

# Seattle Classic Guitar Society at Home

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P R E S E N T S



## MICHAEL NICOLELLA

Saturday, Nov 14, 2020 at 7:00 PM PT



LIVE STREAM CONCERTS FROM THE COMFORT OF YOUR HOME

Michael Nicolella  
Live Stream Concert Program  
Saturday, Nov. 14, 7:00 pm

Torre Bermeja  
Granada

Isaac Albeniz  
(1860-1909)

Homenaje (Pour Le Tombeau de Debussy)

Manuel de Falla  
(1876-1946)

La Fille aux Cheveux de Lin

Claude Debussy  
(1862-1918)

Désespoir Agréable

Erik Satie  
(1866-1925)

Sarabande

Francis Poulenc  
(1899-1963)

Prelude BWV 1006a  
Prelude BWV 1007

J.S.Bach  
(1685-1750)

Variations on a Theme by da Milano (2020)

Michael Nicolella  
*(premiere performance)*

Musica Ricercarta VII

György Ligeti  
(1923-2006)

Strawberry Fields Forever

Lennon/McCartney

*Michael Nicolella performs and records with Royal Classic strings*

## Michael Nicolella

### Classical Guitarist

With a repertoire spanning from J.S. Bach and Domenico Scarlatti to Jimi Hendrix and Elliott Carter, Michael Nicolella is recognized as one of America's most innovative classical guitar virtuosos. Described by Classical Guitar magazine as "one of the contemporary guitar's most gifted stars" and by Guitar Player as a "classical iconoclast (who) continues to push the boundaries of the genre as both a composer and player," he has received wide critical acclaim for his performances, recordings and compositions. As a concert artist, Michael has performed throughout North America, Europe and Japan as solo recitalist, chamber musician and soloist with orchestra.

Nicolella blurs the lines between musical styles and disciplines. He is part of a growing trend in classical music to revitalize the role of the composer/performer. As a concert artist he frequently programs his own works for guitar in solo, chamber and orchestral settings. His most recent orchestral piece, "Flame of the Blue Star of Twilight" (for soprano, guitar and orchestra), received its premiere performance by the Northwest Symphony Orchestra with soprano Alexandra Picard. Known for his creative programming, he has introduced electric guitar into his "classical" programs and extended the repertoire and audience of his instrument not only with his own compositions and transcriptions, but also by premiering and commissioning works by some of today's most exciting emerging composers. In reference to his abilities on the classical and electric guitar, noted guitar composer, scholar and critic John Duarte stated in an issue of "Gramophone" magazine that "others have 'crossed the track' in one direction or the other but none has done so with the technical and/or musical success as Nicolella, who, chameleon-like, achieves comparable distinction in both fields".

Michael's latest recording, a double album of his arrangement of the Complete Bach Cello Suites was described as a "monumental achievement" by Soundboard magazine and as "performances that show the suites in an entirely new light" by the Seattle Times. His previous four critically acclaimed releases were albums of contemporary music for classical and electric guitar. Three solo albums ("Ten Years Passed," "Shard" and "Push") all featured works composed by Nicolella (including an electric guitar concerto and a classical guitar concerto); as well as music written for Nicolella and recent masterworks. The album "Transit," is a 45-minute magnum opus written for Nicolella by composer John Fitz Rogers for electric guitar and computer generated sound. A frequent performer with the Seattle Symphony, Nicolella has also performed and collaborated with a wide range of ensembles and artists including Northwest Symphony Orchestra, Seattle Opera, Symphony Tacoma, Seattle Modern Orchestra, Merce Cunningham Dance Company, violinist Gil Shaham, Broadway legends Bernadette Peters and Brian Stokes Mitchell, jazz vocalist Johnaye Kendrick and the Seattle Guitar Trio, which performed Michael's groundbreaking arrangement of Stravinsky's "Rite of Spring."

Michael is a graduate of Yale University, Berklee College of Music and the Accademia Chigiana in Siena, Italy. He is on the faculty of Cornish College of the Arts in Seattle.

*"Since the passing of Andres Segovia the guitar world has needed an advocate . . . perhaps Michael Nicolella is that person, an artist with eclectic tastes and a contemplative bent, extraordinary powerful" - The Washington Post*



**The Seattle Classic Guitar Society is a nonprofit organization promoting the art of the classical guitar in the Puget Sound area.**

Established in 1958, the Seattle Classic Guitar Society is an unendowed, nonprofit arts organization for classical music, which presents a variety of musical events featuring world-class artists, local members' recitals, and masterclasses. The Seattle Classic Guitar Society produces a bi-monthly newsletter, *Guitar Soundings*, containing guitar and music-related articles and dates of upcoming events both in Seattle and across the nation.

For information on the Seattle Classic Guitar Society:

SCGS P.O. Box 30167 Seattle, WA 98113

Phone: 206.365.0845

On the web: [www.seattleguitar.org](http://www.seattleguitar.org)

Annual Dues: \$20 individual; \$35 couples; \$15 students/seniors

The Seattle Classic Guitar Society is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

Donations are gratefully accepted.

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## **SCGS at Home Upcoming Online Concerts:**

### **SCGS Annual Holiday Concert: Hope, Joy and Peace**

*Saturday, December 12, 7:00 pm PT*

**Elizabeth Brown**

*Saturday, Feb. 6, 2021, 7:00 pm PT*

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**VISIT THE SEATTLE CLASSIC GUITAR SOCIETY**

**ON FACEBOOK, TWITTER, AND INSTAGRAM**

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