



# Guitar Notes



A Publication of the Classic Guitar Society of Michigan

November 5, 2008

Edited by Tom Roach

## October meeting

Nothing raises the pulse and captures the imagination more for CGSM members than the prospect of a new instrument. The senses pique as a new and unfamiliar instrument becomes the singular focus of attention during a process of exploration akin to the discovery of a new solar system, fractal symmetry, the gravity particle.....okay, I'm getting carried away. That experience was offered to all in attendance by luthier Robert (Bob) Stebbins when he and his wife visited the CGSM in October, bringing with him an instrument of his own creation.



And so the auditioning of the instrument began as it was passed from Ron to Helene to Jim to Cathy (see above) and on and on. How fascinating it is to hear the variety of voices an instrument can have in different hands, yet it remains identifiably authentic. Comments were made about the projection and volume, the balance and ease of play, the chorus-like midrange. Yes, the instrument was very well received.



Travelling from stranger to stranger, the instrument found refuge again in the hands of the builder (left) for some taming. After a brief biography, Bob described the construction of the instrument as his own design, informed greatly by the Torres shape and braced with the inspiration of Fleta. The craftsmanship in Indian rosewood and European spruce is very well done and the hand-applied French polish finish allowed the materials to exhibit their best appearance.

This would have been impressive, at least, had not Bob informed us later that this is only the third instrument he has built. For those of us who have played a variety of hand-built instruments, this left us in near-disbelief. We can look forward to hearing, and perhaps playing, many wonderful performances on instruments from Bob's hands in future.

For those interested in auditioning this instrument, Bob can be contacted at his new website ([stebbinsguitars.com](http://stebbinsguitars.com)). We are grateful to Bob for braving the traffic and a dodgy car battery to make it to this meeting and hope he will consider returning sometime with new instruments in tow or just to hear and share some tunes.

Our open play was lively with diversity of composers and generations. Our first player was Olivia with Lessons 67 and 61 from the book of Julio Sagreras in a charming presentation. This was the first of a pair of performances as older sister Alexandra played the Rondo of Carulli to enthusiastic approval of the audience, including younger sister. Following this lovely pairing, it was back to the Spanish theme with Tony playing the Spanish dance No. 5 of Granados.

For a complete departure, Eric returned to the CGSM with his appreciation of Roland Dyens most evident. Eric began with Dyens' Tango en Skai and followed with several selections from Dyens' collection of arrangements of popular French songs. It is always a pleasure to hear devotees of challenging works fearlessly embracing the potential for their performances. Bravo!



Considerable anticipation is evident in the room when Dale joins us with his exceptional lute in performance.



On this occasion, Dale brought both his lute and his Mirecourt guitar. There is no mistaking the voice of the lute as Dale played Menuets I & II by Daube. Then, as a special treat, Dale demonstrated the Mirecourt guitar. It wasn't too difficult to imagine that this lovely instrument was of the epoch in which Sor composed and performed his works.

Once again, we lingered long after the scheduled hour of our departure, swapping instruments and trading plans for performances of new works and old favorites.



The November meeting will feature our friend David Laabs, as he returns with the release of two new recordings of classical works. David is a musician of uncommon diversity, having played with and toured with artists from the world of rock and blues, and recorded several collections of works for solo classical guitar. The CGSM is happy to have David return and to subsidize the sale of his recordings at the meeting to allow more of those in attendance to take a bit of the performance home to re-live. You can preview the Sunday performance at David's website, [davidlaabs.com](http://davidlaabs.com).

Hope to see you there !

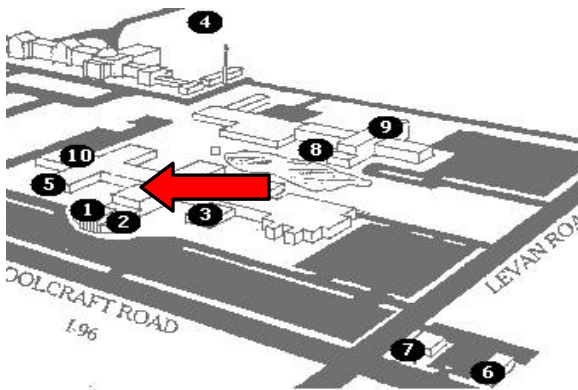
*Join the Classic Guitar Society of Michigan*

*At their November meeting*

*3:00p.m. Sunday, November 9, 2008*

*Featuring Guitarist*

**David Laabs**



Kresge Recital Hall

on the Madonna University Campus

36600 Schoolcraft Rd. (at Levan)

Livonia MI.

\$5.00 donation for non-members, free admission to members

[www.michiganguitar.org](http://www.michiganguitar.org)

## Calendar

November 9, 2008, Sunday at 3:00 p.m.: **CGSM Meeting featuring guitarist David Laabs**  
Kresge Hall on the Madonna University Campus, 36600 Schoolcraft Rd. (at Levan), Livonia MI.

December 14, 2008, Sunday at 3:00 p.m.: **Meeting of the Classic Guitar Society of Michigan**  
Kresge Hall on the Madonna University Campus, 36600 Schoolcraft Rd. (at Levan), Livonia MI.

January 11, 2009, Sunday at 3:00 p.m.: **Meeting of the Classic Guitar Society of Michigan**  
Kresge Hall on the Madonna University Campus, 36600 Schoolcraft Rd. (at Levan), Livonia MI.

March 26, 2009, Thursday at 8 pm. : **The Romeros' 50th Anniversary Concert**  
Rackham Auditorium, Ann Arbor

April 1, 2009, Wednesday at 8 pm. : **John Williams, guitar**  
Rackham Auditorium

Classic Guitar Society of Michigan  
1129 Woodlawn  
Royal Oak, Michigan 48073-5624