



# BCGS

# newsletter



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EARLY BIRD ANNOUNCEMENT

BOSTON CLASSICAL GUITAR SOCIETY

Proudly Presents

ARTIST SERIES 2012-13

\*\*\*\*\*

**Berta Rojas**  
Friday, October 5, 2012

**Grisha Goryachev & Jerome Mouffe**  
Friday, November 2, 2012

**David Russell**  
Friday, February 15, 2013

**Andrew York  
& All-Day Ensembles Festival**  
Saturday, March 23, 2013

All Concerts begin at 7:30 pm

All events at First Lutheran Church of Boston  
299 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA

Go to [www.bostonguitar.org](http://www.bostonguitar.org) for more information

## Letter to members



### Dear Members,

I hope your summer has been happy and relaxed, enriched by music from one of our performance parties, Boston GuitarFest, or perhaps even a trip to Tanglewood.

We have been busy preparing everything for 2012-13, and are excited to share with you what will certainly be one of our best schedules ever. David Russell, Andrew York, Berta Rojas, Jerome Mouffe, and Grisha Goryachev will all perform for our Artist Series beginning this fall. Our spring festival will focus entirely on the guitar in an ensemble setting, for which Andrew York has graciously accepted to compose a new piece.

**DAVID RUSSELL** certainly needs no introduction, though it will be his first concert in Boston in many years. The legendary, GRAMMY award-winning guitarist has had a phenomenal performing and recording career and is reaching for new heights with his recent Baroque album. No matter the genre, David's interpretations serve as references for all who wish to be more complete guitarists. While each of us may have a favorite player, David occupies a unique position of universal respect and admiration among amateurs and professionals alike. His concert will likely be the most sought-after guitar event in some time.

**ANDREW YORK** is an iconic composer and guitarist, celebrated for his tenure with the Los Angeles Guitar Quartet and works such as *Sunburst*. Andrew's compositional voice, synthesized from classical, popular, and jazz sources, is wholly American yet very much his own. Combined with a wonderful understanding of the guitar's capabilities and gifts, his performances are immersive and a joy to hear. Along with an evening concert, Andrew will lend his GRAMMY-winning talents to coaching and conducting the Ensemble Festival participants through a newly commissioned piece.

**BERTA ROJAS** is a fiery, virtuosic, yet elegant ambassador for the music of her native Paraguay and all of Latin America. (She is also the actual Ambassador of Tourism for Paraguay). The music and grand spirit of the composer Augustín Barrios are deeply felt in her performances, but she is just as compelling interpreting a gentle folksong or exuberant dance. Having graced the stages of New York, London, Paris, and, and at the 2010 GFA Convention in Texas (where I was mesmerized by her artistry), we are delighted to welcome Berta to Boston.

**GRISHA GORYACHEV and JEROME MOUFFE** are two young guitarists you absolutely must see and hear to believe. Grisha's almost-ridiculous technical wizardry and absolute

command of the Flamenco genre have blown away audiences, royalty, and famed musicians around the world. Jerome has become a much sought-after guitarist in his own right, embodying the virtues of the great age of the Romantic guitar: effortless virtuosity and dramatic emotions displayed through the works of Paganini, Castelnuovo-Tedesco, and more recently, (Newton's own) Robert Beaser. Grisha and Jerome will play both solos and duos at their concert.

Tickets are now on sale through our website, [www.bostonguitar.org](http://www.bostonguitar.org). Do purchase them ahead of time, as I expect a big demand for all of our artists. If you are able, I highly encourage you to get season passes. They provide an additional discount and will give you full access to these brilliant artists.

Best regards,

Dan Acsadi  
Director, BCGS

Assad Brothers

Angel Romero

Eliot Fisk & Lara Meneses

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## BOSTON GUITARFEST 2012

By Will Riley

"We all play Bach, and Bach always wins", observed Eliot Fisk, before playing an encore to conclude his headlining performance with Oscar Ghiglia on June 23 at this year's Boston GuitarFest. Surely anyone who has ever attempted to master a work by J. S. Bach can relate to that sentiment, but the real winners at this festival, on the theme "Back to Bach", were the participants and audience members, who were treated to five days of exciting and powerful performances by a roster of talented artists.

What seems to make Boston GuitarFest different from most other guitar festivals is that founder and Artistic Director Eliot Fisk aims to make the event about something larger than just the guitar. Not only does the festival present a wide array of live instrumental performances (plucked and otherwise), but each year a new theme allows an opportunity for cultural exchange, enrichment, and discovery. This year's festival surpassed expectations by using Bach's majestic music as a point of departure and arrival, combined with a varied schedule of events that kept the audience both engaged and entertained. The rest of this article is dedicated to a brief review of the concerts presented at Boston GuitarFest 2012.

### Opening Night: Edel Muñoz, Amadeus Guitar Duo

Despite the intense regional heat wave and lack of air-conditioning at Northeastern University's Fenway Center (scheduled renovation to include air-conditioning was missed by one month), the opening night's artists gave heartfelt performances. Edel Muñoz, last year's competition winner, delivered clear renditions of Scarlatti, Bach, and Aguado before closing with two pieces from his native Cuba. In the second half, the Amadeus Guitar Duo demonstrated why they are in demand around the world, performing a polished program of contemporary works from composers influenced by Bach, including several written and dedicated to them.

### Thursday Afternoon: "Nach Bach"

Composer/guitarist Jonathan Godfrey began the program with his *Sonatina for Guitar Solo*, which won first prize in the 2011 Boston GuitarFest Composition Competition. Then followed the main "Nach Bach" program, curated by NEC DMA student and contemporary music advocate Maarten Stragier. The title is a multiple pun that roughly translates from German as "inspired by Bach", or "after Bach". The concert proceeded with an interesting instrumentation of Bach's Contrapunctus XIV from *The Art of Fugue* – arranged for clarinet, vibraphone, cello, and guitar, featuring Stragier. Next, a first ever collaboration with the Callithumpian Consort (founded by NEC contemporary music authority, Stephen Drury) resulted in two unique performances: *Canon*, by Alvin Lucier, which explored the microtonal possibilities between three adjacent pitches, and

John Cage's minimalist *Music in Fifths*, a work that develops multiple rhythmic changes over a repeating five note scale. Both Stragier and Colin Thurmond (founder of the TOUCH initiative) gave admirable guitar performances, and the concert was later praised by Boston Globe critic, Jeremy Eichler.

### Thursday Evening: Boston Guitar Orchestra, Eliot Fisk, John Gibbons, and Duo Sonidos

Concerts by harpsichordist John Gibbons are always stellar, and this year festival attendees were treated to two performances on consecutive nights by the acclaimed keyboard virtuoso. On this evening, he was joined by Eliot Fisk in a spirited performance of Vivaldi and Bach arrangements that were very well received by the audience. The concert opened with a performance by the Boston Guitar Orchestra led by Scott Borg, director. Certainly this performance was one of the orchestra's best ever. The group performed the delightfully imitative *Concerto for Four Violins* by Telemann, and the *Orchestral Suite No. 3* of Bach, which featured BCGS Artistic Director Dan Acsadi. The widely spaced voices of the Telemann and the dynamic nuance of the Bach helped the orchestra achieve a balanced clarity, a credit to the arrangements and conducting of Scott Borg.

Although the near 100 degree weather created almost impossible performance conditions for all the artists, Duo Sonidos stepped up with a sizzling second-half performance that included arrangements and world premieres of works written for the duo. Guitarist Adam Levin and violinist Will Knuth showed excellent on-stage chemistry, and Levin's solo premiere of *Handeliana* by Ricardo Llorca was particularly virtuosic and exciting.

### Friday Afternoon: First Ladies of the Guitar - Zaira Meneses, Elena Papandreou, guitar, with Virginia Eskin and Raquel Fisk, piano

The afternoon performance opened with a special guest appearance by 11-year old pianist Raquel Fisk, who played energetic and fluid interpretations of Bach's *Prelude and Fugue in C minor* and the *Praeambulum* from the keyboard Partita Nr. 5, to the delight of the audience. The remainder of the concert was a balance of lecture and performance on the role of women composers (and a few men) throughout history, led by Virginia Eskin and Richard Savino (who admitted to being the wrong gender for the event). Zaira Meneses and Elena Papandreou each gave high level guitar performances to illuminate the lecture. A surprise highlight of the afternoon was a stunning rendition of Bach's *Chaconne in D minor*, featuring guest violinist Tessa Frederick.

### Friday Evening: Weiss and Bach - John Schneiderman, John Gibbons, and the NEC Bach Ensemble

After a day of competition, master classes, and guitar recitals, it was a refreshing and nicely placed time for other instruments

to take center stage in (thankfully air-conditioned!) Jordan Hall. Lutenist John Schneiderman presented a lilting first-half performance of Weiss, Falkenhagen, and Hagen. His playing combined a wonderful sense of space with inevitable momentum, breathing new life into seldom heard works. Following intermission, John Gibbons took the stage for the second time in the festival, delivering magnificent interpretations of three keyboard works by Bach. He was then joined by the NEC Bach Ensemble for the *Brandenburg Concerto No. 5 in D Major*, which features the famous harpsichord cadenza in the first movement, brilliantly executed by Gibbons. The concert was very memorable for its sheer energy and beauty of sound.

**Saturday Afternoon: Duo Musagete**

This program opened with fugal works by Shostakovich and Bach, thoughtfully arranged by the duo and artistically performed, using this instrumentation for the first known time. Next followed Robert Beaser's *Mountain Songs*. With not only the composer, but both Eliot Fisk and Paula Robison (dedicatees of the work) in the audience, this proved to be a very special afternoon. Duo Musagete (Jerome Mouffe, guitar, and Ben Smollen, flute), honored the composer's intentions, and their former teachers' original interpretation, while at the same time proclaiming their own creative ideas and musical gestures throughout the work. Their dazzling performance earned a well-deserved standing ovation from the audience, and a hug from the composer.

**Saturday Evening: Oscar Ghiglia and Eliot Fisk**

On the final evening Maestros Ghiglia and Fisk shared the stage for the headlining concert, giving a masterful performance that enthralled the audience with its magical beauty and brilliance. Ghiglia's interpretation of Bach's Third Lute Suite was deeply musical, owing to both his fluid playing and lyrical transcription, which opts for depth of sound rather than ease of fingering. Eliot Fisk was on fire in his own performance, playing with powerful drive and spontaneous energy in his transcriptions of three Scarlatti sonatas, and Bach's Third and Sixth Cello Suites. The audience gave a long standing ovation in appreciation of an amazing concert and festival, and Fisk responded with a final encore of the much beloved *Prelude* to Bach's First Cello Suite.

The Boston Classical Guitar Society has been a longtime supporter and advocate of the Boston GuitarFest, and vice-versa, resulting in an annual tradition that gathers together professionals, enthusiasts, and lovers of our noble instrument from around the world. This year's festival should make the city of Boston sincerely proud to have in our midst the incomparable Eliot Fisk, who has done so much for the advancement of the guitar, and whose visionary ideas have once again given us a unique festival we can all be proud of. Bravo, Boston GuitarFest!

**New BCGS Website Revealed**

Be sure to check out the newly re-designed website for the Boston Classical Guitar Society. With streamlined navigation and many new features, it is sure to become an often-used favorite on your website list. A live Twitter feed has been added to post the very latest events and news. Easy to find pages take you exactly where you want to go. New page additions include space dedicated exclusively to Performance Parties, a page for the Boston Guitar Orchestra, Saturday Sounds Series in Hingham, and a revamped Professional Artists page. Other updates include quick access to the Box Office and the Classifieds page, as well as links to the BCGS YouTube and Facebook pages. Visit us at [www.bostonguitar.org](http://www.bostonguitar.org) – it's the same web address, but with a brand new look and updated, useful tools. Your feedback is certainly welcome, as this site was designed for you, the Boston guitar community. Let us know what you'd like to see, and look for more interactivity and new options soon!



## BCGS Performance Parties

If you are a BCGS member and not receiving "e-vites" contact Oscar Azaret at: joazaret@comcast.net

**September Performance Party** Saturday, September 15, 2:00-6:00 pm. Hosted by Steve and Rosemary Rapson, 300 Mill Glen Pond North, Winchendon, MA

**October Performance Party** at the home of George Attisano in Auburndale, MA. Date to be determined



Frederic Bernstingle plays  
*Cadiz – I. Albeniz*



Bill Rodrick & Miriam Ben Ur pause  
after performing *Siroun Aghchig* by  
Udi Hrant



Doug Danforth plays *Variations  
on a Theme by Handel – M.  
Giuliani*



Michael Hurley and Chris Ruth play the  
*Aria and 1st Variation of the Goldberg  
Variations – J. S. Bach*



Rocco Bombardieri plays  
*Romance de Lo Pino – F. Torroba*

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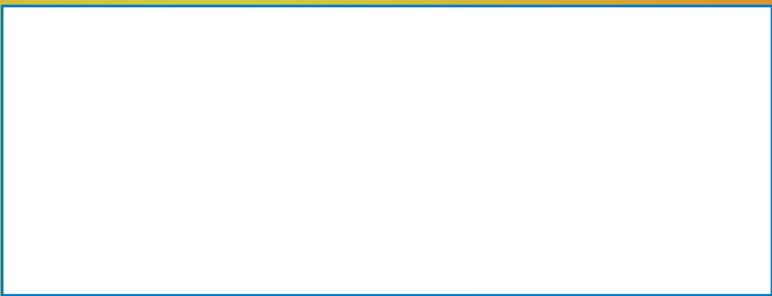
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(Address Correction Requested)

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