

## The AGS February 2024 Newsletter

From: Gregory Newton (newtonguitar@earthlink.net)

To: newtonguitarlute@gmail.com

Date: Wednesday, February 28, 2024 at 09:13 AM PST

Dear AGS Members,

Our AGS February meeting was a superb evening, with many fine performances and a diverse program. The ensemble component this year continued in force, with Mark Achuff and John Steiner presenting guitar duos, and Vasil Chekardzhikov performing in duo with Marissa Vickrey, flute and with Nick Vega, saxophone. We were also treated to a return visit from guitarist/composer Andrew Hull. The reception, hosted as always by the lovely Grazyna Newton, featured a wide array of delectables!

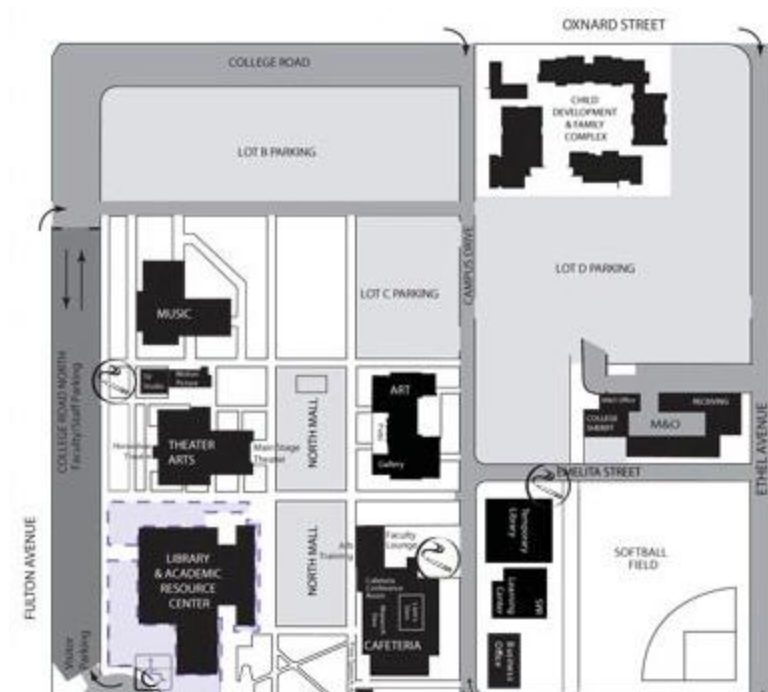
Our next meeting will be March 2nd, this coming Saturday. Please do mark you calendar and please join us.

Here are the details:

Saturday, March 2, 2024, 7:30pm  
Music Department, Room 104  
Los Angeles Valley College

The Music Building at Los Angeles Valley College, Valley Glen, is located in the northwest corner of the campus, at the corner of Fulton Avenue and Oxnard Street. Ample parking is available in Lot B, to the north of the Music Building. Please do not park in Lot C or the Faculty/Staff lot. One may enter Lot B from either Fulton Avenue, just south of Oxnard Street, or from Oxnard Street by turning into Campus Drive. Parking is free during the concert.

Note, the Orange Line Busway (which connects to the Red Metro Line) has an exit for Valley College at Burbank Blvd. and Fulton Ave., then walk (about 10 minutes) north on Fulton Ave. to the Music Building.



We already have a lively program lined up, but there is ample room left, so if you wish to perform, submit in the next few days! All you need to do is visit the AGS website, click on Meetings, scroll down a little, then follow the simple guidelines. It's quick and easy. Here is the direct link:

<https://www.americanguitarsociety.org/monthly-meetings>

PLEASE DO ATTEND! WE WILL LOVE TO SEE AND HEAR YOU! SEE YOU ON MARCH 2ND!

- Gregory Newton, AGS President

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Our annual AGS membership drive is underway! Now would be a good time to go to [www.americanguitarsociety.org](http://www.americanguitarsociety.org) and press the JOIN button or tab. If you are paying by credit card, scroll down and select STUDENT \$20, SENIOR \$20, INDIVIDUAL \$25, or FAMILY \$35. A PayPal dialogue will open up to pay by credit card. You can also pay by check by going to the very bottom and printing the form. Your membership funding is crucially important to help the AGS continue its mission. You may also make donations to AGS. And if you go to our AGS LIBRARY, you can make a donation and download and/or print out a copy of any Vahdah Olcott Bickford classical guitar music edition of interest to you. Many to choose from - all are professional quality scores, crafted with love and attention to detail by VOB. PLEASE JOIN OR RENEW AGS TODAY!!!

- Mark Achuff, AGS Community Liaison

Many thanks to all who have renewed this year. If you haven't yet, no judgment! Please do visit the website and renew, or join, for which we will be most appreciative. Don't forget! :)

- Gregory Newton, AGS President

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Speaking of support for the AGS, at the February meeting our Segovia Cigar Box took in a record \$95 toward reception supplies for our meetings and concerts. A huge and very warm thank-you to everyone who contributed for your extraordinary generosity. We are grateful!

- Gregory Newton, AGS President

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This past Saturday, February 24th, AGS joyfully and successfully re-launched our annual International Guitar Series with a remarkable concert given by Romanian-born guitarist Tavi Jinariu. AGS had not hosted a professional-level concert since February 29th, 2020 when we hosted lutenist Ronn McFarland. With the Covid shutdown era behind us, it was so nice to see our AGS members, and the many fans of Tavi, come together at the LA Valley College Recital Hall to experience an amazingly enjoyable guitar concert which Tavi entitled "Echoes Of Segovia."

Tavi's execution of some of the finest pieces from the Segovia repertoire was flawless in the most important of ways. His command of time and rhythm, the sonority of the tonal colors he brought forth, and his phrasing of melodic passages, especially the subtle supportive passages, all jelled together beautifully to take us on a long overdue journey of guitaristic magic. Tavi made these well-known pieces come to life and sing with joy and passion. Bravo! No hesitation to honor him with "Standing O's." His nice encores said thank you with grace and acceptance of the satisfaction that he gave us all a great performance.

Speaking of encores, Tavi's last encore was an original composition that was dedicated to the children of the world who are suffering through no fault of their own. We all listened intently as his guitar brought forth simple and pure compassion, and his musical artistry reached out to touch us all. What a powerful way to end a concert and a musical journey led by a gifted artist of the classical guitar.

If you are saying this to yourself right now, you are quite correct: "I should have been there!"

- Mark Achuff, AGS Community Liaison

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Our next and final concert of the season will be given by celebrated guitarist and composer Arthur Dente on Saturday, March 24. Arthur is a long-time friend and supporter of the AGS; indeed, he was to be the first concert of the 2020-2021 season until the pandemic and lockdowns hit. You may recall that Arthur has performed at a few AGS monthly meetings when he was passing through town. He also attended our Centennial celebration this past Fall. We are thrilled to be able to finally follow through in presenting Arthur on our series.

Arthur Dente is a Franco-Portuguese guitarist who has both studied music through institutions (conservatory of music and university), as well as through long stays in Spain over many years (frequenting the flamenco music scene in Seville, Cádiz, Córdoba and Jerez de la Frontera). In addition, his interest in contemporary music has led him to enter several composition competitions presenting the fruits of his research into musical language. He is artistic director in France of Ensemble Magellan, an orchestral, choreographic and choral structure that enables him to write and organize major composition projects each year, thus broadening the musical universe of the classical guitar.

Arthur's program for the AGS will feature his own compositions, along with works by Bach, Villa-Lobos and Albéniz.

Continuing AGS tradition, all series concerts are on Saturday evenings at 8:00pm in the Recital Hall (Room 106) of the Music Department at Los Angeles Valley College. Ticket prices for this season remain unchanged, i.e. the same as prior to the pandemic: \$20 general, \$15 seniors and veterans, \$10 AGS members and students. Tickets will be available at the door, for which you may use cash, check or credit card. We are also pleased to announce that we are now able to offer advance tickets online through UBMe, which you may access from the Events page on the AGS website. The Events page will also provide you full information on the concert and venue. Parking in Lot B is very close to the building, just a few steps. It remains free and open, no permit required.

<https://www.americanguitarsociety.org/events-concerts>

- Gregory Newton, AGS President

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AGS member Michael Gullo informs us of his newest video for Guitar Salon, a rousing rendition of Barrios' Las Abejas performed on a 1986 Miguel Rodriguez guitar. Please enjoy! Michael says to please feel free to leave a comment, as it

will help with the video's algorithm.

<https://youtu.be/e9kJZN6fLCQ?si=EL14>

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One more heads-up. Michael Gullo will be performing the Concierto de Aranjuez of Joaquín Rodrigo with the Moorpark Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Charles Fernandez, on March 9, 2024. Details in the attached flyer. Entitled "España!", the program will also feature works by Albéniz and Falla. It's an all-Spanish evening!

- Gregory Newton, AGS President

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Presented by Adelaide Guitar Festival:

Adelaide International Classical Guitar Competition

Online auditions for the Adelaide International Classical Guitar Competition are now open.

Presented by Adelaide Festival Centre's Adelaide Guitar Festival, this highly esteemed annual event has served as a springboard for numerous up-and-coming artists globally with all prizes being funded by the Adelaide Festival Centre Foundation.

First prize includes:

- AUD \$10,000 prize money.
- A Jim Redgate Guitar, valued at AUD \$23,000.
- An invitation to perform at the next Adelaide Guitar Festival (including all travel expenses).

Auditions close 3 April 2024.

"The Adelaide International Classical Guitar Competition has built an exceptional worldwide reputation over the years, and we are thrilled to once again welcome entrants from around the world for 2024 in the search for the next rising star of classical guitar".

- Adelaide Guitar Festival Artistic Director Slava Grigoryan

[Register now](#)

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From the USC Thornton School of Music:

Upcoming Thornton Classical Guitar Events

Saturday, April 6

7:00pm

USC Concert

Boulevard Music

Tuesday, April 16

1:00-3:00pm

USC Classical Guitar Competition

Ramo Recital Hall

Saturday, April 20

8:00pm

Doris Cosiç Concert

Boston Court Pasadena

Monday, April 22  
6:30pm  
Pepe Romero Masterclass 1  
TBD

Tuesday, April 23  
12:00pm  
Pepe Romero Masterclass 2  
Ramo Recital Hall

Tuesday, April 23  
6:30pm  
Pepe Romero Masterclass 3  
Cammilleri Hall

Thursday, April 25  
11:00am-12:00pm  
KPFK Appearance  
KPFK studio space (TBD)

Thursday, April 26  
7:30pm  
Classical Guitar Departmental Recital  
Newman Recital Hall

#### Upcoming Classical Guitar Student Recitals

Sunday, March 3  
3pm  
Michael Vascones DMA Recital  
(Tansman, Bach, Gnattali)  
MacDonald Recital Hall

Thursday, March 7  
7:30pm  
Joseph Douglass DMA Recital  
(Britten, Sor, Dowland)  
Newman Recital Hall

Sunday, March 24  
3:30pm  
Alex Park DMA Lecture Recital  
Arranging Bach & Scarlatti for guitar  
MacDonald Recital Hall

Saturday, March 30  
7:30pm  
Juri Yun DMA Recital  
(Handel, Rudnev, Bach)  
MacDonald Recital Hall

Friday, April 12  
6:00pm  
Aditya Hariharan BM Senior Recital  
(Shostakovich, York, Mozart)  
Cammilleri Hall

Saturday, May 4  
3:30pm  
David Hernandez BM Junior Recital  
(Bach, Ponce)

Newman Recital Hall

Saturday, May 4

4:30pm

Doris Cosiç MM Recital

(Bach, Domeniconi, Hernandez)

Newman Recital Hall

We hope you can join us! Thank you for your interest and support.

Best,

Classical Guitar Department

USC Thornton School of Music

[jiepark@usc.edu](mailto:jiepark@usc.edu)

[classical.guitar@usc.edu](mailto:classical.guitar@usc.edu)

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From the Guitar Foundation of America:

Register for the 2024 Convention

Registration for the 2024 Convention & Competitions at Cal State University Fullerton, California, is now open! Join us for a week of performances, competitions, lectures, workshops, masterclasses, private lessons and vendor expo. Featured artists include Gaëlle Solal, Paul Galbraith, the Bandini & Chiacchiaretta Duo, the Kupinski Guitar Duo, Marko Topchii, and more!

Join the GFA Guitar Orchestra and open for the Kupinski Duo on Saturday, June 22!

Save the dates! The Convention, hosted by Dr. Douglas Lora, takes place from June 17-22, 2024. Visit our [website](#) today!

Competition Registration

Registration for the 2024 ICAC and IYC competitions is now open. You can find all important information such as requirements, deadlines, and pricing on our website.

For information on the IYC Junior Division, [click here](#).

For information on the IYC Senior Division, [click here](#).

For information on the International Concert Artist Competition, [click here](#).

The Bridge: GFA's Teen Academy

We're thrilled to announce that registration for The Bridge, GFA's teen academy, opened on February 1, 2024.

The Bridge is an unparalleled experience for guitarists aged 11-18, The Bridge unfolds during the annual GFA convention in Fullerton, CA, offering a platform for young musicians to perform, learn and socialize with peers and world-famous GFA artists.

What can you expect?

- Daily studio class performances.

- Exclusive technique workshops.

- Special sessions for The Bridge students.

- Afternoon and evening concerts by world-class artists.

- Exciting excursions within the convention environment.

- Play in the Bridge's guitar orchestra and open for the Bandini & Chiacchiaretta Duo on Friday, June 21.

Click [here](#) & register today!

Zoom Educator Hour

Join us for the GFA Educator Hour on March 5th at 7:00 PM EST, where we'll delve into an enlightening discussion led by Patrick Lui on the topic of "Reimagining The Classical Guitar Education for a Complete Musician." In this session, we will re-examine the focal points and materials utilized within and beyond the classroom, aiming to broaden perspectives and enrich the educational experience for aspiring musicians. Moderated by Chuck Hulihan, this online session will be an exploration of innovative approaches to guitar education. Don't miss out on this opportunity to gain fresh insights and connect with fellow educators. Mark your calendars and RSVP today!

Patrick Lui is a masterful concert artist and distinguished classical guitar teacher with over four decades of experience. Celebrated for his exceptional talent and unwavering dedication, Lui has inspired and nurtured countless students to over three hundred prizes and accolades. His students have triumphed at prestigious competitions such as the Guitar Festival America - Youth Division and the James Stroud Guitar Competition, and have graced the stage as young featured artists at Carnegie Hall in New York. Many of his former students have gone on to become successful performing artists, accomplished luthiers, and even a Grammy Award-winning music producer.

Register [here!](#)

#### Higher Education Virtual Summit

Save the date of March 25, 2024, from 7 - 9 PM EST, and Join us for a moderated discussion on the state of guitar in US higher education. All teachers and administrators in higher education who offer guitar instruction are welcome, as well as all interested parties. More information coming soon.

Please email us at [letschat@guitarfoundation.org](mailto:letschat@guitarfoundation.org). We'd love to hear from you!

Have you read the latest issue of Soundboard?

Check out our website to view the magazine in PDF format! Featured articles include: Sor's Grand Solo: From Seven Strings to Six by Brian Jeffery; Improvised Cadenzas in Early Nineteenth-Century Guitar Music by Neil Caulkins; An Analysis of Napoléon Coste's Étude No. 22 by Steven T. Zvengrowski; as well as articles regarding the history of the Guitar Foundation of America by Mark Small, Robert Ferguson and Kathy Acosta Zavala.

[Read Soundboard 49.4 Here!](#)

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The next meeting of the Ventura County Classical Guitar Society will take place tonight, Wednesday, February 28. The featured solo artist will be classical and flamenco guitarist Scott Wolf, with special guests.

<https://www.scottwolfguitar.com/>

The March meeting of the Society will take place on Wednesday, March 27. The featured solo artist will be very familiar to AGS members, Cameron O'Connor.

<http://www.cameronoconnor.com/>

VCCGS meetings take place at the Camarillo Senior Center. Performances begin at 7:00pm with student players, guest artists take the stage at 8:00pm. For information, visit their website:

<http://www.vccgs.com/>

Doors open at 6:00pm, if you wish to bring your guitar and come early to play with the guitar ensemble. They will have printouts of some sight-readable music. Performances begin at 7:00pm with "first come first served" student signups. VCCGS notes that space is limited and they might not get to all the signups every meeting. To ensure that the audience do get to hear from as many players as possible, players are asked to prepare just ONE piece. The featured artist will begin at 8:00pm.

As previously announced, the society has had a new location within the Senior Center, in Room 7 of the building all the way to the left. As always, one can park in the same lot as before, and parking is free.



Pleasant Valley Senior Center  
1605 Burnley St.  
Camarillo, CA 93010

Visit [www.vccgs.com](http://www.vccgs.com) to see upcoming events, videos from recent meetings, and more.

Click here for the VCCGS YouTube channel:  
<https://www.youtube.com/@venturacountyclassicalguit1002>

Telephone (805) 798-3628 for more information.

-Gregory Newton, AGS President

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Orange County Guitar Circle - Classical Guitar Events in Southern California:  
<http://ocgc.org/pages/SoCalEvents.htm>

Guitar Foundation of America - Community Calendar:  
[https://www.guitarfoundation.org/events/event\\_list.asp?](https://www.guitarfoundation.org/events/event_list.asp?)

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Warm wishes in advance for a Happy St. Patrick's Day, and we look forward to seeing you on March 2nd!

Quote of the Month:

"Music is like a psychiatrist. You can tell your guitar things that you can't tell people. And it will answer you with things people can't tell you."

- Paul McCartney