



BCGS



newsletter

Volume 23, No. 4

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BOSTON CLASSICAL GUITAR SOCIETY

ARTIST SERIES

2019-2020

Manuel Barrueco  September 28	Brasil Guitar Duo  November 8	Matt Palmer  February 8, 2020	David Russell  April 25, 2020
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Irina Kulikova
 World Premiere Music by
 Nikita Koshkin (NEGEF)

Saturday & Sunday
February 22-23, 2020
 Longy School of Music of Bard College

Frank Wallace
 Tribute

Friday
October 25, 2019

All Concerts 7:30 p.m.

The First Lutheran Church of Boston
 299 Berkeley Street, Boston

New England Guitar Ensembles Festival (NEGEF)
 Longy School of Music of Bard College
 27 & 33 Garden Street, Cambridge

— Online Tickets —
www.bostonguitar.org
 Information – 617/420-2247
director@bostonguitar.org





Manuel Barrueco in Concert September 28, 2019

7:30 p.m. The First Lutheran Church of Boston, 299 Berkeley Street, Boston
 Information and tickets at www.bostonguitar.org



Letter to Members



J. Oscar Azaret



Charles Ewing

A warm welcome to our Boston Classical Guitar Society 2019-20 Season. We're honored and excited to be serving you in our new leadership position, and very grateful to our recent directors Jerome Mouffe and Dan Acsadi for this opportunity

to serve, and continued support on our board with their wealth of expertise as we grow into the future.

Whether you are a guitar professional, a passionate amateur player, a student of the guitar, or an aficionado of the wonderful world of the classical guitar, the BCGS is here to serve your needs and enrich your lives. Our Artist Series is the premier venue in New England for classical guitar artistic talent. We bring to this audience the established best of the best, and we strive to seek out the most exciting emerging talent, who will thrill us with their innovation and youthful vigor. Who can forget last year's mesmerizing performance by Kazuhito Yamashita of an all Japanese program where the tone of each note was exquisitely selected from the master's palette, the beauty of the sheer artistry of Ana Vidovic, the dynamism and musical "togetherness" of our own Great Necks Trio, or the heart-felt interpretations of Rene Izquierdo's homeland Cuban music? We are also excited to see the blossoming talent of our Boston Guitar Orchestra under the leadership of Maestro Robert Bekkers. If you've ever considered joining the orchestra, now's the time to do it! Robert is actively recruiting.

Our community outreach programs continue to grow. The longstanding Hingham Library "Sunday Sounds" series, now in its 22nd season, thrives under the leadership of master impresario George Ward who casts an increasingly wider geographic net for diverse solo and ensemble talent. This year we are happy to report that the BCGS has partnered with the Westford Parish Center for the Arts (PCA) to provide a continuing concert series of classical guitar for this very active community center. And to the north, the Portsmouth New Hampshire "Guitar Sunday" series led by BCGS member Mitch Shuldman is now in its 3rd season of growth bringing together brilliant local talent and a very appreciative audience. Check out the <https://bostonguitar.org/> Local Concert Series tab for convenient access to these events and navigate all the tabs in our newly redesigned website by our board member and webmaster Michael Bester.

For a more relaxed social musical event, many members take advantage of our monthly performance parties hosted in members' homes. The camaraderie and mutual support of these are an amazing testament to the warm heartedness of our membership. These gatherings are the perfect opportunity to try out a friendly performance of pieces we are currently fine tuning. Occasionally these parties take a bit of a twist and offer a broader performance venue such as the recent gatherings at the RiverWoods Residences hosted by member Doug Danforth and at the San Jon's Filarmonica

Society with the Jose Ramirez Family hosted by corporate sponsor Stoughton Music Center.

The BCGS has a commitment to ensemble performance with an emphasis on the benefits to the youth of ensemble/orchestral participation. We are delighted this season to resume our New England Guitar Ensembles Festival (NEGEF), a multifaceted performance/educational weekend hosted at the Longy School of Music of Bard College in Cambridge. This season, guitar ensembles and individuals from around New England will combine to premiere a new work by legendary composer, Nikita Koshkin, commissioned by the BCGS. In keeping with the Russian theme, the festival will culminate with a solo performance by the enchanting shooting star Irina Kulikova. All ages and abilities are encouraged to register for access to workshops, masterclasses, discussions, and concerts.

On October 25 the BCGS is honored to bring to you a tribute concert of the music of our own former director and good friend Frank Wallace. For over four decades the music of Frank Wallace has spellbound audiences with its soaring exploration of the depth and breadth of the human experience. This concert will feature several artists in solo and ensemble formats for guitar as well as violin, and will be preceded by a discussion of the music among performers and composer. We beseech all members to join us on this evening to generate positive energy as Frank continues his battle with cancer.

We want to extend a heart-felt thanks to our hard working board members and volunteers who work tirelessly throughout the year, and lastly, we want to thank all of you, our members and sponsors who make all this possible through your membership, generous donations, event attendance, and most importantly the sharing of your passion for the transcending art form of the classical guitar.

Warm wishes,

J. Oscar Azaret
Executive Director, BCGS

Charles Ewing
Artistic Director, BCGS



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Frank Wallace Tribute Planned

by Mark Small

Many in New England and the larger music world are familiar with the work of Frank Wallace, former artistic director for the BCGS and a widely-respected composer, guitarist, singer, and early music specialist. In June, Frank posted a blog entry on his website titled “Coming Out with Cancer.” In it, he expressed his feelings about ocular melanoma, a virulent cancer that manifested as a tumor in his eye in 2017, and has since metastasized to his liver. “I’ve been getting radiation treatments this summer,” Frank said in a late-August phone conversation. “I’ll hear in September what recent scans show about the growth of the tumor. The doctors didn’t give me much hope, they said I might have a year or two.”

As devastating as the news has been to Frank, Nancy, and their two sons, Frank maintains a positive outlook and has ambitious future plans. “A counselor gave him Dr. Kelly Turner’s book *Radical Remission: Surviving Cancer Against All Odds*,” Frank shared. “It gave me hope. I’ve embraced the nine principles the author observed among all people she studied who recovered from cancer. One involves community support, which has been huge for me. I’ve received letters from people sharing experiences they or people around them had with cancer or what my music and teaching have meant to them. The love from these people is helping me heal and is actually making my love of life and heart swell.”

An event that has buoyed his spirits is the upcoming October 25 tribute concert to Frank that will feature guitarists David William Ross, Robert Ward, Alexander Dunn, Daniel Acsadi, Nick Cutroneo, Christopher Ladd and violinist Asa Guojonsdottir in a program of Frank’s music for solo guitar, guitar duo and sextet, and violin and guitar. The event at the First Lutheran Church of Boston starts at 7:30 with a pre-concert discussion with the composer and artists. “When Bob Ward called me to tell me about this concert I was floored,” Frank says. “The quality of the performers will be very high, they all really know the music—some have been playing these pieces for years.”

Frank grew up in California, and earned his undergraduate degree at the San Francisco Conservatory where he studied with Segovia disciples Ray Reussner and Michael Lorimer. Exposure to early music at SFC through Lorimer and Robert Strizich prompted him to pursue it after moving to Boston in 1974. In addition to teaching at New England Conservatory of Music (1976–1980), he joined Quadrivium, a local choral group singing sacred medieval and renaissance music. He met his future wife, mezzo soprano Nancy Knowles, in the group. They formed the ensemble LiveOak in

1979 with multi-instrumentalist John Fleagle and began appearing in concert halls, churches, and festivals across Europe and the Americas. Frank put down the guitar for a time to focus exclusively on lute and vihuela. LiveOak played many gigs and recorded albums for the Titanic and Centaur labels, then life intruded. Fleagle left the group, their agent quit the business, and Nancy became pregnant with their first son. “We had gotten a rave review in the *New York Times* in late November of 1982, but by December, everything fell apart,” Frank says. The couple regrouped with various musicians before ultimately proceeding as a duo.



Frank returned to classical guitar in 1990 after attending a Bill Kanengiser recital at Longy School of Music. He recognized Kanengiser from a summer music camp in 1974. “I was 21 and he was 15, and I gave him his first classical guitar lessons,” Frank muses. “After the concert I reintroduced myself. The next day I took out my guitar and started playing it again. So I gave Bill the gift of classical guitar in 1974 and he gave it back to me in 1990. We’ve

remained friends since.”

Frank began composing in earnest in 1997. His catalog lists more than 100 works for guitar in solo and other settings, song cycles, and pedagogical materials. He says his writing falls into two categories: a “modal dissonance” style which hints at his early music influences, and a contemporary chromatic approach. His website lists nearly 50 musicians who have performed or recorded his works.

Frank’s discography lists 25 albums including titles with LiveOak, duo efforts with Nancy, and his solo and ensemble projects. He has self-produced and engineered 16 albums for his own Gyre Music label. He and Nancy are completing the design and audio editing for a new solo album, *A Distant Wind*, that will primarily feature original works reflecting the influence of music from various times and places. (It will be available at the October 25th concert.)

Frank views his future with inspiring optimism. “I feel a tremendous urge to write a lot of great music and play a lot of great guitar and record all of my compositions. I want to experience daily joy and gratitude for every breath for as long as I can.”

(For more information, visit frankwallace.com.)





BCGS Performance Parties

By J. Oscar Azaret

The idea of friendly informal performance gatherings was at the very genesis of the BCGS in the 1970's. A tried and true concept which flourishes to this date, as a member, every few weeks you receive an Evite to one of these gatherings. Roughly about a quarter of our members take advantage of these from time to time. The number of attendees is typically in the teens, and most, but not all choose to perform. As the second photo here shows, some come just to listen. With few exceptions, our gatherings are held on designated Saturdays at 2:00PM, and we typically hang out for about 4 hours though everyone is free to arrive and leave as they need. Various society members graciously host the gatherings at their homes, though sometimes we might meet at a coffee house or some other public center in a more open mic sort of forum.

So, what is the usual protocol? Members start to arrive at 2:00PM and immediately a lively set of conversations take off whilst enjoying the snacks and libations provided. If you'd like to bring a little something for the party – great, if you didn't get to it – great also. There are always plenty of goodies to go around. This is the time to catch up with old friends, meet new ones, compare guitars, and chat about whatever. Usually between 2:45 and 3:00 the host (or designated MC) will decide to ask the group to grab chairs and start the performances. Depending on the size of the group, we may or may not have a play list sign up. Once we're all settled in with a glass of wine, or coffee, members will get up and play their prepared piece(s). The operative word here is sharing and welcoming at all levels – beginning to expert. Folks talk about the pieces, their experience in learning the pieces, about the composer, arrangement, ... since we all share many common pieces, it's lots of fun to get other's perspectives.

Playing goes on for about an hour with folks taking turns, and then we take a break and have more refreshments and great sharing. We gather again for a second round until everyone who wants to play gets a chance. Two pieces is a typical number played by each guest, though it can be greater or fewer, being sensitive to the size of the group. Afterwards, as the party winds down, we'll have folks who are off in pairs or small groups comparing arrangements, fingerings, guitars, or just solving the world's problems. Several duos/ensembles have spawned from these parties as people get to know each other and their common interests.

If you have not given one of our BCGS parties a try... I highly recommend them. And don't fret about uncertainty and how to respond on Evite. Your answer can be changed at any time, and even if your plans change and you don't get to Evite, that's fine. The law of averages works things out.



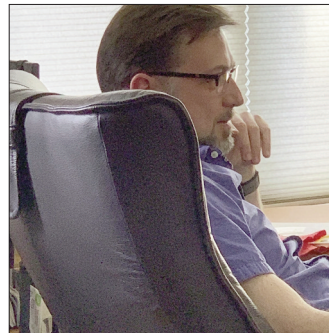
Beverly and Mark Davis



Doug Danforth



Jeff Aach



Michael Bester



Larry Spencer

Stoughton Music Performance Party and presentation by Jose & Christina Ramirez



Jose Ramirez V, Christina Ramirez, Celeste McClain, Aaron Larget-Caplan



BCGS Series Collaboration Calendar

Hingham Library Sunday Series

<https://bostonguitar.org/concerts/category/hingham-sunday-sounds/>

Sunday, September 29, 3:00pm

Steve Rapson, Guitar

Sunday, October 20, 3:00pm

Ceili Connors, Classical Guitar

Sunday, November 24, 3:00pm

Dan Acsadi & Meghan Jacoby Guitar/Flute

Sunday, December 8, 3:00pm

John Muratore, Guitar

Sunday, January 19, 3:00pm

Eclectica Quartet

Sunday, February 16, 2020

Olson DeCarlo, Voice & Guitar

Sunday, March 22, 2020, 3:00pm

Jim Skinger Duo, Guitar & Flute

Sunday, April 26, 2020, 3:00pm

Providence Mandolin Orchestra (PMO)

Sunday, May 31, 2020, 3:00pm

Thatcher Harrison, Classical Guitar

Sunday, June 28, 2020, 3:00pm

Hot Club de Boston, Gypsy Jazz Trio



Westford PCA Sunday Classical Series

<https://bostonguitar.org/concerts/category/westford-pca/>

Sunday, September 22, 4:00pm

David Newsam & Margaret Herlehy, Guitar & Oboe

Sunday, October 20, 2:30-5:00pm

Jose Lezcano, Classical Guitar

Clinic and Performance

Sunday, December 15, 4:00pm

Luca Duo, Voice & Guitar

Meng-Chieh Hsieh, Vocals

Jaclyn Jones, Guitar

Sunday, April 19, 2020 4:00pm

The Great Necks Trio

Scott Borg, Adam Levin & Matthew Rohde



Portsmouth Public Library Guitar Sundays

<https://bostonguitar.org/concerts/category/portsmouth-guitar-sundays/>

Sunday, Sept. 8, PMAC (Portsmouth Music and Art Center) 3:00pm

Adam Levin, Classical Guitar

Sunday, October 13, 3:00 pm, Portsmouth Public Library

Carl Straussner, Classical Guitarist

Sunday, Nov. 3, PMAC (Portsmouth Music and Arts Center) 3:00pm

David Newsam (Classical Guitar) and Margaret Herlehy (Oboe)

Sunday December 1, Portsmouth Public Library, 3:00pm

TJ Wheeler, Blues/ Jazz Guitarist

Calendar

BCGS events are in *red*. Members may enter their own events by contacting us at director@bostonguitar.org for permission and instructions. For much more information go to www.bostonguitar.org/calendar

Monday, September 9, 11:00am–12pm

The Baroque Lute, Olav Chris Henriksen

Where: Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave, Boston, MA

Tuesday, September 10, 7:00pm–8:30pm

Aaron Larget-Caplan in Concert

Where: Cary Memorial Library, 1874 Mass Ave, Lexington, MA

Saturday, September 14, 2:00–6:00pm

BCGS Performance Party

Where: The Rapsons 617/877.2745, 3 Mill Glen Pond Rd, Winchendon, MA

Saturday, September 21, 7:00–9:30pm

Aaron Larget-Caplan & Matthew Hoch, Art Song Recital

Where: Alliance Française, 53 Marlborough St, Boston, MA 02116

Monday, September 23, 7:00–9:30pm

Aaron Larget-Caplan & Matthew Hoch, Art Song Recital–Cape Cod

Where: Wellfleet Library, 55 W Main St, Wellfleet, MA 02667,

Saturday, September 28, 7:30–9:30pm

BCGS Artist Series: Manuel Barrueco

Where: First Lutheran Church, 299 Berkeley St, Boston, MA

Wednesday, October 2, 6:00–7:00pm

The Middle Eastern 'Ud, Mal Barsamian

Where: Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave, Boston, MA

Saturday, October 5, 1:00–5:00pm

BCGS Performance Party

Where: The Harrimans at the Lawrence Library, 15 Main St.,Pepperell MA

Friday, October 25, 7:30–9:30pm

Frank Wallace Tribute Concert

Where: First Lutheran Church, 299 Berkeley St, Boston, MA

Sunday, November 3, 4:00–6:00pm

Aaron Larget-Caplan performs Pictures at an Exhibition

Where: Art Complex Museum, 189 Alden St, Duxbury, MA 02332

Friday, November 8, 7:30pm–9:30pm

BCGS Artist Series: Brasil Guitar Duo

Where: First Lutheran Church, 299 Berkeley St, Boston, MA

Classifieds

Classifieds are \$20 per issue of the BCGS newsletter for a 32-word ad. The fee includes posting on this webpage for three months email director@bostonguitar.org with inquiries. Please send checks to BCGS, P.O. 230528, Boston, MA 02123, or pay online at: <https://squareup.com/market/bcgs/item/bcgs-classifieds-payment>.

Cordoba C9 Classical Guitar \$500.00. Excellent Condition, bought new in 2012. Includes Cordoba Polyfoam Case. Contact: dhoyt10262@gmail.com

Lester DeVoe classical guitar. This “student” model sounds the same as DeVoe’s concert instruments. New in 1996. One owner. Indian rosewood. Very good condition with a few nicks and scuffs. \$2,200. johnfiske@comcast.net.

Joe Burros Classical Guitar Sales. Selling student, semi-professional and concert classical guitars throughout the New England region. Visit fmi-newengland.com for more info.



Superb Instrumentalist Opens for BCGS Artist Series

Manuel Barrueco

SEPTEMBER 28, 2019 7:30 pm

First Lutheran Church, 299 Berkeley St., Boston, MA



The BCGS is proud to welcome Manuel Barrueco back to start off the 2019-20 Artist Series. Internationally recognized as one of the most important guitarists of our time, Barrueco has been continually described as a superb instrumentalist and a superior and elegant musician, possessing a seductive sound and uncommon lyrical gift. Get your tickets early!

Traditional and Brazillian Works for Guitar at the BCGS Artist Series

Brasil Guitar Duo

NOVEMBER 8, 2019 7:30 pm

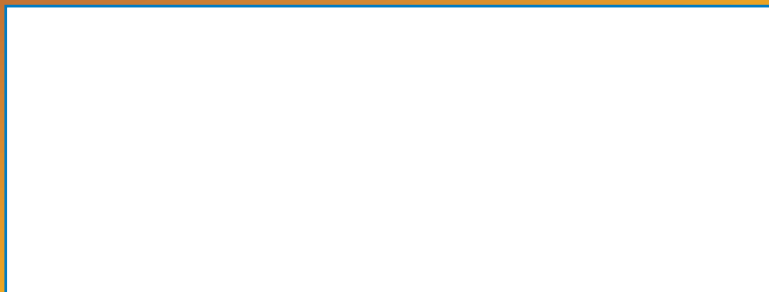
First Lutheran Church, 299 Berkeley St., Boston, MA



In their spirited live performances, the Brasil Guitar Duo radiates an unmistakable warmth and energy that has made them one of the most demanded ensembles on the international concert circuit. Their innovative programs seamlessly blend traditional and Brazilian works, and their growing catalog of critically acclaimed recordings has received multiple Latin GRAMMY award nominations. Don't miss their debut performance on the BCGS stage!



www.bostonguitar.org



BCGS Artist Series
Manuel Barrueco
SEPTEMBER 28, 2019, 7:30pm
The First Lutheran Church of Boston
299 Berkeley Street, Boston



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