

Washington Guitar Society

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WGS Members Recital December 14

The WGS meeting for December will be a "members recital". While the title suggests that only WGS members can participate, that is far from the truth. We would like to encourage members and non-members to come, play and/or listen to others. This is a great opportunity for amateurs and students to try out their pieces in front of other amateurs and students. It is also a chance to meet others who share your interests, joys, and frustrations with our beloved instrument. Teachers are encouraged to invite your students to play. Our member's recitals are always casual and fun; so come on out and play.

The December member's recital will take place at the Chevy Chase Community Center, 5601 Connecticut Ave., NW in Washington. For more details, please see the calendar of events.

No January Meeting

The WGS meeting locations for this year were designed to alternate between the Chevy Chase Community Center and the Levine School of Music. The dates for the Levine School of Music were reserved before the John E. Marlow Guitar Recital Series announced its concert season. In the interest of supporting guitar activity in the Washington area, the WGS intentionally avoids scheduling events on the same dates as the Marlow series. We would hate to draw audiences away from Washington's largest presenter of great guitar performances.

The date scheduled for the WGS January meeting was the 25th of the month. As it turns out, the Marlow series is presenting their "Artists of Washington" concert on that date. The Washington Guitar Society would like to encourage its members to attend this concert which features former WGS president Kevin Vigil and John Marlow's son Richie Marlow. For further information, please see the calendar of events.

THE FEBRUARY WGS PROGRAM A Guitar Orchestra!

The WGS get-together for February 8, 2002 will be a guitar orchestra led by Kevin Vigil. See the Calendar of Events for the time and place. Kevin, of course, is known to all of us as the former WGS president, and all-around guitar dynamo. We will be playing "The Floating Ancillary Ants" by Rex Willis. This piece received an enthusiastic review in **Soundboard** magazine (summer 2000). The ant inspiration is explained as follows: "During a flood, if the water is still enough, ants with no place to climb will float. They then lock their legs together in what looks like a floating, glistening red pad that is about pancake thickness and perhaps one to two feet across."

"The Floating Ancillary Ants" is in 3 parts, but is recommended for a much larger guitar orchestra. There are some scraping and scratching sound effects, and, obviously, the more guitars you have, the more ants you can sound like. The piece was designed for players of all levels: Guitar 1 is intermediate plus; Guitar 2 is intermediate; and Guitar 3 can be knocked out by beginners, even. Teachers, this is a great opportunity for your students.

Take a look at the sample extract in this newsletter and select a part. If you need a part in advance, the best thing to do is SHOW UP AT THE DECEMBER MEMBERS' RECITAL, where parts will be available. Failing that, I can send out parts. (If the demand is large, I wouldn't object to reimbursement for the stamp.) See the contact information at the bottom.

Getting a part in advance is not a requirement - don't hesitate to show up even if you don't get one. Of course, the session is open to *everyone*, whether or not a WGS member. And it's not unthinkable that your non-guitarist friend or family member might enjoy watching and listening.

Besides the fun of playing with a bunch of guitar friends, an incentive for joining in is that you will be credited in the next newsletter (yippee!), and that the results will be recorded. We have recorded several earlier WGS guitar orchestra sessions and I'd like to think that in no time we'll have a jivin' CD to pass around.

Maybe you can tell that these guitar orchestra sessions are my favorite offering of our guitar society. In 1997 violinist Phyllis Fleming rehearsed us in a work by John Duarte, which we then played as the first item of a members' recital. Over the years, Kevin Vigil has worked wonders pulling us together on pieces like John Duarte's "Summerset Follies", Musorgskii's "Old Castle", Leo Brouwer's "Tocatta" and (my all-time favorite) Walter Burke's "A Trip To Rocky Point". The last one involved whistles and bells and sand blocks, not to mention Kevin's mandolin and train conductor calls. See what you missed? Don't let it happen again!

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