

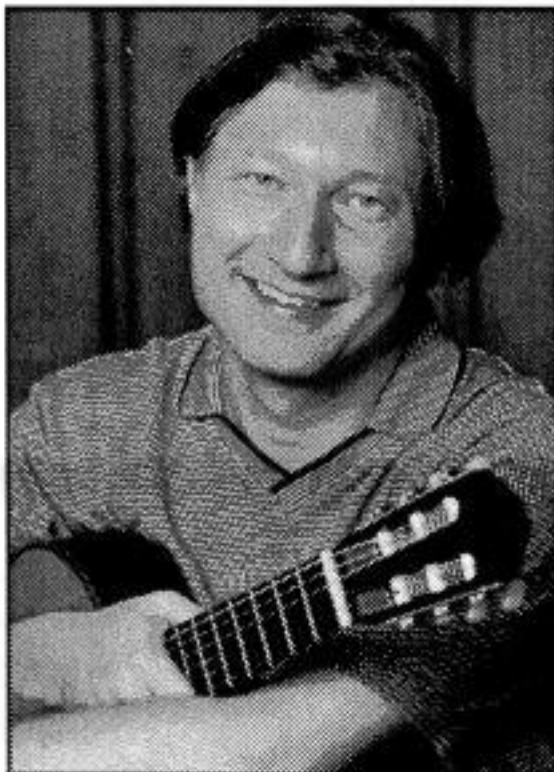
Guitarist

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

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2004

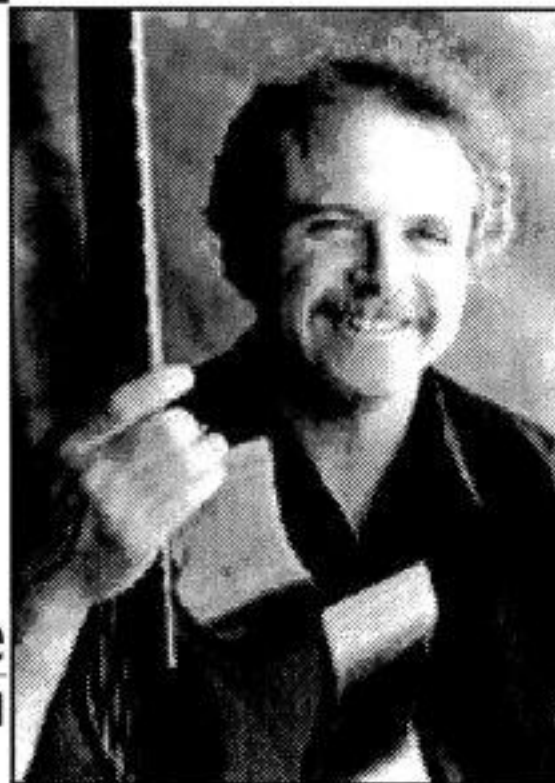
VOL. 20 NO. 5

Sundin Hall Concert Series 2004-2005



Fabio Zanon

September 25, 8 PM



Pat Donohue

October 23, 8 PM

In this issue:

Concert info, Sundin Hall Artist bios, an original guitar study by Jerry Kosak

Plus...*OpenStage Hits the Road*

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.

OpenStage Hits the Road

Dennis Burns will coordinate the 2004/2005 season. It should be exciting for OpenStage participants when the monthly event takes on a new format. All events will be held at Twin Cities coffee shops, on the 2nd Saturday of each month, from September through May. Our September event will be at Betsy's Back Porch in Minneapolis. The October event will be at the Coffee Grounds in Falcon Heights. The following month, we're back at Betsy's, and we'll continue to alternate locations throughout the season. The time for all events is 2 to 5 pm.

OpenStage is a monthly event sponsored by the Minnesota Guitar Society, with generous help from Betsy's Back Porch and the Coffee Grounds. It gives players of all styles and abilities (and instruments) a chance to perform for others in a friendly atmosphere. OpenStage welcomes all MGS members, their family members and friends. There is no charge to attend.

Dates and Locations

Betsy's Back Porch	Coffee Grounds
5447 Nicollet Avenue	1579 Hamline Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55419	Falcon Heights, MN 55108
Phone 612-827-8283	Phone 651-644-9959
Sept 11	Oct 9
Nov 13	Dec 11
Jan 8	Feb 12
Mar 12	Apr 9
May 14	

→ Visit the MGS 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).

2004-2005 Sundin Hall Series Begins

THE MINNESOTA GUITAR SOCIETY LAUNCHES its 2004-2005 Sundin Hall Concert Series with concerts by Brazilian classical guitarist **Fabio Zanon** and homegrown fingerstyle guitarist **Pat Donohue**. Both programs begin at 8:00 pm with the Zanon concert on Saturday, September 25th and the Donohue concert on Saturday, October 23rd. Tickets for each show are \$15 general admission and \$12 for MGS members, students and seniors. Call 612-677-1151 to reserve tickets.

Fabio Zanon came to international prominence in 1996, when, in the space of a few weeks, he was the first prize winner of two of the most prestigious international guitar competitions – the 30th **Francisco Tarrega Prize** in Spain and the 14th **GFA Guitar Competition** in the US. These were followed by a successful tour of 56 concerts in the US and Canada and by the launching of his first three CDs. His recording of the guitar works of Villa-Lobos was hailed as a landmark and his debut recital CD on **Naxos** was chosen best CD of 1998 by the guitar critic of **Gramophone** magazine. His debut with a major orchestra was in 1998, when he stepped in at short notice for a performance of Piazzolla's concerto with the London Philharmonic. Since then, he has been invited to play at the Royal Festival Hall and Wigmore Hall in London, Musikhalle in Hamburg, Carnegie Recital Hall in New York, Verdi Hall in Milan and the São Paulo Hall and Rio Opera House in Brazil. The current season has brought him for the first time to Russia, with concerts at the Tchaikovsky Hall in Moscow and at the Philharmonie in St Petersburg.

Zanon, born in Brazil, had his formal music training, first with his father and later with Antonio Guedes, Henrique Pinto and Edelson Gloeden. He gave his first concert at the age of 16 and his debut as an orchestral soloist happened two years later. He decided to concentrate on guitar performance after completing his education at the University of São Paulo, where he also studied composition and conducting. By the age of 20 he had been a top prize-winner at several international competitions, but still decided to carry on his studies with Michael Lewin at the Royal Academy of Music in London. He also attended Julian Bream's masterclasses and obtained a masters degree from the University of London. He returned to the stage in 1995 with a concert at the Wigmore Hall in London. Zanon's Sundin Hall program will include music by Torroba, Scarlatti, Albeniz, Mignone and Bobrowicz.

From swing to jazz to bottleneck blues to folk, **Pat Donohue** plays it all with a flourish of guitar artistry and melodic inspiration. Chet Atkins called Donohue one of the greatest finger pickers in the world today and Leo Kottke called his playing "haunting."

Donohue is certainly one of the most listened to finger pickers in the world. As the guitarist for the **Guys All-Star Shoe Band** of Minnesota Public Radio's *A Prairie Home Companion*, Donohue gets to show off his savvy licks and distinctive original songs to millions of listeners each week.

His decade-long association with Garrison Keillor's popular program has led to some unusual gigs. There was the after-show club date in Berlin, when Wynton Marsalis showed up to sit in with Donohue and the band. He won't soon forget the radio broadcast when he provided guitar music from the back seat of author Calvin Trillin's car, parked somewhere in Greenwich Village.

Besides the weekly radio broadcasts, Donohue plays about 30 concerts a year nationwide and teaches at such popular music camps as Augusta Heritage Center and Rocky Mountain Fiddle Camp.

Donohue's musical tastes are eclectic. Though he considers himself foremost a folk guitarist, his influences are rooted in bluesmen Blind Blake, Robert Johnson and jazz greats Charlie Parker, Duke Ellington, and Miles Davis. He manages to blend jazz and blues with folk, and the mix is seamless. Over the years he has captivated audiences with his unique original compositions, dazzling instrumentals and humorous song parodies, including *Sushi-Yuck!* and *Would You Like to Play the Guitar?*

Honors include several **Minnesota Music Awards** and the title of 1983 **National Finger Picking Guitar Champion**. His original tunes have been recorded by Chet Atkins, Suzy Bogguss, and Kenny Rogers. Donohue has also been a featured performer at major music festivals including the Newport, Telluride and Philadelphia Folk Festivals.

He has been obsessed with the guitar since he first picked one up at age 12 and began learning simple chords and melodies from a Pete Seeger instructional book. His background as a drummer in a garage rock band helped with the transition and he never looked back. As a youth, the St. Paul, Minnesota native pestered guitarists playing at Twin Cities coffee houses and blues venues, seeking tips on playing. Borrowing bits and pieces of the styles of finger picking pioneers he admired, he taught himself to play, building a repertoire flavored by Blind Blake, Django Reinhardt and Chet Atkins.

"I was very lucky to see some of the old-timers that aren't around anymore," says Donohue. "The University of Minnesota had summer concerts in the early 70s and I got to see Lightnin' Hopkins, Big Joe Williams and Jesse Fuller. I wasn't shy about going up to them and trying to befriend them and find out what I could about playing the blues. By and large, they were very accommodating. Big Joe Williams invited me to his hotel and we wound up playing guitar together."

Five of his eight recordings are on Minnesota's **Bluesky** record label. His most recent include *Radio Blues*, a compilation of favorites from his performances on *A Prairie Home Companion* since 1995, and *Two of a Kind*, a virtuoso collaboration with fingerstyle acoustic guitarist Mike Dowling.

Donohue is a St. Paul resident.

Special Feature

THE MUSIC BELOW IS A SHORT PIECE taken from a set of 10 Études written for my students. They were composed during free time in my lesson schedule (waiting for students, missed lessons, etc.). I simply decided on a key and a specific technique and started to write. Instead of passing judgement as to whether or not the music was "good," I just wrote what I heard and the music did the rest. Étude 2 is in the key of C Major and deals with reverse arpeggios. I hope you enjoy the music.

Étude 2

Jerry Kosak
(2000)

Guitar

5

10

15

20

a m i m

i m i m

m i m i m

i m a m i

i m a m i

i m a m i

Fine

D.C. al Fine

p

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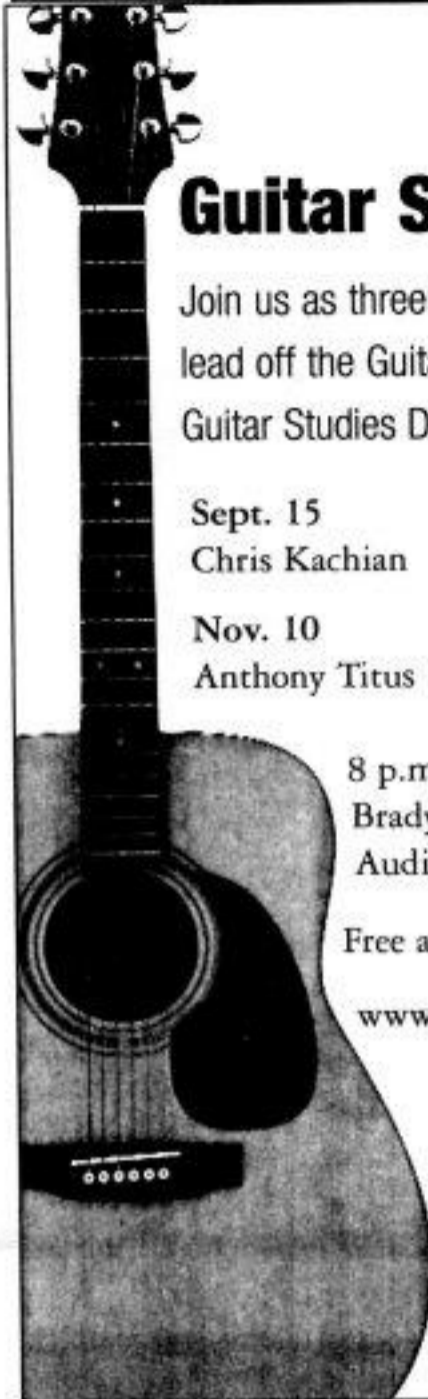
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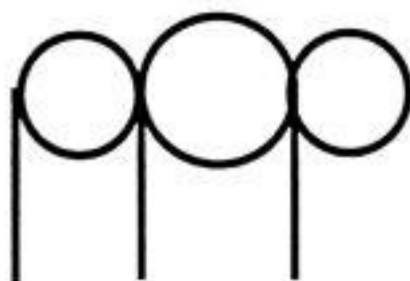


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Washington County Bluegrass Festival, Sept. 11,
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Lakeville Fall Harvest Festival, Wed., Sept. 22, 5:30 pm.

Pioneer Park Plaza, Lakeville, MN.

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