

Guitarist

A Publication of the Minnesota Guitar Society • P.O. Box 14986 • Minneapolis, MN 55414

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VOL. 20 NO. 1

Coming to Sundin Hall...



Guy Van Duser

January 24, 8 PM

Dimitri Illarionov

February 21, 8 PM



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MINNESOTA GUITAR SOCIETY MISSION STATEMENT

To promote the guitar, in all its stylistic and cultural diversity, through our newsletter and through our sponsorship of public forums, concerts, and workshops.
To commission new music and to aid in its promotion, publication, and recording.
To serve as an educational and social link between amateur and professional guitarists and the community.
To promote and help create opportunities for Minnesota guitarists and players of related instruments.

Society News & Notes

Volunteer Opportunities: call 612-677-1151 to help

Refreshments. We need one person to help bring and set up refreshments for Sundin Hall concerts next year.

Fundraising. We need two people to help us diversify our sources of support.

Publicity. We need people to help us promote our concert series to the community.

Open Stage

- Gain experience
- Informal, friendly environment
- All types of guitars and all styles
- All abilities welcome
- Overcome stage fright
- Prepare for that recital or gig
- Meet other guitarists
- Play or just listen

2004 Schedule

January 11, 2:00-5:00 pm

February 8, 2:00-5:00 pm

March 14, 2:00-5:00 pm

April 25, 2:00-5:00 pm

Location: The Saint Paul Conservatory of Music Recital Hall, located in Musictech College, 19 Exchange Street E., St. Paul, across from the Fitzgerald Theater.

Visit our website: <<http://www.mnguitar.org>>

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Directions to Sundin Hall on the Hamline University campus

From I-94, head north on Snelling Avenue in St. Paul, past University Avenue to Hewitt Avenue. Turn right, the Hall is on your left a half-block east of Snelling.

Free parking is available one block past the hall, in lots off Hewitt (on your right) or off Pascal (1 block north).

Pat Donohue: Guitar on the Prairie

by Alan Norton

NOT MANY GUITARISTS do a live radio show that millions of listeners across the nation tune in to weekly. Pat Donohue, featured performer on *A Prairie Home Companion*, does just that, along with solo concerts, workshops. Pat is not only a very accomplished guitar player, he is also a song writer and singer. While he characterizes himself as a folk guitarist, he plays jazz and blues with equal passion and proficiency. I found Pat to be very pleasant as he, his dog Bobo, and I sat down in the living room of his home to talk about his music.

AN: Let's start with *A Prairie Home Companion*. When do you find out what music will be played on the show? How do you prepare?

PD: It varies, but generally, our only rehearsals are on Friday afternoon for a couple of hours and also for most of Saturday afternoon until show time. A lot of my week is spent writing or arranging songs that I think would be good to do with the band. Well, I ran out of my good stuff a long time ago (chuckle), so I'm either writing new stuff or finding songs almost every week. So that's sometimes a challenge. I usually try to have two or three things to offer the show when Friday comes along. We'll try them all and maybe one, or sometimes two, will get on the air.

AN: Do you practice specific songs or techniques during the week?

PD: I spend a lot of my practice time working on right hand and left hand techniques that apply to various songs that I'm working on. These days I'm working more on material that I want to sound as though I were using a flatpick, even though I'm playing with fingerpicks.

AN: Speaking of practicing, you have recommended, "Doing your twenties." That is, with a slow metronome setting, play the segment correctly 20 times. Then do something else for a while. Then, another 20 repetitions and so on. Considering your proficiency, do you often find yourself having to do "the 20s?"

PD: Oh yes, all the time. I run into all kinds of things that are problem areas and one way to clear them up is to put them under the microscope and do repetition. You have to do it daily for a while until it gets into your fingers, and that smoothes it out.

AN: I noticed that you had finger picks on your index and middle fingers. Do you ever use your ring finger?

PD: I use my ring finger when I'm playing without picks, which is a little less than half the time. And when I'm going with bare fingers, I'll also use my fourth finger for certain things. But when I'm playing with picks, I only use my thumb, index, and middle. I wouldn't suggest fingerpicks to tell you the truth. I resisted getting my nails done

for years and talked to Steve Bennett and I thought, "...I'm never going to do that to my fingers." Now, I would never go back. I get three nails and the thumb done at a manicurist, where they do this thing called "sculptured nails."

AN: You were thrown a curve during the session that I attended. You had your arch-top electric ready for a number that was apparently expected, but it became evident that Garrison Keillor had decided on another number and you had to switch guitars in mid-stream. You seemed to take that in stride and handled it very skillfully. Does this sort of thing happen very often?

PD: Oh, all the time, it's part of the show. There's a run-down that the show usually follows that comes out a little before the show time. Garrison takes everything he's got for that week, including his scripts and whoever the musical guests are, and whatever the band has and just kind of puts down an order of how it should go. And then we get that and prepare for it, but usually there are several departures from the script during the course of the show. Fortunately, Rich Dworsky, the bandleader, piano player, and music director, is really tuned in to that, so I just follow him.

AN: Yes, I noticed you looking over his shoulder, waiting for a signal at one point. It was apparent that he was calling the shots. On the other hand, you were more the up-front performer.

PD: That's more or less how it works out. Richie is the music director and he's the guy we key on in the band. I bring in most of the features that the band does.

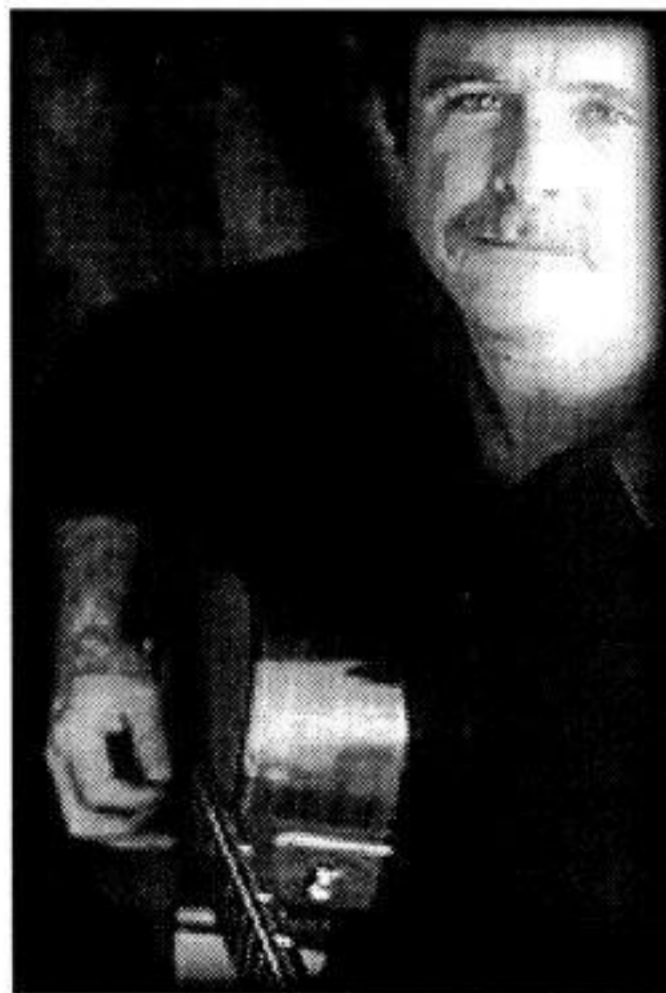
AN: That's a good position to be in.

PD: Oh, it's great!

AN: Have you had any situations arise during the show that you just couldn't handle?

PD: I've forgotten lyrics in the past, but I don't do that anymore because I take them on stage with me. Once, I went through the intro and got ready to sing, and the words just weren't there and so I sang nonsense syllables until I could remember the lyrics. Hopefully, people thought that they just didn't understand what I said (laughs). Sometimes, I'll play something right after the monologue from Lake Wobegon—right after Garrison says "where all the women are strong" and so forth. But one time, I was still off stage at that point, so I leapt over several chairs to get on stage in order to be ready to play the next piece as he was just wrapping it up. That was kind of stressful (laughs).

AN: When questioned by Garrison Keillor during the show, you mentioned that you used to play drums. Can you share a bit about your musical background?



Concert Artists Spotlight

Guy Van Duser

Saturday, January 24, 2004

8:00 PM

Sundin Hall

Rounder and Daring recording artist **Guy Van Duser** is internationally known for his unique stride guitar style of playing, as well as his imaginative and sometimes outrageous arrangements for fingerstyle guitar, including the amazing *Stars and Stripes Forever!* Guy is a graduate of Oberlin College in music, has thirteen albums and CDs available on Rounder, Daring, and Green Linnet Records, as well as many more in collaboration with artists such as Bill Staines and Jeanie Stahl, and is the author of *Stride Guitar* from Mel Bay Publications.

As a composer, Guy produces soundtracks for films and public television programs, such as *Frontline*, *Nova*, and *The American Experience* (that's also Guy, playing guitar on the "Antiques Roadshow" theme song). The documentary film, *Hellfire: A Journey from Hiroshima*, for which Guy composed the music, received an Academy Award nomination. Guy is currently working on Disney's *World of English*, an educational video series designed to teach English as a second language to children in Japan and other Asian countries.

Guy is renowned for his innovative accomplishments on acoustic guitar. Of particular note is his development of what he terms his stride guitar technique, a fusion of the finger-picking virtuosity of Chet Atkins with the swing and stride piano styles of Fats Waller, Teddy Wilson, and other jazz pianists of the 1930s. Simultaneously playing bass lines, chords, and melody, he has elevated the swing-style guitar from its traditional rhythmic-accompaniment role, and has influenced a new generation of guitarists.

He also performs as a "two man big-band" with clarinetist Billy Novick, and the two are well known for their unique rendition of classic swing jazz. Guy and Billy are frequently heard on public radio and have often been featured guests on Garrison Keillor's *A Prairie Home Companion* as well as appearing on *All Things Considered* with Linda Wertheimer. The duo is now celebrating their twenty-seventh season together.

"Guy...has practically invented a finger-picked guitar style, closer to jazz piano than guitar!"

—*The Boston Globe*

"He can pick himself a guitar!"

—*Doc Watson*

"Guy Van Duser is a great guitarist!"

—*Chet Atkins*

Dimitri Illarionov

Saturday, February 21, 2004

8:00 PM

Sundin Hall

Russian **Dimitri Illarionov** is one of the most brilliant classical guitarists of his country. The 2002 First Prize winner of the Guitar Foundation of America (GFA)

International Solo competition was born in 1979. He began to study the classical guitar at age 7. In 1993, he graduated from music school *cum laude* and entered the Academic Musical College of the Moscow State Conservatory. In 1997, while still a student, he won the Guitar Moscow competition and the Second Prize (First Prize was not awarded) at the Classic Heritage International Competition in Moscow. In the same year, he finished the Academic College with honors and continued his education at the Russian Gnesins's Academy of Music, where he studied with Alexander Frauchi.

In 1999, he won the VI International Promotional Competition in memory of Kazimierz Sosinski "Guitar Talents' Review" (Gdansk, Poland), where he was awarded all special prizes and the "Grand Prix," a handmade guitar by Masaji Nobe (Japan).

The year 2000 was also extremely successful for Illarionov. From September to December he took part in three international competitions. He became laureate of the prestigious VII International Classic Guitar Competition "Printemps de la guitare 2000" and won the First Prize at the most prestigious Russian International Guitar Competition, "Guitar in Russia" (Voronezh).

Illarionov's repertoire is wide and versatile. It includes original music for guitar, such as, a unique cycle for guitar solo, *24 Preludes and Fugues*, by Igor Rekhin, pieces for guitar and orchestra, lute music, etc.

Since 1996, Illarionov has been a frequent guest of guitar festivals throughout Russia. He was the first foreign player to appear in the "Trzecia Ogolnopolska Sesja Naukowo-Artystyczna Gitarystyki Polskiej" (Guitar Festival of Poland), held in Lodz in 2000.

In 2001, after Illarionov's performance in the festival "XI Gdansk Meeting Of Guitarists" (Poland), the famous Yugoslavian guitarist and composer Dusan Bogdanovic said about his playing, "It was one of the most inspiring guitar performances I have ever heard." Dimitri Illarionov continues to lead an active concert life, playing solo recitals, with orchestra, and in chamber ensembles. He will be performing throughout North America in the 2003-2004 season as part of his GFA First Prize.



Local Events

Joan Griffith with jazz pianist **Laura Caviani**, free concert, Feb. 2, 8 PM, Janet Wallace Auditorium, Macalester College. Brazilian jazz and original compositions.

Michael Hauser

Ongoing: Sunday Brunch at the Hotel Sofitel, Bloomington, 11 am to 2 pm.

The Michael Hauser Trio, with flamenco dancer **Sachik**, Loring Pasta Bar, Dinkytown, near U of M: Tue., Jan. 6 & 20, Tue., Feb. 4 & 18, 6 pm to 9 pm.

David Singley with **The JazzMN Big Band** and special guest saxophonist **Bob Mintzer**, at Benson Great Hall, Bethel College, Arden Hills, MN. Sat., Jan. 31, 7:30 p.m. Ticket info: Benson Great Hall Ticket Office, 651-638-6333.

Phil Heywood

Ginkgo Coffeehouse, Fri., Jan. 9, 8-11 pm.
721 Snelling Ave. N., St. Paul, MN 651-645-2647
Erika Quam Memorial Theater, Sat., Jan. 17, 7:30 pm, \$8
605 1st St., Shell Lake, WI 715-468-4387
Sponsored by Theater in the Woods.

Woodbury Community Center, Thur., Feb. 5-7 pm, Free.
Central Park Amphitheater, 8595 Central Park Dr., Woodbury, MN.

Sponsored by the Minnesota Guitar Society and Woodbury Fine Arts Council, 612-677-1151.

CURTIS & LORETTA in concert at:

Cedar Cultural Center, Sat, Jan. 24.
416 Cedar Av. S., Mpls., 8:00 pm.
Info: 612-338-2674 or <www.thecedar.org>

Paul Hintz, 7-string jazz guitar

Black's Ford Restaurant, Wayzata, Sat., Jan. 3, 6-9 pm. No cover.

Dixie's on Grand, St. Paul, Sat. Jan. 10. Trio with Chris Thomsen saxophone and Carole Selin drums/vocals. 9-11:30 pm. No cover.

Dunn Bros, Vadnais Heights, Fri. Jan. 16. 7:30-9:30 pm.
Dunn Bros, Andover, Sat. Jan. 17. 7:30-9:30 pm.

Dunn Bros on Grand, St. Paul Sun. Jan. 18. 10 am-noon.
Dunn Bros, Linden Hills Fri. Jan. 23. Duo with Carole Selin drums/vocals. 8-10 pm.

Borders, Woodbury Fri. Jan. 30. 8-10 pm.

Black's Ford Restaurant, Wayzata Sat., Feb. 7, 6-9 pm. No cover.

Lucia's Restaurant, Fri. Feb. 13 and Sat. Feb. 14, 31st and Hennepin, Mpls. 6-10 pm.

Dunn Bros, Vadnais Heights Fri. Feb. 20. 7:30-9:30 pm.

Dunn Bros, Andover Sat., Feb. 21. 7:30-9:30 pm.

Minneapolis Guitar Quartet

University of River Falls, WI, Abbott Hall, Kleinpell Fine Arts Center. Sat., Feb. 7, 8:00 pm. Free admission.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Sun., Feb. 8, 4 pm.

4100 Lyndale Ave. S., Mpls., 612-312-3411.

No admission charge. Free-will offering taken.

MGQ with **Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra**, Thur., March 11-13. Music by Vivaldi and Hahn.

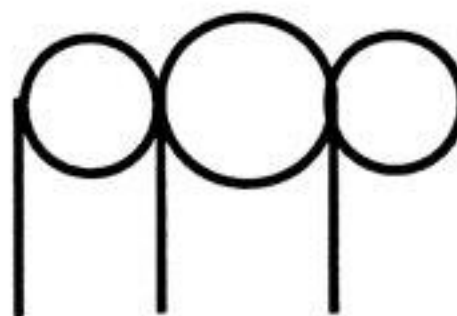
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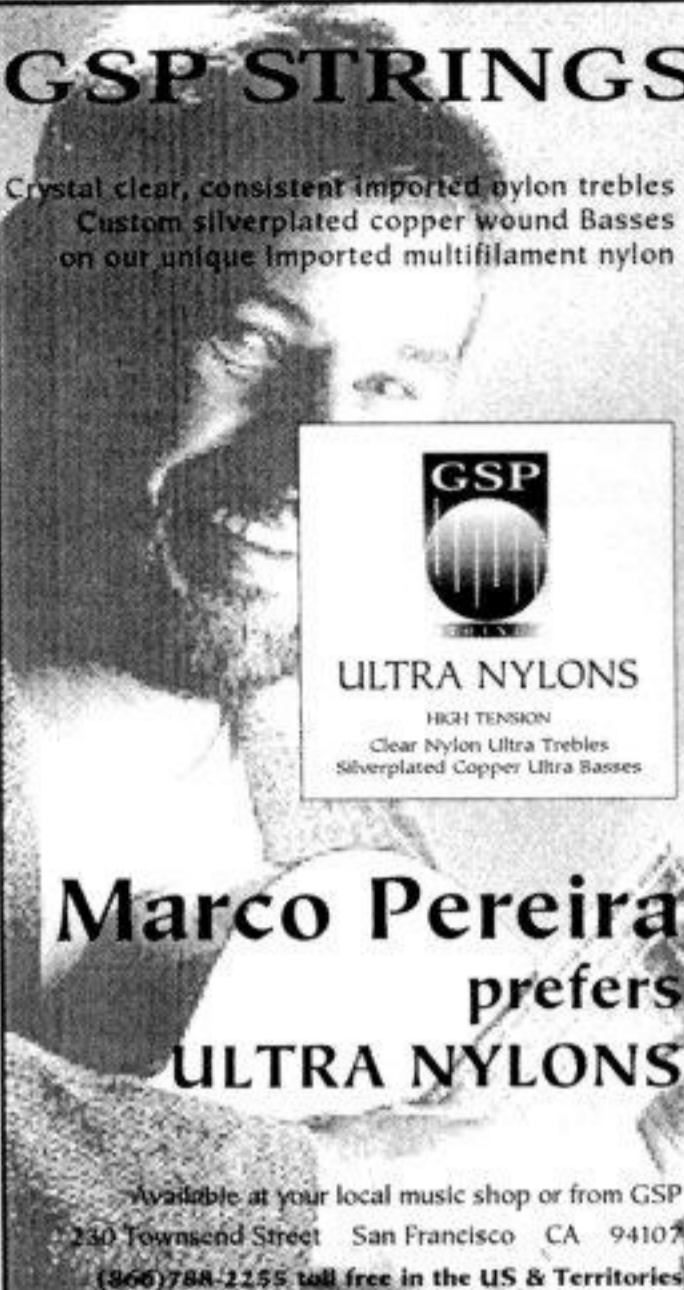
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FOR SALE: **2000 Michael Thames classical** (Cedar top, Indian Rosewood back/sides) \$3,500. Contact Brent Weaver 651-643-0762. Also, lessons available.

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FOR SALE: 7-string bass viola da gamba by **Charlie Ogle** with soft case and snakewood bow \$5,000, plus shipping; Tenor viola da gamba by **Walter Ubel** with bow and plywood box \$3,000, plus shipping; German Renaissance lute, best offer; French double manual harpsichord by **Willard Martin** \$12,5000, plus shipping. Call Thurston Davini at 507-280-6361 or E-mail at <thurdavi@yahoo.com>

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FOR SALE: **Marshall Amplifier Model 6100 — 30th Anniversary Head** with **Model 1960 A/B Cabinets** — includes foot switch, replacement power tubes and fuses. In perfect condition, hardly used \$2,000. Call Gary at 715-865-6068 or <flatyourfifths@cheqnet.net>

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Contact: Galen Wolfe, 612-821-6052 <gdwolfe3@earthlink.net>

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