

Washington Guitar Society

No.55

March/April/May 2001

PEPE ROMERO PERFORMS FOR THE JOHN E. MARLOW SERIES

On Saturday, April 28th, 2001 at 8 pm Pepe Romero will perform at Lisner Auditorium, George Washington University - 730 21st Street, NW, Washington, D.C for the International Conservatory of Music's John E. Marlow Guitar Recital Series.

Pepe and his family members were billed "The Royal Family of the Guitar." And so they are! We are, of course, referring to the Romeros, a quartet comprised of Celidonio and his three sons Celin, Pepe and Angel. Their ensemble was one of the first to tour the world, inspiring new works and generating international interest in the guitar. To end the concert season on a very high note, this will be Pepe Romero's first solo appearance in



Washington D.C. Pepe's many recordings of solo repertoire, chamber works and concerti have earned him great respect and popularity with American audiences.

He is one of the most frequently heard guitarists on classical radio. In recognition of his distinguished career, he was recently knighted by the King of Spain and given the title, "Caballero." We are in for an exciting and, shall we say, regal evening at Lisner Auditorium.

Master Class with Pepe Romero

There is a high probability of a master class with Mr. Romero on the April 27th in Washington from 5-8 pm. All interested in performing or auditing the class, please call Regis Ferruzza at (202) 265-3915.

Kevin Vigil Performs for WGS April 6

Kevin Vigil is a guitarist/composer who communicates with his audiences at a personal level. He is a part of a growing trend in classical music to revitalize the role of the composer/ performer. He frequently programs his own compositions in conjunction with pieces by other composers. His compositions have been heard on public radio in Indiana, Tennessee and Virginia as well as WGMS and WPFW in Washington, DC.

Kevin performs as a soloist and as a member of Duo Con Brio with his wife Barbara Vigil (flute/piccolo). He and Barbara have been and remain very active performing for recitals and important occasions including a dinner for President Clinton. They have performed throughout the US including Hawaii. Past seasons have featured the duo in performances for the Brucker Hall Recital Series, The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Yale University, Roger Williams University, the Levine School of Music, and the Montpelier Cultural Arts Center among others. This season will conclude with a performance of Rodrigo's *Fantasia para un gentilhombre* with Washington Musica Aperta at the Smithsonian on June 15.

Kevin received his MM from Yale University (1990) where he was the teaching assistant and a student of Benjamin Verdery. Since then, he has not only become widely recognized as a performer and composer, but as a teacher as well. His articles have been published in international guitar journals such as *Soundboard* and the *European Guitar Teachers Association Journal*. His master classes have inspired dozens of up and coming guitarists. Many of his private students have gone off to study at conservatories and universities throughout the country

and come back to study with him during the summer. Several are now pursuing careers as professional musicians. He is currently on the faculties of the Washington Conservatory, the Levine School of Music and Northern Virginia Community College.

Kevin's debut recording *Stories for Guitar* (Orchard 3405) was released in December of 1999. It features all original compositions for solo guitar, flute/guitar, piccolo/guitar and narrator/guitar. Special guests include Barbara Vigil (flute/piccolo) and Monika Gallegos (narrator). CDs will be available for purchase at this performance at \$15 each (\$5 of each sale will be donated to the WGS).

Kevin's April performance for the WGS will feature works by Dowland, Bach, Sor, Tarrega, Brouwer and more. For further details about Kevin's performance, please see the calendar of events in this issue.

"Guitar Guru"
-The Memphis Flyer

"His competence as a technician and ease of playing take a backseat to his compositional brilliance as a wordless storyteller. Like all the best music, you need not be a musician to hang on every word (oops!) note."
-JOHN STIX, *Guitar for the Practicing Musician*

"...a very gifted classical guitarist and an interesting composer..."
-Guitar Player Magazine

The Gray/Pearl Guitar Duo

Performs on April 6

The Classical Guitar Duo of Julian Gray and Ronald Pearl, considered among a handful of the world's finest guitar ensembles, will perform a concert on Friday April 6 at 8:00 pm at the Friedberg Concert Hall of the Peabody Conservatory of Music in Baltimore. Their latest CD "Scarlatti 15" (Dorian) that features their arrangements of selected Royal Sonatas of Domenico Scarlatti will be available to public for the first time during the intermission of this concert; 4 days before it goes on sale worldwide.

The recital will feature brilliant new arrangements of sonatas of Domenico Scarlatti from the Duo's new CD "Scarlatti 15" as well as their transcriptions of Romantic favorites such as Clair de lune of Debussy and the first Nocturne of Chopin. Gray/Pearl will also perform "Release" - inspired by the Celtic and Irish music of River dance - written for them by the British composer Oliver Hunt.

Through their concerts and highly acclaimed recordings, Gray and Pearl have established themselves as one of the important voices in the current music scene. After their London debut at Wigmore Hall, Classical Guitar Magazine wrote: "*Julian Gray and Ronald Pearl, through serious programming and the superlative coordination of their respective talents - not a rubato was out of place, not a ritenuto was mistimed, not a crescendo was exaggerated, not a point of style was misplaced - have convincingly extended the art of the possible so far as the guitar duo is concerned.*"

The Duo's extraordinarily broad repertoire ranges from their boldly innovative transcriptions of Baroque masters such as Bach and Scarlatti to Romantic favorites of Debussy, Chopin and Brahms. They have inspired composers to create an

important body of new works for guitar that draws its rich appeal from such sources as the folk music of Armenia, Ireland and Appalachia as well as homages to music of the past and today.

CONCERT:

When: Friday April 6 at 8:00 pm

Where: The Friedberg Concert Hall of the Peabody Conservatory of Music (1 East Mount Vernon Place)

Admission: \$16 General, \$8 Senior Citizens, \$5 Students with ID

Tickets: Available at the Peabody Box Office; Tel: 410-659 8124

Presenter: Sylvia Adalman, Artist Series of the Peabody Conservatory



Dan Hellman

Performs at the Washington Conservatory of Music, April 29

Dan Hellman began studying the guitar at the age of 12 with Herman Meyer at the Washington Conservatory of Music. During his time at the conservatory, Mr. Hellman participated in the Music Theory and Guitar Performance exams given by the Royal Schools of Music and Successfully completed grades 6 and 7, respectively. He has performed in master classes with Jad Azkoul and Carlos Barbosa-Lima. Mr. Hellman is now continuing his studies at Northwestern's School of Music under the instruction of Professor Anne Waller. The program that he will be performing is also his freshman recital that he will be performing two weeks later in Evanston, Illinois. Mr. Hellman would like to thank his parents, Steven and Sharon, his teachers, Herman and Anne, the Washington Conservatory of Music and the Washington Guitar Society for making this recital possible.

Mr. Hellman's performance will include works by Dowland, Bach, Sor, Barrios and Albeniz.

Editor's note: I have watched Dan's progress over the last several years and have been most impressed with his consistent dedication to his craft. He is a fine example of a student who strives for excellence. You won't want to miss this performance.
-Kevin Vigil

For details, please see the calendar of events in this issue.

Brazilian Guitar Quartet
Performs for the Dumbarton Concert Series
on April 7

Celebrate Brazil's 500th anniversary and the 250th Bach year with this "dream team" of Paul Galbraith and three of Brazil's finest guitarists in a special Brazilian/Bach program. From the aristocratic warmth of 19th century composer Carlos Gomez to the deeply felt Villa-Lobos homage to J.S. Bach, this quartet captures the essence of the music and the spirit of each composer. This concert will take place on Saturday, April 7. For ticket information and further details, call (202) 828-3090 or go to www.dumbartonconcerts.org



WGS MEETINGS

The Washington Guitar Society (WGS) has meetings one Friday of every month. Specific dates and performers are listed in the calendar of events. Meetings with a featured performer begin with an open stage from 7:30-8:00 pm and continue with the performance at 8 pm. Meetings are free and open to the public. A hat will be passed for voluntary contributions to the artist. For information call John Rodgers at (301) 767-3383.

WGS OPEN STAGE

The Washington Guitar Society hosts an open stage before each of its meetings. This is a great time to try pieces out for a very interested audience. It's not a competition, just plain fun. The open stages start at 7:30 followed by the featured performer at 8pm. The next open stage is set for Friday, April 6th. It will take place at the Chevy Chase Community Center, 5601 Connecticut Ave., NW. It's just south of Chevy Chase Circle at the corner of Connecticut Ave. and McKinley St., across the street from the Avalon movie theater. There is plenty of free parking.

Andrew Zohn
Performs for WGS on May 18

Guitarist, composer/arranger Andrew Zohn has distinguished himself as one of the foremost young musicians in America. He has been hailed as "One of the finest guitarists of his generation." -Anthony Morris, host of the nationally syndicated radio program, *Guitar Alive*. *Soundboard Magazine* has described him as possessing "excellent musicality and awareness of style." *Classical Guitar Magazine* has described his arrangements as "charming and entirely convincing. More of the same please!" He has won top prizes in five national and international competitions including the 1997 Stotsenberg International Solo Competition, the 1992 and 1993 Guitar Foundation of America International Competition, the 1992 Music Teachers' National Collegiate Artist Competition, and the 1992 Kingsville Young Artist international Competition. Dr. Zohn has been the recipient of numerous grants and scholarships for his academic work.

In addition to concertizing throughout North America and in Europe as a soloist, Andrew Zohn has been active as a chamber musician and orchestral soloist. He has been a featured artist with The New World Symphony, the North Carolina School of the Arts Symphony, The University of Texas Symphony, and the Richardson Symphony in Dallas.

Andrew Zohn holds a doctorate of music degree from Florida State University where he served as a teaching assistant, a master of music from the University of Texas, and a bachelor's degree from the North Carolina School of the Arts. He has been a faculty member of Birmingham Southern College, the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and the Seminari di Primavera Corso Internazionale in Imperia, Italy. Currently, he resides in Georgia, where he serves on the faculty of Columbus State University. He began composing for the guitar in 1998. Original compositions by Andrew Zohn are published through Les Productions D'Oz, Canada, and his transcriptions for guitar are available through Tuscan Publications.

Dr. Zohn's new compact disc features works by Falla, Vivaldi, Cimarosa, Gershwin, Porter, and Zohn. It is available at www.classicalguitarstudio.com. For details about Andrew Zohn's WGS performance, please see the calendar of events in this issue.

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MASTER CLASSES – GUITAR CAMPS

The Stetson International Guitar Workshop June 8-13, 2001

Stetson University will host the International Guitar Workshop, June 8 - 13, 2001. The event invites classical guitarists of every level to participate in daily master classes, seminars and guitar orchestra. In addition to performance opportunities and a luthiers exhibit, this year's workshop will present recitals and personal coaching by the distinguished artist faculty of Stephen Robinson (Artistic Director), Lily Afshar, Carlos Barbosa-Lima, Dusan Bogdanovic, Ron Borczon, Michael Chapdelaine, Oscar Ghiglia, Nicholas Goluses, Antigoni Goni, Frank Koonce, Raphaëlla Smits, Steven Thachuk and Fabio Zanon. Participants will live and work with the faculty on Stetson's DeLand campus, situated between the two vacation areas of Daytona Beach and Orlando. Accommodations in the air-conditioned University residence facilities or an adjacent hotel with meals in the student cafeteria are available. Check-in is Friday, June 8 (1:00 - 3:00 PM) with checkout scheduled for Wednesday, June 13 (1:00 - 3:00 PM).

Participants may fly into either Daytona Beach International or Orlando International Airports. Travel arrangements may be made through Anna Santilli of Travel Concepts, (1-800-422-1664). For any additional information, please contact Patrece Robinson, Administrative Director, (904) 822-8957 or probinso@stetson.edu.

Amalfi Coast Music Festival with William Feasley

William Feasley (<http://www.gl.umbc.edu/~feasley>) is teaching again this year at the Amalfi Coast Music Festival. The festival runs June 24 - July 10 in Vietri Sul Mar on the Amalfi Coast South of Naples. Students receive daily coaching in technique, repertoire, interpretation and ensemble and are encouraged to take part in faculty/student concerts in such venues as 12th century oratories of various cathedrals. Accommodation is included in the festival price and ranges from dormitory arrangements at a 12th century monastery to a five star hotel with its private beach. Excursions to nearby Pompeii, Naples, Ravello and Capri are also featured. Call Bill at 301 565 0458 for more info or visit the festival site at www.musicalstudies.com.

Levine School of Music Summer Guitar Camp

Instructors: Risa Carlson & Kevin Vigil

Dates: August 6-10 and August 13-17

Time: 10 am - 2 pm

Where: Levine School of Music, Arlington Campus 1125 N. Patrick Henry Dr., Arlington, VA 22205

Who: Guitarists of all levels, Ages 12-18

Cost: The first week will help clarify and refine essential skills. The second week will emphasize chamber music and more advanced issues. Mandatory concerts on August 10 and 17.

Call: Levine School of Music at (703) 237-5655

The Washington Conservatory of Music 2nd Annual Summer Guitar Camp 2001 June 25--29 Monday through Friday 1 - 6 PM

With special guests

Al Petteway

Multi-faceted recording artist; former DC Artist of the Year; Musician of the Year

Rick Whitehead

WAMMIE winner for Jazz Recording, Performances throughout world with Airmen of Note

Steve Herberman

Faculty, Towson University and Howard Community College, performances at major area venues

Where: The Washington Conservatory of Music
5144 Massachusetts Ave., Bethesda, MD 20816

Ages: Middle and High School

Background: At least 1 year of study with note reading ability.

Styles: Rock, Jazz, Acoustic, Electric Guitar, Electric Bass
Guitar, Acoustic guitar.

Must bring own instrument and amplifier (for electric)

Price: \$245 (non-refundable after May 25)

Call Today: (301) 320-2770

Description

Your guitar will be in your hands for playing guitar, talking guitar, listening to fellow guitarists and hearing and learning from master guitarists. Performance opportunities are available every day for solos and ensembles. The daily schedule will include warm ups, sight-reading, topic of the day, and ensembles. Daily master classes and performances will be lead by faculty and special guest artists. The final performance, given by the students, will feature both solos and ensembles.

Faculty Bios

Herman Meyer holds a Bachelor of Music from Peabody Conservatory and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Maryland. He has been a faculty member of WCM since 1987 and is currently chair of the guitar and theory departments. He performed in the Washington-Baltimore area for more than 35 years as a soloist and since 1980 with "The King's Music" a flute and guitar duo. He serves as the Maryland representative for the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music of England.

Fred Wilchek holds a MM from Peabody Conservatory where he studied with Aaron Shearer and a BM from American University where he studied with John Marlow. He is the former head of the guitar department at Virginia Commonwealth University and has been the instructor of the Washington Conservatory Electric Guitar Ensemble for the past five years.

Benjamin Verdery

The fourth annual guitar class from Sunday, August 12 – Saturday, August 18
on the island of Maui in Hawaii.

Mr. Verdery has been visiting the island of Maui, both as a performer and tourist since 1985. It is one of his favorite places on the planet. Because of its extraordinary beauty and warm audiences, it is a perfect setting for a master class. Classes will be held daily for approximately three hours at St. Theresa's Church, located in walking distance to the Hale Kai O'Kihei Condos. In addition to the master class each day there will be ensemble coaching and discussions on certain topics such as technique, practicing, posture, performance anxiety and recital preparation. Mr. Verdery will teach any repertoire including original compositions and/or any aspect of their playing that the student would like to work on. Students should come with two or more solo pieces of any level of difficulty that could be performed within a few days of arrival. After May 30, a schedule for the week will be set, and repertoire will be announced so that people will have a chance to borrow/buy music that will be studied. Ensemble music will be sent in advance so students can start rehearsals early in the week.

All students will get a chance to perform at two or more concerts during the week. The atmosphere of the class is very casual but active and concerts may occur as soon as a few days after arrival. In the past there have been group trips to other beaches, rainforests and the Haleakala volcano arranged around the classes and concerts. The final concert will be held in the stunning and historic Keawala'i Congregational Church in the beautiful section of Makena. Class size is limited to 15 to 20 performers. Tuition for the week is \$250, which does not include room and board. Interested participants should send a \$50 check deposit by May 30, 2001 payable to **Benjamin Verdery**. A \$250 deposit is necessary for each apartment, so if you are planning to share a two-bedroom the deposit is \$125 also payable to **Benjamin Verdery**.

Accommodations are reserved at the *Hale Kai O'Kihei Condos* on the beach in Kihei, South Maui. The two bedrooms have two bathrooms and the one bedrooms have one bathroom...both units have a queen sized hideabed in the living room. All have AC, VCR's, TV, fully equipped kitchens & private lanais (terraces) FACING the ocean. Amenities include a fresh-water pool, a putting green, laundry facilities and outdoor barbecues. It is a short walk to a major grocery market, specialty shops, drug store and post office. Many airlines fly direct to the Kahului Airport in Maui, and when pricing flights you should ask about this option, as it will eliminate a connecting flight from Honolulu to Kahului. For further information: Call **Rie Schmidt** at phone (212) 662-8795, fax (212) 864-9166 or e-mail: flforce@gateway.net

Benjamin Verdery has performed and taught master classes throughout Europe, Mexico, Canada and South America, and

has recorded and performed with such diverse artists as Frederic Hand, Leo Kottke, Anthony Newman, Jessye Norman, Paco Peña, Hermann Prey and John Williams. He regularly gives flute and guitar concerts with the Schmidt/Verdery Duo and with his ensemble Ufonia. Workshop Arts has published the solo works from Mr. Verdery's recording *Some Towns and Cities*. The recording of the same title includes fifteen original compositions, and won the 1992 Best Classical Guitar Recording in Guitar Player Magazine. In 1996, John Williams recorded Mr. Verdery's duo version of *Capitola, CA* for Sony Classical. His *Scenes from Ellis Island*, for guitar orchestra, has been extensively broadcast and performed at festivals and universities in America, Canada, New Zealand and Europe, and he arranged a version for the Los Angeles Guitar Quartet was just recorded on the Sony Classical label.

In 1985, Mr. Verdery became the chair of the guitar department at the Yale University School of Music. He also heads the Guitar Department at the Purchase College Conservatory of Music. Workshop Arts (distributed by Alfred Music) has released Mr. Verdery's book, *Easy Classical Guitar Recital* as well as his instructional video *The Essentials of Classical Guitar*. His recordings include *Bach: Transcriptions for Guitar* (GRI), *The Mask* (New World Records) performing Castelnuovo-Tedesco's *Romancero Gitano, Op. 152* for chorus and guitar, *John Williams Plays Vivaldi* (Sony Classical) performing Vivaldi's Concerto in G Major for two mandolins, *Reverie: French Music for Flute and Guitar* (Sony Classical), *Some Towns and Cities* (Sony Classical) and *Ride the Wind Horse: American Guitar Music* (Sony Classical). GRI Recordings issued Mr. Verdery's newest CD of the Schmidt/Verdery Duo entitled, *The Enchanted Dawn*.



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