



Guitar Soundings

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Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, this issue of the SCGS Newsletter will be available in PDF format only. No printed copies will be created or mailed out due to the various business closures and social/physical distancing requirements aimed at mitigating the spread of the virus in Washington state.

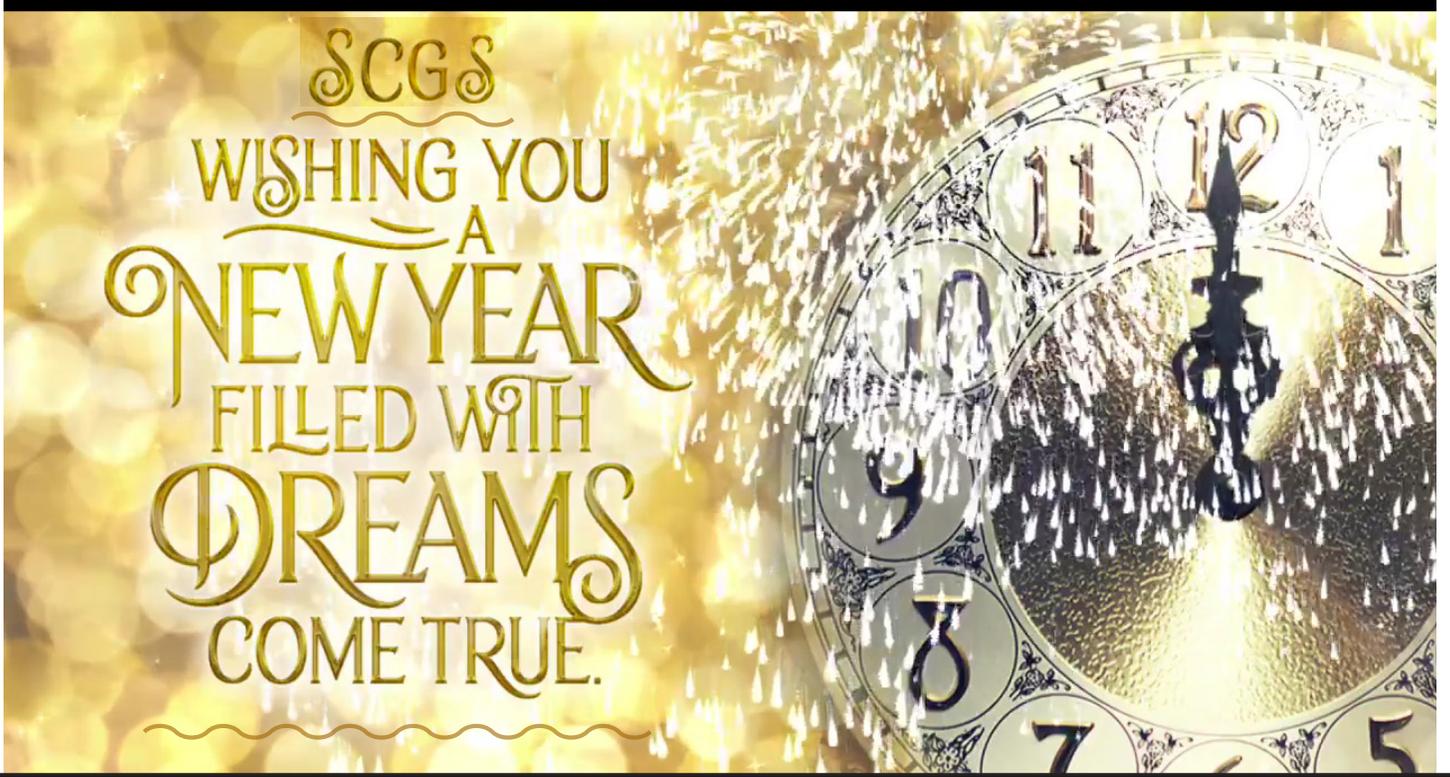


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*“I love to be a child at Nature’s feet,
And on her mossy footstool sit and dream,
Awhile the wild wind and the mountain stream,
Delight my ears with music wondrous sweet.”*
– Clarence Hawkes, “The Blind Poet of Hadley”



Dear Friends of the SCGS,

As I write this, the Winter Solstice is approaching, transitioning the days from darkness to light, and welcoming in the new year. The Seattle Classic Guitar Society Holiday Concert in December brought us together once again with heartfelt solo and ensemble music, celebrating the season and the many colors of the classical guitar. The online concert graced the listeners with repertoire from the Renaissance through the 21st century, from Paraguay to Japan, from Nigeria to Spain, and beyond. The online venue made it possible to offer a lovely performance by the Victorian Guitar Orchestra from Australia, as well as virtual front row seats to audience members from across the globe. Music by young contemporary composers, including Taiwo Adegoke from Africa and Olivia Kieffer from the US, shared the stage with historical composers such as Bach and Beethoven. Inspired by the theme “Gratitude,” the concert concluded with a collaborative music video project, “Variations on the Shaker Song Simple Gifts,” arranged by talented SCGS members, Meredith Connie, Ming Huang, Stephen Howland, and Mark Hilliard Wilson. The Seattle Classic Guitar Society is so grateful to all who participated in the concert, collaborated with visual and audio submissions for the video project, and listened and shared the joy of the music and the holiday season. Bringing the community together through the art of the classical guitar is at the heart of our mission. All of your generous donations will help the SCGS continue to offer concerts, education, outreach, and community events to all. Thank you again for your support.

The Seattle Classic Guitar Society is in the process of planning live and virtual events in 2022. Please visit www.seattleguitar.org for more information.

Best wishes for a safe, healthy, and bright new year,

Hilary

Hilary Field, Executive Director, SCGS



SCGS 2021 HOLIDAY CONCERT WRAP-UP

* * * AND * * *

COLLABORATIVE VIDEO ONLINE



Variations on the Shaker Song “Simple Gifts” A Collaborative Video Project by friends and members of the Seattle Classic Guitar Society

The Seattle Classic Guitar Society’s 2021 Annual Holiday Concert was live on Zoom on Saturday, December 11, offering music by the local and worldwide community, and inspired by the theme “Gratitude.”

The evening concluded with *Variations on the Shaker Song Simple Gifts*, a collaborative video by friends and members of the SCGS. The video featured a virtual guitar ensemble, as well as images inspired by the theme “Gratitude,” all submitted by SCGS members and friends. Thank you to everyone who collaborated on this video! Enjoy!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mz9XpKS53f0>

Arrangers: Meredith Connie, Stephen Howland, Ming Huang, Mark Hilliard Wilson

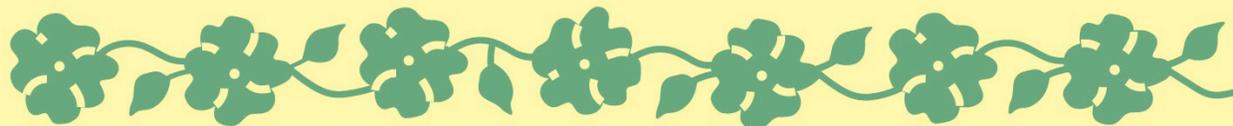
Guitars: Tim Cayton, Stephen Howland, Michael Partington, Charles Stanton, Lucas Victor, Mark Hilliard Wilson

Photography: Tim Cayton, Jane Carter, Elizabeth Jansen, Peter Stekel

Watercolor Paintings: Sally Rawlings

Audio Mixing: Andrew Ratshin

Video Editing: Hilary Field



*** SCGS 2021 HOLIDAY CONCERT PHOTOS ***



Thank you to everyone who contributed to, participated in, and watched the 2021 SCGS Annual Holiday Concert online! We greatly appreciate your support, talent, creativity and enthusiasm! We have a wonderful classical guitar community here in the Seattle area and SCGS will continue to host online and live events thanks to your support during these difficult times.

Great job everyone!

Happy New Year!

~ SCGS Board ~



*** 2022 GUITAR ORCHESTRA – WINTER QTR. ***



Seattle Guitar Orchestra will have a live-stream Wednesday, January 12th at 7:00 p.m. If you would like to watch please write to Mark H. Wilson at: weissismyvice@gmail.com for a link.

Seattle Classic Guitar Society Guitar Orchestra starts up Thursday, January 13th 2022, with a fun program of old, and new favorites with folk music arranged by classical composers.

We continue exploring the music of the Nigerian composer Taiwo Adegoke and his excellent arrangements of Yoruba folk tunes, Bela Bartok and his arrangement of Roumanian Folk Dances, and then we have some folk music from China, and Brazil.

Please be sure to have proof of your current Covid vaccination status, both shots and the booster, and bring your mask along with a foot stool and a music stand. If you would like to look at the scores before joining please write to Mark H Wilson at: weissismyvice@gmail.com . If you want to join, please reach out so that Mark can give you a part and any updates.

We meet at St John United Lutheran Church at 5515 Phinney, across from Woodland Park. We start at 7:15 p.m. and go to 9:00 p.m. There is a nominal charge of \$200 for the roughly 2 hour 10 week session.

◆◆◆ SCGS VIRTUAL OPEN MIC – JAN. 18, 7:00 PM ◆◆◆

Tuesday, January 18, 7:00 PM PT
SCGS Virtual Open Mic via Zoom

If you are interested in performing, listening, or would like more information, please send an email to scgs@seattleguitar.org. Please visit the SCGS website for more info: www.seattleguitar.org

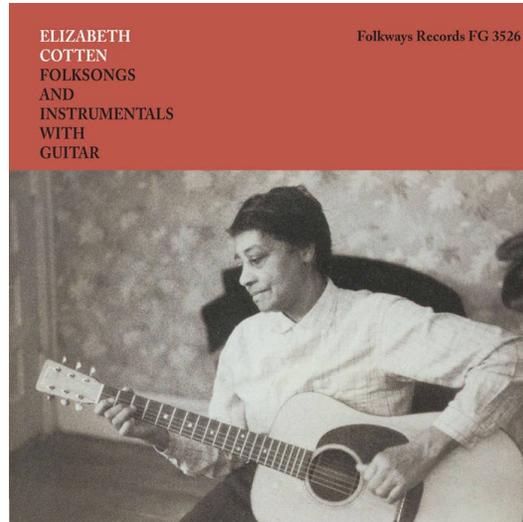


Listening to Elizabeth Cotten

“One of the most sincere forms of respect is actually listening to what another has to say.” – Bryant H. McGill

Have you ever admired a recording and wanted to understand every note that’s played? I wanted to understand Elizabeth Cotten’s playing better and learn from her recordings.

Elizabeth Cotten was a self-taught guitarist born in 1893. She bought her first guitar when she was twelve – from the little money she earned as a domestic in North Carolina. She was left-handed and held the guitar upside down, like Jimi Hendrix, but long before him. Later she became well-known and played concerts at folk festivals in the early 1960s. Her songs, including “Freight Train”, were covered by the likes of Bob Dylan and John Lennon. She’s a folk icon.



My teacher Mark Wilson pointed me to her extraordinary music. When I heard her “Folksongs” album from the 50s (pictured above) for the first time, I thought it sounded unique and unconventional. I wanted to play along to “Wilson Rag” from the album and learn to sound like her. There were two initial hurdles: In the recording, she plays blazingly fast, and her guitar is tuned sharp (A=445). I imported the song into music software, pitched it down by 5 Hertz and slowed it down to almost half speed (see “Technology” section below). When I listened closely to the result – sometimes looping a phrase endlessly to hear it better -- it didn’t fully match the notes from the “XX” book. Some phrases that stood out to me in the recording seemed more conventional to me in the written version. Mark encouraged me to create a new transcription, with a 2/4 time signature. I listened closely and wrote down what I heard in the recording.

Let’s look at two examples to compare the book version to my transcription!

Example 1

Book version



New version



Apart from the new time 2/4 signature, the new version I transcribed shows some interesting details above: The two measures marked with **A** end with a G. The first one is a semitone up from the F# to anticipate the following chord change to G; the second one doubles the G right before it. These choices sound less polished than the book version – it rocks more! What’s more, the rhythm in the new version here is more varied, injecting brief pauses into the busy picking pattern, marked with **B** above, though the book version uses that as well in other places.

Example 2

Book version



New version



In this example, the dyads in the measure marked with **C** are different: It uses a G bass note with A, then with F. This makes for a less conventional, more dissonant harmony. The book version avoids this by lowering the first G in that measure to an F. There are other measures where the new version differs even more significantly.

There you have it – a new transcription of Cotton’s “Wilson Rag”, an American cultural heritage. There are many ways to play the song and improvise to the theme. My transcription tries to reflect the essence of what I hear in Elizabeth Cotton’s sound on the “Folksongs” album. Find the album on Spotify and play along (well, maybe after tuning your guitar higher or adapting the pitch of the recording, see below)! You can find my transcription [here](#) on the flat.io music notation website.

Technology

I used the following tools to analyze “Wilson Rag” – follow these steps to analyze songs like this yourself:

Step 1: [Search](#) for the song URL on **Spotify**, e.g., [this URL](#) for “Wilson Rag”.

Step 2: Specify the song URL in **Sidify Audio Converter** ([see here](#)) and download as a lossless .wav audio file.

Step 3: Import the audio file into a digital audio workstation, e.g., **Garageband**.

Step 4: Finetune the pitch of the recording using the **Graillon 2** plugin (see [here](#)).

Step 5: Change the tempo of the recording in Garageband by adapting “Tempo” in the top center. Make sure that “Follow Tempo & Pitch” is checked in the Audio Editor, so that your imported audio changes with the tempo you set.

*** DIVERSITY RESOURCES FOR MUSICIANS ***

Diversity Resources by Ciyadh Wells
<http://www.ciyadhwells.com/resources>

Guitar Music by Black Composers
<http://guitarmusicbyblackcomposers.com/>

The Institute for Composer Diversity
<https://www.composerdiversity.com/>

Oxford Music Online
Women Composers by Time Period with Links
<https://www.oxfordmusiconline.com/page/women-composers-by-time-period>

Hildegard Publishing Company
Black Women Composers
https://www.hildegard.com/resources.php?page=afro_american

Music by Black Composers
<https://www.musicbyblackcomposers.org/resources/living-composers-directory/>

Boulangier Initiative - Women Composers
<https://www.boulangierinitiative.org/>

Early Music America
Resources for Diversity in Early Music Repertoire
<https://www.earlymusicamerica.org/resources/resources-for-diversity-in-early-music-repertoire/>



Visit SCGS online at: www.seattleguitar.org

SCGS Membership and Member Renewals available online now!

(Go to the SCGS website and click "Join SCGS". It's quick and easy!)

Donate Online to SCGS!

(Go to the SCGS website, click "Donations", and then click the "Make a Donation Online" button.)

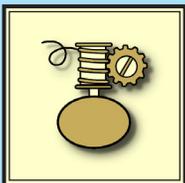
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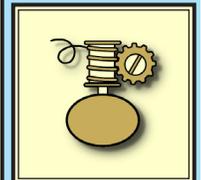
<http://www.facebook.com/seattleclassicguitarsociety/>



 Follow SCGS on Twitter! | <https://twitter.com/SeaGuitarSoc> 



4
CULTURE



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*** **Events Calendar** ***

Events are also listed on our website: www.SeattleGuitar.org

Thursday, January 6, 7:00 PM, Edmonds, WA
London Symphony principal violist David Quiggle and Seattle Guitar Orchestra director Mark Hilliard Wilson in concert at the Edmonds Yacht Club.

Wednesday, January 12, 7:00 PM PST – Online!
Seattle Guitar Orchestra will have a live-stream. If you would like to watch please write Mark h Wilson at weissismyvice@gmail.com for a link.

Friday, January 14, 8:00 PM, Seattle, WA
Hilary Field guitar with poet Claudia Castro Luna perform on NW Focus Live, Classical KING FM 98.1
Listen online: <https://www.king.org/nw-focus-live>

Tuesday, January 18, 7:00 PM PST – Online!
SCGS Virtual Open Mic online via Zoom
If you are interested in performing, listening, or would like more information, please send an email scgs@seattleguitar.org. Please visit the SCGS website for more info: www.seattleguitar.org

Thursday, February 3, 7:00 PM, Bellevue, WA
Eastside Open Mic is *tentatively* scheduled to restart in February depending on public health guidelines and the local Covid situation. Please contact Nancy and get on her mailing list for updates. Proof of vaccination and mask required. \$10 suggested donation. For more information please contact Nancy at: nbonning@msn.com.

Friday February 11, 7:30 PM, Anacortes, WA
Sunday February 13, 2:00 PM, Seattle, WA
Michael Partington presents a solo program of 19th century music performed on a period instrument: Diabelli, Giuliani, Sor and Mertz. For tickets and information contact gbozarth.musiquedujourpresents@gmail.com

Thursday, February 24, 8:00 PM, Seattle, WA
Friday, February 25, 8:00 PM, Seattle, WA
Mark Hilliard Wilson performs with Canadian soprano Helen Pridmore and cellist Lori Goldston at the Good Shepherd Center. 4649 Sunnyside Ave. N., Seattle, WA 98103

Sunday March 13, 5:30 PM, Seattle, WA
Michael Partington performs Sephardic songs set by Sid Robinovitch for guitar, clarinet, cello and voices for Music of Remembrance.
Nordstrom Recital Hall. Tickets and information: www.musicofremembrance.org

Sunday March 27, 2:30 PM Salem, OR
Michael Partington performs as part of the Oregon Guitar Quartet. Information: www.cameratamusicasalem.org/

Every Sunday:
“As Best You Can” Guitar Sessions are meeting by Zoom every Sunday from 2:30 to 4:30 pm. All styles and genres of guitar music are welcomed! For more information and the Zoom link, contact: asbestyoucan@outlook.com

Monthly:
First Friday of the month, 6:00–6:30 PM, Seattle, WA
Mark Hilliard Wilson plays music for meditation at St. James Cathedral every Friday throughout the year.
St. James Vimeo page: vimeo.com/stjamescathedral
St. James Facebook page: facebook.com/stjamesseattle



MEMBER SUBMISSIONS WELCOME!

If you would like to contribute an article or information about your upcoming concerts to Guitar Soundings, please contact the main office at (206) 365-0845 or send e-mail to SCGSNewsletter@hotmail.com. Submission deadline for the March–April issue is Feb. 10th, 2022. Space is limited, no guarantee of inclusion, articles subject to board approval and editing.



CLASSICAL GUITAR OPEN MICS

SCGS – 2022 Virtual Open Mics via Zoom

Tuesday, January 18, 7:00 PM PST – Online!
SCGS Virtual Open Mic online via Zoom
If you are interested in performing, listening, or would like more information, please send an email scgs@seattleguitar.org. Please visit the SCGS website for more info:
www.seattleguitar.org

EASTSIDE CLASSICAL GUITAR GET-TOGETHERS

Planning to start up again in February 2022. Eastside Get-Togethers (open mic) are on the first Thursday of each month on the Eastside in Bellevue, WA. All levels welcome. For more information please contact Nancy at: nbonning@msn.com

West Seattle Unplugged!

An informal gathering of musicians in the cozy C&P Coffeehouse in West Seattle.

CANCELED



Submit items for the Newsletter & Events Calendar at: SCGSNewsletter@hotmail.com Submission deadline for the March–April issue is Feb. 10th, 2022. For articles, space is limited, no guarantee of inclusion, articles subject to board approval and editing.



Seattle Classic Guitar Society

A nonprofit organization promoting the art of the classic guitar in the Puget Sound area.

Board of Directors:

Kindred Ritchie – Chair, acting President
Bill Clements – Vice President
Elizabeth Brown – Treasurer
Julie Wieringa – Secretary & Communications
Jessica Papkoff – Newsletter Editor
Ellen Wanless – Volunteer Coordinator

Executive Director:

Hilary Field

For more information contact us at:

SCGS
P.O. Box 30167
Seattle, WA 98113
E-mail: SCGS@seattleguitar.org
Phone: 206-365-0845
Website: www.SeattleGuitar.org

Board meetings are monthly, 2nd Monday, 7-9pm. SCGS members may attend by contacting SCGS (see above) to confirm location.

Donations are gladly accepted and are tax deductible; SCGS is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

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Seattle Classic Guitar Society
P.O. Box 30167
Seattle, WA 98113



Seattle Classic Guitar Society *Membership Application*

Yes! I want to help support the Classic Guitar in Puget Sound!

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

Please indicate if you are a new or renewing member and membership type. Memberships are for 1 year. Donations are greatly appreciated. All donations are separate from the membership amount and are fully tax-deductible. Donations and Memberships may also be made online at: www.seattleguitar.org.

Membership:

- New Member
- Renewal
- \$15 Student/Senior
- \$20 Individual
- \$35 Couple

Donations:

- \$50 Friend
- \$100 Contributor
- \$250 Benefactor
- \$500 Patron
- Other amount: \$_____

My employer will match my donation!

(Please enclose matching gift form or use your employer's online process.)

What does membership do for me?

Membership in the SCGS gives you discounts on tickets to the International Concert Series, a one-year subscription to Guitar Soundings newsletter, notification of events via mail and email. Your support also helps us to bring the finest international artists to perform in the Seattle area, educational outreach in schools, open mics and support for local artists year after year.

Please send your check or money-order, made payable to SCGS, to:
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Email: scgs@seattleguitar.org | Website: www.seattleguitar.org