



newsletter

Volume 14, No. 4, June/August 2007

Upcoming Events

June 5 - 10, 2007: Boston GuitarFest II

Directed by Eliot Fisk, the theme for Boston GuitarFest 2007 is The Latin-American Legacy. BCGS members are entitled to a 10% discount on Boston GuitarFest 2007 registration fees: active student, auditor or day pass. Alternately, BCGS members who wish only to attend individual concerts may receive a \$5 discount on all concert tickets. Please mention BCGS when purchasing your tickets. Visit bostonguitarfest.org for details.

See Calendar section for details

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Get Ready for Boston Guitar Fest II *The Latin American Legacy*

June 5-10, 2007

All concerts held at the New England Conservatory: 290 Huntington Ave.
Williams Hall Concerts: Tickets available before scheduled event.
Jordan Hall concerts: Please call Jordan Hall Box Office (617) 585-1260.



**BCGS Members receive a 10% discount on registration fees
or a \$5.00 discount on ticketed events,**

WWW.BOSTONGUITARFEST.ORG

See page 2 and the Calendar section for more information.

THE CONCERT SERIES

JUNE 5-10, 2007

BOSTON GUITAR FEST II

"THE LATIN AMERICAN LEGACY" ELIOT FISK, DIRECTOR

JUNE 5, 8:00 PM, JORDAN HALL



STEVE LIN & JOSEPH WILLIAMS
WINNERS OF THE BGF '06 COMPETITION

JUNE 6, 4:00 PM, WILLIAMS HALL



SANTIAGO DIAZ &
TLEN HUICANI - SONG OF VERACRUZ



ZAIRA MENESES &
TLEN HUICANI - SONG OF VERACRUZ



JUNE 6, 8:00 PM, JORDAN HALL

JUNE 7, 4:00 PM, WILLIAMS HALL



ARTURO STABLE LATIN JAZZ QUARTET
ARUAN ORTIZ, JORGE NAJARRO, EDWARD PEREZ

JUNE 7, 8:00 PM, WILLIAMS HALL



RENE IZQUIERDO & JOAQUIN CLERCH
CUBAN CLASSICAL GUITAR NIGHT

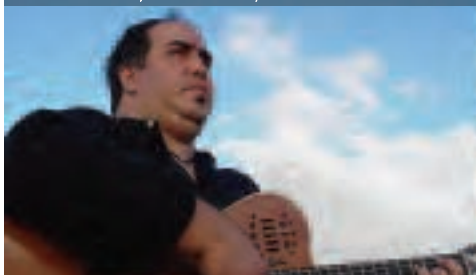
JUNE 8, 1:30 PM, WILLIAMS HALL



SYMPOSIUM: TOPICS IN THE STUDY OF
LATIN AMERICAN MUSIC (FREE!)



JUNE 8, 5:00 PM, WILLIAMS HALL



AQUILES BAEZ, CUATRO & GUITAR
MUSIC OF VENEZUELA

JUNE 8, 8:00 PM, WILLIAMS HALL

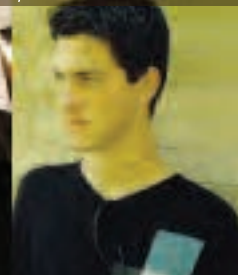


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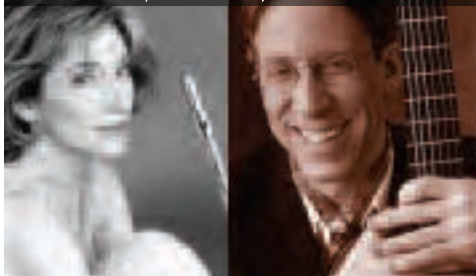
JUNE 9, 4:00 PM, WILLIAMS HALL



NANDO MICHELIN QUINTET
FROM BRAZIL: THE MUSIC OF GINGA



JUNE 9, 8:00 PM, JORDAN HALL



ELIOT FISK, GUITAR &
PAULA ROBISON, FLUTE

JUNE 10, 4:00 PM, WILLIAMS HALL



LOEWI LIN, VIOLONCELLO
HILARY WALKER, MEZZO-SOPRANO
YELENA BERIYEVA, PIANO
20TH CENTURY ARGENTINE COMPOSERS
MUSIC OF GINASTERA, GOLIOV, PIAZZOLLA

JUNE 10, 8:00 PM, WILLIAMS HALL



DANIEL BINELLI & TANGO DE CAMARA
ARGENTINE TANGO

All concerts held at New England Conservatory: 290 Huntington Ave., Boston, MA 02115

Williams Hall Concerts: Tickets Available Before Scheduled Event

Jordan Hall Concerts: Please Call Jordan Hall Box Office (617) 585-1260

BCGS members receive a 10% discount on registration fees or a \$5 discount on individual ticketed events.

WWW.BOSTONGUITARFEST.ORG

Letters to Members



Dear Members,

On Friday evening, April 20, BCGS presented our season finale, a fundraising event at the Old South Church in Copley Square. The concert program featured the music of Frank Wallace and was an incredible musical event. It was such a joy to be part of a community of musicians coming together for such a wonderful cause. I'd like to thank all of the performers, Frank Wallace, Nancy Knowles,

Robert Ward, Sharon Wayne, The Back Bay Guitar Trio, Steve Lin, Daniel Acsadi, Thea Lobo, Jon Yerby, and Pei-Chieh Chang for their incredible contribution to the success of this event.

One of the highlights of the evening for me was having the honor (along with former Artistic Directors, Sharon Wayne, Glori Collver-Jacobson, and Robert Ward) of introducing Frank Wallace as the new Artistic Director of the Boston Classical Guitar Society. I am very excited to pass the torch to Frank and know that his experience, knowledge and high level of professionalism will help to bring BCGS to a new level. I hope that you will join me in welcoming Frank Wallace to this position!

It has been an honor to serve as Director of the BCGS over the past two seasons. I am so glad to have had the opportunity to serve as part of such a wonderful organization. I am very grateful to have worked with the dedicated group of individuals on the board of directors who make this group run, and to meet the many members of the society who support our events and contribute to its success. I look forward to staying involved with the BCGS and am very excited about the future of the group.

There are many wonderful events coming to Boston this summer including Boston GuitarFest 2007 that will take place at the New England Conservatory from June 5-10. You'll find the complete schedule of events listed in this issue of the newsletter.

Thanks again to all of you for your support and encouragement. I look forward to seeing you at one of our events next season.

All the best,

David Newsom



Dear Members,

After more than thirty years of being a part of the Boston musical community, it is an honor to serve as the Artistic Director of the BCGS. I hope to cultivate within and around the organization a sense of wonder at the creations that we sometimes take for granted, at the processes that surround the ultimate creation of great music, and the circle that binds it all together. A

concert is a combination of many forces: a wonderful performer using a great instrument to play fabulous music in an awe-inspiring space for an incredulous audience of novices, professionals and amateurs, young and old.

We live in a very difficult time for the performing arts, but I hope the BCGS can grow to incorporate and support all levels of this process. We must work hard to reverse the decline of live music. I plan to expand our organization's efforts to include educational outreach in co-ordination with our fabulous local institutions, to support composer's and builder's essential contributions, and to expand our concert series/masterclasses both locally and regionally. I beseech you all to invite your friends and students, family and neighbors to contribute to and participate in the journey. And I thank David Newsam, the Board of Directors and you, the members, for putting your trust in me.

Best wishes to all,

Frank Wallace

Luthier's Corner

The Art of the Rosette

by Steve Connor

There are many ways of ornamenting the soundhole of a classical guitar but my favorite is the traditional Spanish style. The wooden mosaics are an art form that helps identify the luthier, define the aesthetic of the guitar and test the craftsmanship of the builder. Although the most interesting part of guitar making is surely the acoustic engineering-combining pieces of wood to produce a beautiful voice, I find rosette making to be fascinating as well. The rosette is a canvas on which one can create patterns reflecting Moorish tile work, architectural friezes, motifs in rugs, whatever one can imagine... Here is a brief pictorial describing my process of constructing a traditional rosette. I hope you enjoy it.



First, make the design on graph paper. This is the most challenging step.



Calculate and then cut the amount of veneer strips that are needed.



Here are veneer strips for the central mosaic.



Clip them together so that each assembly corresponds with one column in the mosaic tile.



Glue the strips together into a stack.



Once dry, square the sides of the stack with a low angle block plane.



Saw off planks from each stack.



The planks are then laminated together to create a log.



Once the log has been glued together, it is tapered. Then individual tiles can be sawn off.



Cut a channel in your soundboard and then start to lay the tiles in place.



Here's the initial pattern in place after being smoothed a bit with the plane.



Next, the central mosaic is flanked by more decorative inlay.



Purfling laminations can be bent on a bending iron. Just a little heat and moisture does the trick.



A grammel is used to scribe the dimensions of the channel.



The channel is roughly excavated with a chisel.



Then a Dremel tool can be used to perfect the channel.



Here, the purflings are gathered together with a teflon strip.



Later I'll remove the strip and put in small tiles for a flanking mosaic.



From chaos comes beauty.



Out comes the teflon, in go the small tiles.



This second design is flanked by herringbone.



Herringbone is simple to bend and install.



Here's the herringbone design close up.



Calendar

🎵 Performance Parties

Saturday, September 15, 2:00 p.m.

Performance Party at Oscar Azaret's home. Bring your guitar and some food to share! Oscar's home is at 334 Bear Hill Rd, North Andover, MA., (978) 688-3544. Directions:

- * From I-495 in North Andover take Mass Ave exit #43.
- * On Mass Ave go east toward N. Andover (coming from the south this will be a right turn after exit, coming from the north it will be a left turn).
- * Pass 2 traffic lights and continue into the old town center.
- * Immediately after the center, bear left at the fork onto Salem St. (a small fire station will be on your right).
- * Go 0.8 miles on Salem St. to a blinking yellow light and turn left onto Appleton St., then take the second right onto Bear Hill Rd.
- * Take your first left and go up the Hill. Oscar's house is 0.4 miles up the hill on the right - #334, beige colonial.

For information about hosting a performance party, contact Larry Spencer (lspencer777@hotmail.com).

🎵 BCGS Open Board Meetings

None currently scheduled. Check www.bostonguitar.org for the latest news on upcoming board meetings.

BCGS Board Meetings are open to the public. All are invited to attend and participate.

🎵 Festivals and Workshops

June 5 - 10, 2007: Boston GuitarFest 2007

Directed by Eliot Fisk, the theme for Boston GuitarFest 2007 is The Latin-American Legacy. BCGS members are entitled to a 10% discount on Boston GuitarFest 2007 registration fees: active student, auditor or day pass. Alternately, BCGS members who wish only to attend individual concerts may receive a \$5 discount on all concert tickets. Please mention BCGS when purchasing your tickets. Visit bostonguitarfest.org for additional details.

BOSTON GUITARFEST 2007 CONCERTS

June 5 (Opening Night)

Winners of the Boston GuitarFest 2006 Competition: Steve Lin and Joseph Williams (guitars)
8:00 p.m. - Jordan Hall (purchase tickets at Jordan Box Office - (617) 585-1260)

June 6 (Mexico Day)

Tlen Huicani (Náhuatl vocabulary meaning "the singers")
4:00 p.m. - Williams Hall (purchase tickets at door)
8:00 p.m. - Jordan Hall (purchase tickets at Jordan Box Office - (617) 585-1260)

Santiago Diaz
4:00 p.m. - Williams Hall (purchase tickets at door)

Zaira Meneses
8:00 p.m. - Jordan Hall (purchase tickets at Jordan Box Office - (617) 585-1260)

June 7 (Cuba Day)

Arturo Stable's Latin Jazz Quartet: Aruan Ortiz (piano), Jorge Najarro (Timbal), Edward Perez (bass), Arturo Stable (percussion)
4:00 p.m. - Williams Hall (purchase tickets at door)

Rene Izquierdo, guitar
8:00 p.m. - Williams Hall (purchase tickets at door)

June 8 (Venezuela Day)

Aquiles Baez, cuatro and guitar
5:00 p.m. - Williams Hall (purchase tickets at door)

Ensemble El Mundo and Richard Savino, Latin American Baroque
8:00 p.m. - Williams Hall (purchase tickets at door)

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June 9 (Brazil Day)

Nando Michelin Brazilian Quartet: Ricardo Vogt (guitar and vocals), Nando Michelin (piano)
4:00 p.m. - Williams Hall (purchase tickets at door)

Paula Robison (flute) and Eliot Fisk (guitar)
8:00 p.m. - Jordan Hall (purchase tickets at Jordan Box Office - (617) 585-1260)

June 10 (Argentina Day)

Classical Compositions by Argentine Composers: Works of Alberto Ginastera, Osvaldo Golijov and Astor Piazzolla: Loewi Lin (cello), Yelena Beriyevea (piano), Hilary Anne Walker (mezzo soprano)
4:00 p.m. - Williams Hall (purchase tickets at door)

Tango di Camera with Daniel Binelli: Dan Binelli (bandoneon), Steven Mauk (sax), Nicholas Walker (bass), Pablo Cohen (guitar)
8:00 p.m. - Williams Hall (purchase tickets at door)

🎵 Ongoing Events**Thursday evenings 7:00 - 10:00 p.m.**

Eric Anthony performs classical guitar repertoire with emphasis on Spanish composers (Albeniz, Tarrega, Sor, Rodrigo, etc.) at the Tasca Spanish Tapas Restaurant, 1612 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, MA. Free valet parking, no cover charge. (617) 730-8002.

Every other Sunday 12:00 - 2:00 p.m., Sunday Brunch

John Bigelow performs on a unique eleven-string guitar, arrangements of classical repertoire from Milano to modern, with forays into Celtic, Blues, Bossa-Nova, etc. during Sunday brunch (excellent fare) at Veggie Planet, 47 Palmer Street, Cambridge, MA (same space as Passim's Club, located downstairs, near corner of Church Street - end of the alley behind Harvard Co-op in Harvard Square). For schedule info call John (617) 731-3257 or Adam at Veggie Planet (617) 661-1513.

*** Advertising in the Calendar is free of charge ***

Send your listings to Larry Spencer at lspencer777@hotmail.com, or mail them to: Larry Spencer, BCGS Webmaster/Calendar Coordinator, 1200 Concord Rd., Marlborough, MA 01752.

Deadline for the September-November issue is August 1. Listings submitted after the deadline will be posted on the BCGS Web site.

Guitar Tips

by Bob Healey

If you use a guitar pick, try the same filing technique as you use for your finger nails on the pick's edge—most come rough and with burrs. Nail files work great on plastic and make a great sounding pick.

Warm Thanks!

The BCGS would like to thank its membership and all who support the society by volunteering their time and/or donating funds to ensure our future success. This summer we would like to offer our special thanks to Eric Anthony.

Dear Friends,

There is a fantastic guitar event coming up soon which everyone who possibly can should attend -the Boston Guitar Fest. I've been to so many guitar festivals, but the Boston Guitar Fest, under the direction of Eliot Fisk, is by far my favorite. He's put together a fantastic lineup of guest teachers and performers for the Latin themed 'fest this year. I'll be there displaying my latest guitars and hope to see you there. Believe me, you really shouldn't miss this event!!!

<http://www.bostonguitarfest.org/index.html>

Cheers-
Steve Connor

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Fourth String

Pop Stars and Plucked Strings

By Robert A. Margo

Unless you have been living on the guitar equivalent of Pluto, you have heard about, if not actually heard, Sting's recent foray into early music, "Songs from the Labyrinth," last year's best-selling classical CD. "Songs," which Sting recorded with Edin Karamazov, is devoted to the lute music of John Dowland whom Sting regards as the first "singer-songwriter" and a 16th century equivalent of a pop star like himself. On most of the recording Sting sings and Karamazov accompanies but on a few tracks the two perform duets, Sting on his archlute, a present from Dominic Miller, the guitarist in his regular group. Sting has also released a DVD about Dowland which recently appeared as an episode of the PBS series, "Great Performances." The DVD includes commentary and discussion on Dowland's life and times courtesy of Anthony Rooley, the lutenist, and David Pinto, the musicologist, in addition to performances by Sting, Karamazov, and a group of obviously well-trained singers.

Sting's interest in Dowland is hardly a fancy, dating back two decades and involving much preparation and perspiration, whether or not you fancy the end product. But it is not his only interest in music for (un-amplified) plucked strings. A few years ago I was stuck in a hotel room in Washington, D.C., flipping channels, when I encountered a cable TV station specializing in classical music videos. There was Sting, this time playing the prelude to the first cello suite by J.S. Bach on a classical guitar, with a winsome ballerina dancing in the background. While this was not John Williams, it certainly was a decent performance, rhythmically accurate with nicely terraced dynamics.

It was Sting's Dowland that got me thinking about the bigger picture: who, among rock (or pop) music royalty, guitar heroes and such, secretly harbored a desire to play the classical guitar (or lute, etc.)? One obvious case in point is a close associate of Sting's, the guitarist in his former (and recently re-formed) group, The Police, Andy Summers. As a classical player Summers is way beyond decent: he has appeared at classical guitar festivals, played with Ben Verdery, and written articles for England's Classical Guitar magazine.

As we go back in time there are other examples. In the early 1970s there were quite a few British rock bands that incorporated "classical" melodies and harmonies, along with off-beat rhythms into their music. One of the best was Yes. The guitarist with Yes, Steve Howe, has long played the classical guitar, going so far as recording a Vivaldi concerto. Steve Hackett,

another British guitar hero of the era (Genesis), plays classical guitar performing mostly his own music. Another good example is the Dutch guitarist Jan Akkerman. Akkerman became famous in rock guitar circles in the early 1970s as a member of the group Focus. His concerts of the era included performances on lute, notably of Dowland. One of these, the fantasia from "Variety of Lute Lessons" and well-beloved by classical guitarists, can be seen in rather hazy video on www.youtube.com.

Although pop star doesn't quite adequately describe him or his far ranging influence Chet Atkins was never very far away from a classical guitar whatever he happened to be playing. Atkins was one of the first to champion the music of Barrios and of Jorge Morel, long before either became household names in the classical guitar world, and he recorded Tarrega and others during his long and illustrious career. I was privileged to meet Chet, and play him for him (Barrios, "Waltz #3") at a party held by Paul McGill, the Nashville luthier whose guitars Chet owned and played.

Last but not least, there are the Rolling Stones. No, I don't think Keith or Mick is really a closet classical player – but the Stones did endow a scholarship in classical guitar at the Yehudi Menuhin School in England, and that qualifies in my book. Do write, if I have neglected your favorite pop/rock idol.



Society Speaks

Compiled by Bob Healey

“Are you planning to attend Boston GuitarFest 2007 June 5-10? Why or why not?”

Thanks to all of you who responded to this survey! These surveys give all members the opportunity to express their personal opinions on a variety of subjects, and they provide a wealth of information for the readership. Please note that the opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the editor.

Yes, I am planning to attend as many GuitarFest 2007 events as possible. We have to support such high-quality classical guitar happenings in our community. Additionally, I will be writing a review of the festival for Classical Guitar magazine of England. *Mark Small*

Absolutely! I just looked at the program yesterday (nice website) and was very excited about attending. I like the format of dedicating each day to a different country, and the idea of immersing yourself in the culture as well as the music. I also like that it's not all guitar. Some variety is good, even for a "guitar fest." In reality I'll probably only get to go one day, but that's life. *Chris Ruth*

I don't know. I haven't seen any information about it except this email. It happens during Biodiversity Days which may make it difficult, and my entertainment budget is small these days. *Bob Burkhardt*

I think it's great that you guys asked this question, since it reminds people to get it on their calendar. I will be out of town June 5-7, but will definitely catch a day or two as an auditor in the latter half of the session. The diversity of music, performers, and instructors offered this year is tremendous. *Oscar Azaret*

The festival last year was a lot of fun. I enjoyed particularly the master classes as well as the demonstration of old instruments at the Museum of Fine Arts. The festival is clearly of most use to aspiring young semi-professional or professional guitarists, which I am definitively not. I am a crass amateur that enjoys playing for himself rather than others. Yet it had something for everybody and it was fun to see so much talent. Eliot Fisk was very friendly and approachable. I really look forward to this year's festival since Latin American guitar music is my special interest. *Otto Solbrig*

I'm definitely going to attend what I can of the GuitarFest '07, which is all of the evening shows. I'd go to the whole thing if I could take time off work. *Benjamin Torrey*

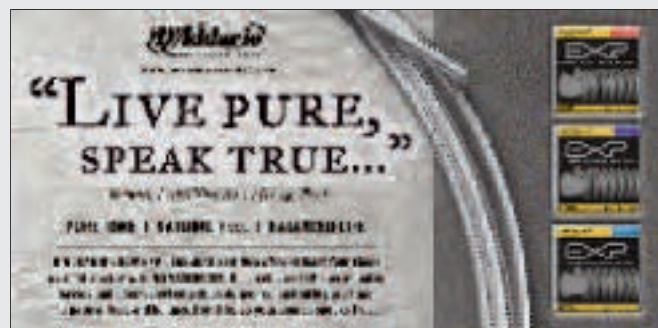
The next survey topic is as follows:

“Music in our schools is suffering. What could we as a group, or as individuals, do to help?”

Please keep your responses brief—50 words or less! Responses may be condensed if they exceed brevity. Indicate whether you wish to include your name with your response or prefer to comment anonymously. If you have suggestions for future surveys—send them along!

Send your response to bob@bobhealey.net by August 1 and receive a FREE set of D'Addario strings (while supplies last), courtesy of D'Addario. Please include BCGS in the subject line of your email.

The BCGS would like to acknowledge its appreciation to the D'Addario company, which graciously donated two sets of strings to each contributing author of this issue's Society Speaks column.



Classifieds

Individual Guitars for Sale

ANTONIO APARICIO 2002 Classical Model AA132, All solid Rosewood/Spruce. Great condition. Beautiful warm sound. Lists on luthiermusic.com for \$3600. I'm asking \$2300. Chris Ruth (978) 407-8657, cruth@hologic.com.

YAMAHA CG50 Romanian spruce/Brazilian, 650/52, laquer finish. As-new condition. This is the top of the line from Yamaha, a custom order. Currently CG50's are selling for \$9,800 at Richard Click, \$8,400 on the net from a dealer, \$5,600 at Zavelatas, and \$3,000 from me. Lance F. Gunderson, (207) 439-7516, lancefgunderson@yahoo.com.

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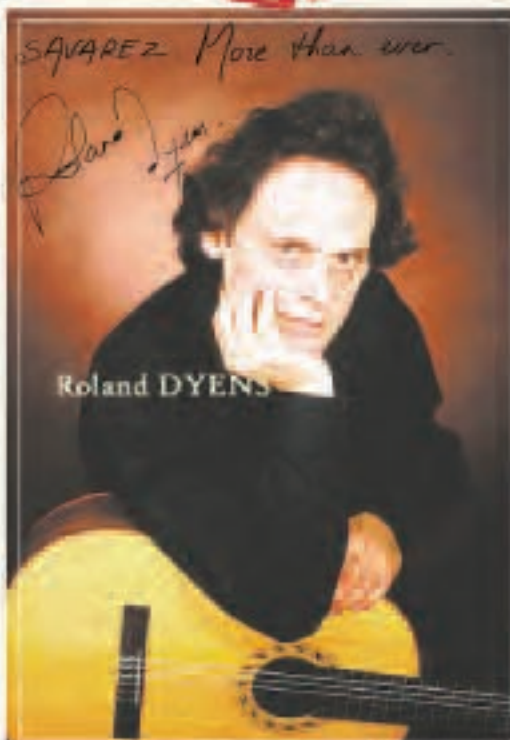
Classifieds are \$10 per issue for a 32 word ad (\$0.25 for each additional word). Send to Charles Carrano (c.carrano@com-cast.net).

The deadline for the next newsletter is August 1.

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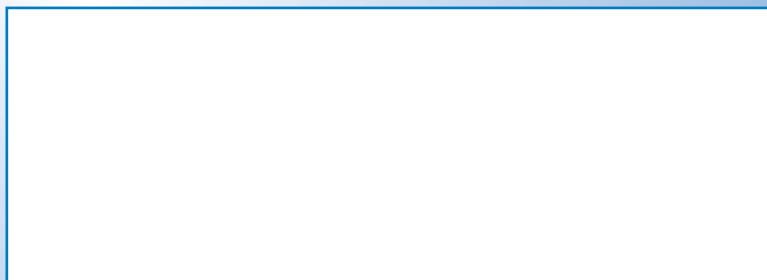
Boston Classical Guitar Society
891 Main Street, Suite 184
Walpole, MA 02081
(Address Correction Requested)

GuitarFest 2007

June 5 - 10, 2007: Boston

Directed by Eliot Fisk, the theme for Boston GuitarFest 2007 is The Latin-American Legacy. BCGS members are entitled to a 10% discount on Boston GuitarFest 2007 registration fees.

See page 2 and the Calendar Section for details, and visit bostonguitarfest.org.



www.bostonguitar.org

