



Guitar Soundings

A PUBLICATION OF THE SEATTLE CLASSIC GUITAR SOCIETY

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HAPPY NEW YEAR 2026! SCGS UPCOMING CONCERTS



Leonela Alejandro ~ Sat. Jan. 24, 2026 - GSC

Michael Nicolella ~ Sat. Feb. 21, 2026 - GSC

Assad Guitar Duo ~ Tues. March 3, 2026 - Benaroya

David Russell ~ Sat. March 21, 2026 - Benaroya

A-Z Duo ~ Sat. April 25, 2026 - Benaroya

Wilson/Yeomans Duo ~ Sat. May. 30, 2026 - GSC

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“Music brings a warm glow to my vision, thawing mind and muscle from their endless wintering.” — Haruki Murakami

Dear friends of the SCGS,

Happy 2026! We are welcoming this new year with beautiful music to warm the heart and captivate the soul. [Leonela Alejandro](#), the winner of the Rose Augustine Grand Prize at the 2024 Guitar Foundation of America International Concert Artist Competition, will perform in her Seattle debut at the **Chapel Space at the Good Shepherd Center on Saturday, January 24, at 2:00 p.m.!** Hailing from Guaynabo, Puerto Rico, this classical guitarist has garnered attention as a powerful and energetic performer. On **Saturday, February 21 at 2:00 pm,** [Michael Nicolella](#), a virtuoso guitarist and composer who blurs the lines between musical styles and disciplines, will perform at the same venue. Please join us for these wonderful concerts, which are free and open to the public!

Get ready for a month of musical madness in March! The SCGS is proud to present **[Duo Assad's 60th Anniversary Farewell Tour](#)** on **Tuesday, March 6, 2024, at 7:30 p.m. at Benaroya Hall.** Don't miss this final opportunity to experience the extraordinary musical talents of Duo Assad! Brazilian-born brothers Sérgio and Odair Assad have set the standard for classical guitar duos with their lifelong musical partnership. Their inherent synchronicity, expressive depth, and imaginative programming, forged through decades of collaboration, set the standard for innovation, ingenuity, and expression with the guitar. Please note that this special performance is added to the Seattle Classic Guitar Society's season and is not part of the 2025–2026 International Series.

Coming up on **March 21, 2026, at 7:30 p.m.**, Grammy Award winner [David Russell](#) will arrive at **Benaroya Hall.** David Russell is world-renowned for his superb musicianship and inspired artistry with flawless, seemingly effortless performances. His attention to detail and provocative lyrical phrasing suggests an innate understanding of each composer's intentions, bringing a sense of adventure to each piece. There are so many spectacular guitar concerts to look forward to!

SCGS concluded 2025 with a fantastic concert by the **Beijing Guitar Duo**, featuring music ranging from the lyrical dreamlike world of Claude Debussy to Tan Dun's fusion of Western and Eastern music to the fiery tango of Astor Piazzolla. The annual **Holiday Fundraising Concert** brought the community together with the joyful spirit of holiday inspired music.

Please visit <http://www.seattleguitar.org/> for more information on concerts and events. Thank you again for your continued support and enjoy the music!

Best wishes to all,

Hilary

Hilary Field, Executive Director, SCGS





SCGS 2026 GOOD SHEPHERD CONCERTS

All GSC events take place at the Good Shepherd Center, 4649 Sunnyside Ave. N., 4th floor



LEONELA ALEJANDRO - SATURDAY, JANUARY 24, 2026 - 2PM



Leonela Alejandro

Saturday, January 24, 2026 – 2:00 pm

Good Shepherd Center

was seven years old. Following her work with various Puerto Rican teachers including Jomel Rivera, Julio Reyes, and Rey Nieves, she decided to dedicate her professional life to this passion. In 2016, she was accepted into the Conservatory of Music of Puerto Rico at just 16 years old, studying with world-renowned performer Maestro Iván Rijos. After two fruitful years in the Conservatory, she transferred to the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and completed her undergraduate degree with Cuban virtuoso René Izquierdo in 2020. Leonela recently completed her graduate studies with Dr. Andrew Zohn at Columbus State University in 2023.

SCGS is thrilled to present 2024 GFA Grand Prize Winner, Leonela Alejandro, for her debut performance in Seattle.

Winner of the Rose Augustine Grand Prize in the 2024 Guitar Foundation of America International Concert Artist Competition, Leonela Alejandro is a classical guitarist from Guaynabo, Puerto Rico. She has garnered attention as a soloist, captivating audiences with her powerful and energetic performance style. She has been invited to perform in numerous venues in the United States and Europe, including the Latino Arts Guitar Festival, Northern Illinois University International Guitar Concert Series, Southern Guitar Festival, Florida Guitar Festival, Marlow Guitar Series, Louisville Guitar Society, Orange County Guitar Circle, and José Tomás Villa de Petrer Guitar Festival.

Leonela has also placed in over a dozen competitions in the United States, with more than ten first-prize placements including the Louisville Guitar Festival, Appalachian State Guitar Festival, Columbus State University Guitar Symposium, Indiana Guitar Festival, and Chicago Guitar Festival, among others. She has also succeeded abroad as an international competitor, receiving prizes from the le Domaine Forget de Charlevoix guitar Competition, Ciudad de Coria International Guitar Competition, and the Iserlohn International Guitar Competition.

Leonela formally began her musical education when she





SCGS 2026 GOOD SHEPHERD CONCERTS

All GSC events take place at the Good Shepherd Center, 4649 Sunnyside Ave. N., 4th floor



MICHAEL NICOLELLA - SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2026 - 2PM



**Michael Nicolella
Saturday, February 21, 2026 – 2:00 pm
Good Shepherd Center**

Chamber Players, Charanga Danzon, prog rock legend Jon Anderson, Seattle Modern Orchestra, Broadway stars Bernadette Peters and Brian Stokes Mitchell, classical music comedians Ingudesman and Joo, violinist Gil Shaham and the Seattle Guitar Trio which performed Michael's groundbreaking arrangement of Stravinsky's "Rite of Spring." As a performer and composer, he has received awards from ASCAP, the American Composers Forum, 4Culture, Wisconsin Arts Board, Washington State Arts Commission, Seattle Arts Commission and was first prize winner of both the Portland and Northwest solo classical guitar competitions. 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" –THE WASHINGTON POST

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 guitarists. 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.

Known for his creative programming, Michael 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. Michael has premiered dozens of new works for classical and electric guitar in solo, chamber and orchestral settings. 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".

Nicolella has collaborated and performed with a wide range of artists including: the Seattle Symphony, Merce Cunningham Dance Company, Northwest Symphony Orchestra, soprano Alexandra Picard, jazz singer Johnaye Kendrick, Seattle

**All GSC concerts are Saturday afternoons at 2:00 PM at the [Good Shepherd Center](#).
4649 Sunnyside Ave. N., Seattle, WA 98103.**

Free tickets available at the door the day of the concert. Free parking.

For more info: <http://www.seattleguitar.org/>

>> SCGS - SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT CONCERT <<
~ ASSAD GUITAR DUO ~
60TH ANNIVERSARY FAREWELL TOUR

TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2026 - 7:30PM

*Illsley Ball Nordstrom Recital Hall at Benaroya Hall
200 University Street, Seattle, WA 98101-3428*



Assad Guitar Duo - Sérgio and Odair Assad

Over the course of their legendary careers, Brazilian-born brothers Sérgio and Odair Assad set the standard for innovation, ingenuity, and expression with the guitar. Their performances feature a compelling blend of musical styles, periods, and cultures including folk, jazz, Latin, and transcriptions of some of the greatest works of the classical music repertoire. As they prepare to conclude 60 years of international touring, the duo will perform at the *Illsley Ball Nordstrom Recital Hall at Benaroya Hall* as a part of their Farewell Tour for a final duo performance in Seattle to share their astounding music-making with us one last time.

Guitarists Sérgio and Odair Assad have brought their signature musical style to global audiences for sixty years. They have performed with top orchestras and toured with Yo-Yo Ma's Silkroad Ensemble as well as with other notable musicians. The Assad Duo has won numerous Latin Grammys and played on two Grammy-winning albums with Yo-Yo Ma. In 2015 the Assad brothers received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Guitar Foundation of America.

Tickets for this special engagement concert are available by mail, by phone and in person at the Benaroya Box Office, and in person at the Rosewood Guitar. See page 15 of this newsletter for order form and more information.



SCGS - 2026 INTERNATIONAL SERIES

DAVID RUSSELL



Illsley Ball Nordstrom Recital Hall at Benaroya Hall, 7:30 PM



David Russell (Scotland/Spain) **Saturday, March 21, 2026 – 7:30 pm**

Grammy Award winning classical guitarist David Russell is world renowned for his superb musicianship and inspired artistry, having earned the highest praise from audiences and critics alike. David Russell spends his time touring the world, appearing regularly at prestigious halls in main cities, such as New York, London, Tokyo, Los Angeles, Madrid, Toronto or Rome. Concert-goers everywhere are in awe of his musical genius and inspired by his captivating stage presence. His love of his craft resonates through his flawless and seemingly effortless performance. The attention to detail and provocative lyrical phrasing suggest an innate understanding of what each individual composer was working to achieve, bringing to each piece a sense of adventure. A prolific recording artist, his output includes seventeen CDs with Telarc International. After winning the Grammy Award for his CD, AIRE LATINO, the town of Nigrán in Spain where he resides, gave him the silver medal of the town in an emotional ceremony. In recognition of his great talent and his international career, he was named a Fellow of The Royal Academy of Music in London in 1997. Amongst his many other recognitions are: 2003 Medal of Honor of the Conservatory of the Balearics, Honorary Doctorate in Music by the University of Arizona in Tucson in 2014, Inducted into the Hall of Fame of the Guitar Foundation of America in 2018.

The New York Times wrote about his performance: "... Mr. Russell made his mastery evident without ever deviating from an approach that places musical values above mere display. It was apparent to the audience throughout the recital that Mr. Russell possesses a talent of extraordinary dimension".



DAVID RUSSELL ~ MASTER CLASS



DAVID RUSSELL MASTER CLASS INFORMATION

Sunday, March 22, 2026 - 10:00 AM - Brechemin Auditorium - UW School of Music

The David Russell Master Class will be held on Sunday, March 22, 2026 at the University of Washington School of Music, in Brechemin Auditorium, at 10:00 AM.

The master class is open to up to four performers, and open to all to audit. The performance fee is \$40 per soloist or ensemble. If you are interested in performing in the master class and/or applying to the David Marshall Scholarship Fund to cover the fee, please submit online: <https://seattleguitar.org/masterclasses.htm> or send a completed application form (PDF or Email Text) to: **SCGS@seattleguitar.org**.

Please note that there is a limit of one David Marshall Scholarship award per student for each season. Please also note that the scholarship application form is separate from the master class application form. If you are applying for a scholarship, please submit both applications before the deadline for the class.

The deadline to apply for both the master class and the David Marshall Scholarship is Friday, March 13, 2026. Selected players and scholarship recipients will be notified by Monday, March 16, 2026. The master class is open to auditors, and the fee to attend is \$10.00. University of Washington students may audit the class for free. There is no pre-registration necessary to audit master classes, and auditors may pay the fee at the door on the day of the class.



ARTSFUND



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!)

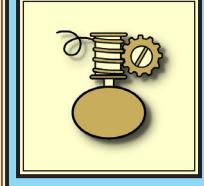
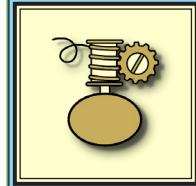
Donate Online to SCGS!

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

Visit SCGS on Facebook!



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





SCGS 2025-2026 INTERNATIONAL CONCERT SERIES



All performances take place at the Illsley Ball Nordstrom Recital Hall at Benaroya Hall, 7:30 PM



Bokyung Byun: Saturday, October 4, 2025



Beijing Guitar Duo: Saturday, November 15, 2025



David Russell: Saturday, March 21, 2026



A-Z Duo (Aniello Desiderio, Zoran Dukic): Saturday, April 25, 2026

Tickets on sale now – See page 15 for order form or:

**For information on purchasing tickets by mail, phone, online, and in person, please visit:
<http://www.seattleguitar.org/ics.htm>**

Benaroya Hall Information:

The SCGS International Concert Series performances are held at [Benaroya Hall](#) (Illsley Ball Nordstrom Recital Hall) located at 200 University Street, Seattle, WA 98101-3428



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/>

Boulanger Initiative - Women Composers
<https://www.boulangerinitiative.org/>

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





Tuning and Temperament on the Guitar

from Joe Wall & contributing editor Jessica Papkoff

Why, if you tune the guitar to sound wonderful for an E-major chord, the other chords suffer by sounding out of tune? If you're wondering "What is wrong with my ear?", chances are your ear is not the problem.

This phenomenon occurs because what is most pleasing to the human ear is a scale consisting of "Just Intonation" intervals that are based on whole number frequency ratios (like 2:1 for an octave, 3:2 for a perfect fifth, 5:4 for a major third), that are exceptionally clear and consonant. (There's a bunch of math and physics behind the ratios, frequencies, and why our ears and brains prefer the most in-tune or true intervals. See article links below for details.) But, for an instrument like the guitar to sound pretty good in ALL musical keys, the frets are positioned in a sort of compromise called "Equal Temperament", basically slicing an octave into 12 equal divisions which makes everything very slightly and equally out of tune. This is also how modern pianos are tuned, in Equal Temperament. However, when you perfectly tune up a basic triad or chord on the guitar, so that the root, 3rd and 5th all sound perfect together, you are actually deviating from the Equal Temperament that the frets ensure (and from your basic initial E-A-D-G-B-E tuning) and changing some of the intervals to Just Intonation for that chord. The result is that now everything else in relation to the strings you just slightly retuned to make perfect sounding intervals in that chord, is now out of tune.

The "[Comparison with Just Intonation](#)" table in the first Wikipedia article on Equal Temperament shows that the most glaring problem with Equal Temperament with respect to a major triad (chord) is that the major third (E-natural to G#) sounds very sharp. In fact, it is 13.69 cents too high compared to what the major 3rd interval sounds like in Just Temperament. For example, on guitar, playing the low E string with G# above it on the 3rd string sounds way too sharp! However, if you correct it, to sound "right" for the E-major chord, now (for example) the octave interval from low 6th string G-natural to open 3rd string G-natural is off.

Fairly recently, luthier Anders Thidell of Sweden developed a new guitar fretting system called the True Temperament Fret System that enables the guitar to play much more accurately in tune for all intervals and across all keys. See the link below to [Johannes Moller's interesting article](#) about the True Temperament Fret System and discussion of why Equal Temperament on the guitar is so inaccurate compared to the piano for which it works well.

Happy Tuning!

Equal Temperament

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Equal_temperament

Just Temperament

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Just_intonation

True Temperament and the Guitar:

<https://johannesmoller.com/true-temperament-explained>





EVENTS CALENDAR

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



Saturday, January 10, 1:00–2:30 PM, Tacoma, WA

Nordic Chamber Music: Denmark – Six Danish Strings

First Lutheran Church Tacoma, Tacoma, WA

Nordic Chamber Music – Northwest Edvard Grieg Society. Danish Works for the guitar by Lars Hesgaard, Dietrich Buxtehude, Henik Rung, some hymns and folk songs, and with a short set of compositions by **Mark Hilliard Wilson**. These are based on Seattle's Trolls that were installed here by Danish artist Thomas Danbo. **Mark Hilliard Wilson**, will be joined by Evan Pengra Sult on flute, Rachel Yoder on clarinet, Josie Zocco on piano, Bonnie Whiting on percussion, Elizabeth Phelps on violin and the Seattle Guitar Orchestra. Free (suggested donation: \$30 general, \$20 senior, \$10 student/child)

Sunday, January 11, 2:00–3:30 PM, Seattle, WA

Nordic Chamber Music: Denmark – Six Danish Strings

Ballard First Lutheran Church, Seattle, WA

Nordic Chamber Music – Northwest Edvard Grieg Society. Danish Works for the guitar by Lars Hesgaard, Dietrich Buxtehude, Henik Rung, some hymns and folk songs, and with a short set of compositions by **Mark Hilliard Wilson**. These are based on Seattle's Trolls that were installed here by Danish artist Thomas Danbo. **Mark Hilliard Wilson**, will be joined by Evan Pengra Sult on flute, Rachel Yoder on clarinet, Josie Zocco on piano, Bonnie Whiting on percussion, Elizabeth Phelps on violin and the Seattle Guitar Orchestra. Free (suggested donation: \$30 general, \$20 senior, \$10 student/child)

Tuesday, January 20, 6:00–8:00 PM, West Seattle, WA

Unplugged! ~ An open mic without a mic!

C&P Coffee Company, 5612 California Ave. SW, Seattle, 98136. A wonderful place for amateurs, professionals & budding musicians, to come share their music & listen to the music of others. 3rd Tuesday of each month. For more information contact Brian: briandunbar54@gmail.com

Saturday, January 24, 2:00 PM, Seattle, WA

Guitarist Leonela Alejandro in concert. Free!

The Seattle Classic Guitar Society is proud to present Leonela Alejandro, winner of the Rose Augustine Grand Prize in the 2024 Guitar Foundation of America International Concert Artist Competition, in a free concert at the Chapel Space at Good Shepherd Center. Leonela Alejandro is a classical guitarist from Guaynabo, Puerto Rico. <https://www.seattleguitar.org/gsc.htm>. Good Shepherd Center, 4649 Sunnyside Avenue North, Seattle, WA 98103.

Thursday, February 5, 7:30 PM, Bellevue, WA

Eastside Classical Guitar Open Mic

The Eastside Classical Guitar Open Mic takes place the 1st Thursday of each month. All levels are welcome! Please come to play and/or listen! Doors open at 7:00 PM and playing begins at 7:30PM. Located in the Coldwell Banker Office building at 150 Bellevue Way SE - just 1 block south of Main Street in downtown Bellevue. Plenty of easy, free parking and several small, private offices for warming up! Please contact Maureen Rammell for more information – 425.443.0111 email: maureen@maureenrammell.com

Sunday, February 15, 3:00-5:00 PM, Seattle, WA

Concert for the West Seattle Food Bank featuring UW Artist-in-Residence Michael Partington, Mischa Yolleck (winner of NWGF 2022) and Sienna Araya Winquist (winner of WMEA State 2025). Solos and duos from the 17th to the 21st Century. C&P Coffee, 5612 California Ave SW, Seattle WA 98136. Admission is by donation, please bring cash and/or non-perishable food donations.

Tuesday, February 17, 6:00–8:00 PM, West Seattle, WA

Unplugged! ~ An open mic without a mic!

C&P Coffee Company, 5612 California Ave. SW, Seattle, 98136. A wonderful place for amateurs, professionals & budding musicians, to come share their music & listen to the music of others. 3rd Tuesday of each month. For more information contact Brian: briandunbar54@gmail.com

Saturday, February 21, 2:00 PM, Seattle, WA

Michael Nicolella in Concert, Free!

The Seattle Classic Guitar Society is proud to present virtuoso guitarist and composer, Michael Nicolella, in a free concert at the Chapel Space at Good Shepherd Center. "One of the contemporary guitar's most gifted stars" — *Classical Guitar Magazine*. <https://www.seattleguitar.org/gsc.htm>. Good Shepherd Center, 4649 Sunnyside Avenue North, Seattle, WA 98103



continued >>

>> continued from p. 11

Saturday, February 28, Noon – 6:30 PM, Tacoma, WA

Save the date for the 2026 PLU Guitar Festival! This hands on festival features Classical and Jazz guitar workshops, guitar orchestra made up of participants, lectures and concerts with PLU guitar faculty **Elizabeth CD Brown alongside guest faculty Mario Diaz and Jamie Findlay**. Events run from noon - 6:30pm. Pacific Lutheran University, Mary Baker Russell Music Center, Tacoma, WA. Information and registration: www.plu.edu/music/workshops/guitar-festival/ or call the PLU Music Office: 253-535-7602.

Tuesday, March 3, 7:30 PM, Seattle, WA

Duo Assad Farewell Tour in Concert!

The Seattle Classic Guitar Society is proud to present a Special Engagement Concert: Sérgio and Odair Assad 60th Anniversary Farewell Tour!

Illsley Ball Nordstrom Recital Hall, Benaroya Hall

200 University Street, Seattle, WA 98101

Don't miss this final opportunity to experience the extraordinary musical talents of Duo Assad! *"A kind of wizardry lies within the playing of Sergio and Odair Assad... they produce a supple, flawless unified sound."* —*The New York Times*

\$45.00, \$35.00 students, seniors, SCGS members. For more information and tickets, please visit: [https://www.seattleguitar.org/](http://www.seattleguitar.org/)

This special engagement is an addition to the Seattle Classic Guitar Society season, and is not a part of the 2025-2026 International Series. This engagement will be a concert with Duo Assad, and will not include a master class.

Thursday, March 5, 7:30 PM, Bellevue, WA

Eastside Classical Guitar Open Mic

The Eastside Classical Guitar Open Mic takes place the 1st Thursday of each month. All levels are welcome! Please come to play and/or listen! Doors open at 7:00 PM and playing begins at 7:30PM. Located in the Coldwell Banker Office building at 150 Bellevue Way SE - just 1 block south of Main Street in downtown Bellevue. Plenty of easy, free parking and several small, private offices for warming up! Please contact Maureen Rammell for more information – 425.443.0111 email: maureen@maureenrammell.com



Sunday, March 8, 2:00 PM, Ellensburg, WA

Neil and Tamara Caulkins perform guitar duets written for them. The Caulkins guitar Duo will premier "When Flowers Sleep" by Bruce Reiprich, as well as perform "Prelude Music" by Michael Young, "Dry Falls" by Martin Kennedy, and "Pentamerisms" by R. Michael Daugherty at Gallery One (third floor), 408 N. Pearl St., Ellensburg, WA 98926. Suggested donation of \$10. For more information, please visit [https://caulkingsguitarduo.com/](http://caulkingsguitarduo.com/).

Saturday, March 21, 7:30 PM, Seattle, WA

David Russell in Concert!

The Seattle Classic Guitar Society is proud to present Grammy award winner, David Russell in the 2025-2026 International Series at Benaroya Hall. *"A talent of extraordinary dimension."* —*The New York Times*. Illsley Ball Nordstrom Recital Hall, Benaroya Hall 200 University Street, Seattle, WA 98101. \$45.00, \$35.00 students, seniors, SCGS members. For more information and tickets, please visit: <http://www.seattleguitar.org/>

Sunday, March 22, 10:00 AM, Seattle, WA

David Russell Masterclass

Brechmin Auditorium - UW School of Music

[https://www.seattleguitar.org/masterclasses.htm](http://www.seattleguitar.org/masterclasses.htm)

The master class is open to auditors, and the fee to attend is \$10.00. University of Washington students may audit the class for free. There is no pre-registration necessary to audit master classes, and auditors may pay the fee at the door on the day of the class. **Deadline to apply to perform in the class: Friday, March 13, 2026.**

Monthly:

First Friday of the month, 6:00–6:30 PM, Seattle, WA

Mark Hilliard Wilson plays music for meditation at St. James Cathedral. Livestreamed:

St. James Vimeo page: vimeo.com/stjamescathedral

St. James Facebook page: facebook.com/stjamesseattle



GUITAR ORCHESTRA - WINTER QTR.

Guitar Orchestra – Winter Session 2026

January 7 – March 11 | Wednesdays, 7–9 PM

St. Alphonsus Church, 5816 15th Ave NW, Seattle, WA 98107

Tuition: \$275 for the session

Seattle Guitar Orchestra will start work on a program called Grounds For Removal; exploring grounds (and other forms of music with repetition) for protest marches. Composers focused on will be Dietrich Buxtehude, Mark Hilliard Wilson, Henry Purcell and Robert Di Visee.

A little about Seattle Guitar Orchestra; over the past year we have been working with collective improvisations. A sample of this would be to take a major scale and divide it among 8 players and then work on listening and blending with each other. The next step is playing games with the notes, such as skipping one person and having every other person play the notes they are assigned in the scale, and playing the notes going up or down. Work with rhythm factors into this but, suffice it to say, it starts with the basic “food groups” of whole notes, halves and quarters, eighths and sixteenths before exploring players playing various permutations of these rhythms. We could easily spend the whole session on this, but we use it as a warm up and these games with rudiments of music are usually a FUNdamental part of the compositions we then work on. Concerts will occur in March and May. We often play the Seattle Folklife Festival.

Rehearsals are held at St. Alphonsus Church. Please park in the lot behind the church (between the church and the school). Enter through the doors facing the lot, below the administrative offices.

SCGS - MEMBER NEWS

FROM: JERIMIAH LAWSON

I filmed the second movement of Guitar Sonata in A-flat major (tribute to Duke Ellington):

<https://youtu.be/oQJy6vZr0tU>



Submit items for the Newsletter & Events Calendar at: SCGSNewsletter@hotmail.com. Submission deadline for the March/April issue is February 15th, 2026. For articles, space is limited, no guarantee of inclusion, articles subject to board approval and editing.



Allegory of Hearing (c.1750) – Anna Rosina von Lisiewska (Public Domain)

CLASSICAL GUITAR OPEN MICS

UNPLUGGED! - AT THE C & P COFFEE COMPANY

An open mic (without a mic) in the cozy C&P Coffee Company in West Seattle.

WHEN: 3rd Tuesday of each month, 6:00-8:00 PM.

WHERE: C&P Coffee Company, 5612 California Ave. SW, West Seattle, 98136.

WHY: Practice Performing, Share Your Joy.

QUESTIONS: Contact Brian Dunbar at:

briandunbar54@gmail.com

LAKE STEVENS OPEN MIC

Last Thursday of each month 7:00–9:00 PM

Lake Country Baptist Church
8830 8th St SE, Lake Stevens, WA 98258
(It's a portable building in the back of the parking lot.)
Contact person – Filipp: <https://www.snohomishguitar.com/>

EASTSIDE CLASSICAL GUITAR OPEN MIC

Eastside Classical Guitar Open Mic

The Eastside Classical Guitar Open Mic takes place the 1st Thursday of each month. All levels are welcome! Please come to play and/or listen! Doors open at 7:00 PM and playing begins at 7:30PM. Located in the Coldwell Banker Office building at 150 Bellevue Way SE - just 1 block south of Main Street in downtown Bellevue. Plenty of easy, free parking and several small, private offices for warming up!

Please contact Maureen Rammell for more information – 425.443.0111

email: maureen@maureenrammell.com



Submit items for the Newsletter & Events Calendar at: SCGSNewsletter@hotmail.com. Submission deadline for the March/April issue is February 15th, 2026. 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, President

Bill Clements – Vice President

Elizabeth Brown – Treasurer

Stella Kosim – Operations Manager

Jessica Papkoff – Newsletter Editor

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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