



# Guitar Notes



A Publication of the Classic Guitar Society of Michigan

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

April 15, 2009

Edited by Tom Roach

## **March meeting**

Spring afternoons forced their way between the frigid reminders of winter and we were tempted by rising temperatures and the greetings of songbirds as the March meeting began. We were relocated temporarily to Science Lecture Hall for this meeting, which led some to experimenting with works that have been long awaiting exposition. Mary Jo began with the renaissance piece *Spagnoletta*, following with a *Pavan* by Milan



*CGSM members form a new configuration for ensemble play....the conga line.*

and her own fine arrangement of *Greensleeves*. Having been away from the stage for a while, Mary Jo reminded us of the peril of stage avoidance with her memorable comment, "This sounded much better at home!". Bravo, Mary Jo. Next, Larry offered the *Sor studies #2, #5 and #9*. Then, while the numerologists searched for hidden meaning, Larry performed the *prelude* from the 1<sup>st</sup> Lute Suite of Bach (BWV 996). Bob Stebbins returned with two of his lovely, self-wrought instruments and joined in with the John Duarte arrangement of *Prelude* by Bach. Kirt followed with the *Alman* of Johnson and Bill rounded out the open play with a *Romance* by Molino.



With another opportunity to play the instruments of Bob Stebbins, there was a long list of suitors ready to dance. Rifat and Jim, inspired by the laboratory environment, chose to conduct an unusual experiment with a guitar face-off.....or perhaps back-off. (see photo at left.)

As there are only two meetings remaining in the season, there is no shortage of urgency to bring those works to performance level and offer them up at the next meeting.

April 19<sup>th</sup> will again find us meeting in Science Hall. Safety glasses will be provided, as necessary. See you there!

## **The unofficial Michigan Traveling Guitar Festival**

Well, it might as well have been called that. As we announced in last month's newsletter, we were treated to a whirlwind of excellent performances between the March and April meetings of the CGSM. First, the Romero's returned to Ann Arbor's Rackham Auditorium and again charmed an SRO audience with their long tradition of exciting ensemble and individual performances. I could go on about the legacy of this ensemble but I'll single out the solo performance by Pepe Romero of Tarrega's *Gran Jota*....it was transformational...a performance I hope never to forget.

Less than a week later, the same venue hosted a solo concert by John Williams. With tongue in cheek, the program included his arrangements of works by the other John Williams. Comments made among those of us with a long memory of concerts by Mr. Williams mark our continuing to be impressed by his consistent interpretations.

Just days later, Jason Vieaux performed in Ann Arbor, sponsored by the Ann Arbor Guitar Society in the persons of Brian Roberts and Mary Lou Roberts. Jason has a dedicated following in the metropolitan area and was again received warmly. The second half of the program included Mr. Vieaux's arrangements of jazz guitarist Pat Metheny's works, with a twist. First, four of his works were arranged in a baroque setting and the well-known piece, *The Bat*, was transformed into a brilliant tremolo study. I recommend his 2005 recording "Images of Metheny" (Azica, ACD-71233) to those bearing the misfortune of missing this performance.



*Jason Vieaux*

Jason joined well-wishers for dinner and revealed, among other things, his unofficial endorsement of Philippine ping-pong balls as the preferred source material for his replaceable nails.



*Brian Roberts and Jason Vieaux*

Still hyperventilating from the pace of this musical marathon, just a few days after the Jason Vieaux performance found those keeping pace at Madonna University for a recital from Marcin Dylla. The program included the under-performed, *Sonata Romantica* of Manuel Ponce and the challenging, *Music of Memory* by Nicholas Maw. Our friend, Helene Rottenberg is to be applauded for having convinced (to hear her tell it, stalked) Mr. Dylla to come to our region to perform. This was a commanding performance with an impressive control of color and dynamics in the service of genuinely personal interpretations. We can all hope that this promising musician will continue to tour widely and provide many such memorable performances in our region in the future.



*Marcin Dylla*

## **A leg up?**

A recent notice from our friend John Hall revealed that his wonderful collection, "Influences: 21 Intermediate Etudes for Guitar", published by Editions Orphee, Inc. (PWYS-59) (494-02555 at [www.presser.com](http://www.presser.com)) are now supported by mp3's, to inspire faithful interpretation. These recordings can be found at:

<http://www.editionsorphee.com/solos/hall.html>

## **Calendar**

April 17, 2009, Friday at 8:00 pm.: **Ginka Ortega, flute**

A Program of Classical, Flamenco, Jazz and Film music  
Smith Theater, Oakland Community College, Farmington Hills, Michigan

April 19, 2009, Sunday at 3:00 p.m.: **Meeting of the Classic Guitar Society of Michigan**

Science Lecture Hall on the Madonna University Campus, 36600 Schoolcraft Rd. (at Levan), Livonia MI.

May 17, 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.

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