the middle, ring and thumb are fixed in their playing position. Use the same tempo and procedure described in the previous paragraph. Play only the index finger and do not lift or move the other fingers. Are the thumb, middle and ring fingers moving sympathetically? They should not move!

Then, place the fingers on the strings as before and play only the middle finger. Are the other fingers moving sympathetically? Don't let it happen to you!

Finally, place the fingers on the strings as before and play only the ring finger. Are the others moving sympathetically? Break the pattern of dependence! Liberate your fingers today!

If you thought that was easy, this next trick is just for you. Place all of the fingers down as before and play the thumb and index finger together. Do not move the other two.

Then, place the fingers down as before and play only the thumb and middle fingers. Do not move the other two fingers.

Next, place all the fingers down as before and play only the thumb and ring fingers. Do not move the other two fingers.

Ah, yes, you still think it is easy do you? Mmmmm? Well try placing them all down as before and play only the index and middle. Do not move the other two fingers. Then try to reset your hand to the starting position again and play only the middle and ring fingers.

Finally, the interdependency of your fingers will be quite evident when you fix the hand as before and only play the index and ring fingers as you fix the thumb and middle. Do not move your other fingers, oh, and try not to hang your tongue out of your mouth or drool on yourself.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our July performer, Adam Tully, became ill the week of his recital and had to cancel. We were most fortunate to have Corey Whitehead step in to substitute at the last minute. With about two days notice he played a fine recital for us. A truly impressive feat! In case you missed it, be sure to come to our September meeting, where he will be our featured performer, playing an all new program.

On August 25 we had an unusually large audience for Andrew Zohn's performance. In past years we have often not had performers in July or August, so it was really great to have such a turnout.

I know we have had a problem with excess noise from the air conditioning system this summer. We have several possible remedies in the works. We'll keep you informed on this. It's been great to see so many of you showing up this summer. Please keep it up and bring your friends and families.

John Rodgers

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 7:30-8:30 pm and continue with the performance at 8 pm. The 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 8pm. The next open stage is set for Friday, July 21st. 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.

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FROM THE EDITOR

Please offer your suggestions to me, as I will surely have room for improvement.

Anyone who is interested in contributing articles or ideas for the publication of this newsletter feel free to contact me at: coreywhitehead@yahoo.com. Compositions and arrangements of music are welcome.

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Concert Review

On August 25th 2000, Andrew Zohn gave a stellar performance of an extremely difficult program. His sensitive touch and tasteful musicality shaped each phrase in a way that was easy to understand and enjoy. Both the aficionado and the concert performer would be moved by Andrew's obvious command of his instrument and repertoire. Andrew's CD is available at Paco de Malaga's Guitar Gallery in D.C. and at Foxes Music in Falls Church, VA. You can also order it directly from Andrew at aezohn@isoa.net.

Here is the program that Andrew performed.

Two Sonatas

Domenico Scarlatti (1685-1757)

(arr. A. Zohn)

Selections from *Album for the Young*, Op. 39

Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)

(arr. A. Zohn)

Dialogue

Andrew Zohn (b. 1970)

La Fille aux Cheveux de Lin

Claude Debussy (1862-1918)

Golliwog's Cake-walk

(arr. A. Zohn)

Sonatas nos. 15, 46 and 53

Domenico Cimarosa (1749-1801) arr. Zohn

Variations on Three Appalachian Themes

Andrew Zohn

On the banks of that lonely river

Black is the color of my true love's hair

Old Joe Clarke

Three American Popular Songs (arr. A. Zohn)

They can't take that away from me

George Gershwin (1898-1937)

Ms. Otis regrets

Cole Porter (1891-1964)

What is this thing called love?

Calendar of Events

Sept. 12 (Tues.) 10 am - **Duo Con Brio (Barbara Vigil, flute Kevin Vigil, guitar)**

presented by the Woodbridge Music Club at St. Paul Methodist Church, Woodbridge, VA.

Sept. 15th WGS presents **Corey Whitehead** at 8pm at the Chevy Chase Community Center, 5601 Connecticut Ave N.W. Free.

Sept. 17th **Scott Shertzfeger** Barnes and Noble in Manassas, VA. 3:00pm. Free.

Oct. 7 (Sat.) 8 pm - **Roland Dyens** presented by the Baltimore Classical Guitar Society at the Q Theatre, Catonsville Community College (CCBC). General admission \$20, seniors, students and BCGS members \$15. For further info. call (410) 247-5320 or visit: www.bcfgs.org

Oct 13, 2000 **Roland Dyens** (France) at 6601 Bradley Boulevard, Bethesda, Maryland 8 pm

Oct 14, 2000 **Roland Dyens Master Class** at a time and location to be announced.

Oct. 27th WGS presents **Chris Dunn** at the Chevy Chase Community Center 5601 Connecticut Ave. N.W. 8pm. Free. Donations are welcome.

Oct. 31, 2000 **Chris Dunn** Church of the Ephiany- 1317 G street NW Washington DC (202) 347-2635 for more information.

Nov. 4 (Sat.) 8 pm - **Jorge Caballero** presented by the Baltimore Classical Guitar Society at the Q Theatre, Catonsville Community College (CCBC). General admission \$20, seniors, students and BCGS members \$15. For further info. call (410) 247-5320 or visit: www.bcfgs.org

Nov. 7 (Tues) 8 pm - **Duo Con Brio (Barbara Vigil, flute Kevin Vigil, guitar)** presented on the Brucker Hall Recital Series at Brucker Hall, 204 Lee Ave, Ft. Myer, VA 22211; For info. call (703) 696-3399 or visit: <http://www.army.mil/armyband>

Nov. 11, 2000 **The Halasz Duo** (Piano and Guitar) from German and Brazil, at Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church 6601 Bradley Boulevard, Bethesda, Maryland 8 pm.

Calendar of events continued...

Dec. 2 (Sat.) 8 pm - **BCGS Holiday concert-** Celebrate the holidays with a host of musicians and music-lovers. This special event will feature guitarists Andy Mitchell, Troy King and Kevin Vigil as well as flutist Barbara Vigil, all gifted performers and recording artists. In addition, Ronald Pearl will conduct the first-ever BCGS sponsored classical guitar orchestra, which will play works by Bach, Corelli, Tchaikovsky and others. Tickets are \$10. This performance will take place at the Q Theatre, Catonsville Community College (CCBC). For further info. call (410) 247-5320 or visit: www.bcgs.org

Jan 21, 2001 **Christopher Parkening** at Lisner Auditorium 730 21st Street, N.W. (George Washington University) at 3 pm

Feb. 3, 2001 (Sat.) 8 pm - **Franco Platino** presented by the Baltimore Classical Guitar Society at the Q Theatre, Catonsville Community College (CCBC). General admission \$20, seniors, students and BCGS members \$15. For further info. call (410) 247-5320

Feb 23, 2001 **Artists of Washington** (Flutar...Giorgia Cavallaro, guitar and Joe Cunliffe flute; Risa Carlson, guitar; Myrna Sislen, guitar and Allan Wade, Narrator performing "Platero Y Yo" translated into English)--at the Performing Arts Hall, WCCC, 7931 Connecticut Avenue, Chevy Chase, MD at 8 pm Mar. 3, 2001 (Sat.) 8 pm - David Russell presented by the Baltimore Classical Guitar Society at the Q Theatre, Catonsville Community College (CCBC). General admission \$25, seniors, students and BCGS members \$20. For further info. call (410) 247-5320 or visit: www.bcgs.org

Mar 11, 2001 **John Feeley**, Ireland, performing works of Albeniz, Bach and Irish airs and dances

April 28, 2001, **Pepe Romero** (Spain and LA) at Lisner Auditorium 730 21st Street, N.W. (George Washington University) at 8 pm. We are working out details for a master class with Pepe, but details will follow.

NEWS FLASH!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Paco de Malaga's Guitar Gallery has moved to 3400 Connecticut Ave N.W. just one

block south of the old location on the same side of the street. Paco now has parking in front of the store and has a larger showroom. He has added several very nice teaching studios and has instructors for classical, flamenco, jazz, rock, blues and folk guitar.

Thank you Bev Ross! Thank you for your fastidious service to the WGS as treasurer we are grateful for your fine service to the society and will now be taking nominations for a new treasurer.

Nicki Lehrer gave a fantastic performance at the Kennedy Center Millenium Stage on Sept. 3. The grand foyer was packed. Her program included Leyenda, Malagueña, and Spanish Dance no. 5 by Granados. She commanded the full attention of the audience and sold out of several boxes of her impressive CD recording "Beyond the Beltway" that receives many thumbs up from the WGS and her numerous fans.

Corey Whitehead has been hired as the newest guitar instructor at the Levine School of Music. He teaches at the Upton Campus in NW D.C., at the SE D.C. campus, and at the Arlington campus.

Welcome to D.C. Roberto Alcaraz!

Roberto is a Doctoral student in Guitar Performance at the University of Arizona and has just moved to DC with his wife Alcira. Roberto has a Masters Degree from the Manhattan School of Music and spent ten years studying, teaching and performing in Paris. His phone will be turned on soon and we will give you the latest on Roberto in the next newsletter. Roberto is currently subbing gigs for me and anyone who could use Roberto can call or email me until his number is listed.

Corey Whitehead

Many locals go to compete at the 2000 Guitar Foundation of America Competition. Risa Carlson, Piotr Zielinski, Corey Whitehead, Martha Masters and Orlando Roman are among the sixty-two contestants at the festival in San Antonio, Texas. Wish them luck!

The guitar society is in search of volunteers for web page design and maintenance, secretary, publishing assistant, public relations assistant, recital assistants, grant writers, and more.

**Corey Whitehead to Perform for WGS on Sept 15th
Chevy Chase Community Center 5601 Connecticut Ave NW 8:00pm**



Corey holds his Masters and Bachelors Degrees in Music Performance from The University of Arizona where he is currently completing his dissertation for the Doctor of Musical Arts Degree. He has won the Arizona round of the Music Teacher's National Association Collegiate Artists Competition. He went on to win the Southwest Division round of the Music Teacher's National Association Collegiate Artists Competition. In 1996, he was second runner-up at the National Finals of the Music Teacher's National Association Collegiate Artists Competition. In 1990 and 1991, Corey was the first undergraduate who twice won prizes in the Norman Sholin Memorial Guitar Competition for graduate students at The University of Arizona.