

Guitarist

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Classical Guitarathon May 28, 2005 8 PM Sundin Hall

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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.

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May 14



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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).

Ana Vidovic's Visit to Hopkins High School

by Nancy Frederiksen and Bob Owen

AT QUARTER TO 12:00 ON MARCH 10TH, ANA VIDOVIC walked through the doors of Hopkins High School with our very own Bob Owen (MGS board member, guitarist and Ana's chauffer-for-the-day). Ana and Bob continued through the check-in process and were led down the hall to the classroom of Mark Czech, guitar instructor at Hopkins High. Two days earlier Nancy Frederiksen (MGS managing director) had contacted Mark with the hopes of being able to work out some arrangements for our visiting artists to come to Hopkins High School to talk to the guitar students, give demonstrations and hold discussion periods. After talking to Mark, and about five minutes later, long enough for Mark to get on the internet and check out Ana's website, Nancy got a call back from Mark saying "wow!" — he hadn't realized they were getting such a world-renowned musician — and could they have her for another hour and could she play for two guitar classes? Needless to say

Mark more than enthusiastically accepted our offer to bring Ana to his classroom!

As Ana and Bob entered the classroom they were greeted by 45 tenth, eleventh and twelfth grade guitar students and Mark Czech. The second class had 55 students — the word had spread!

The students had made a sign "Welcome Ana" and it was hanging in front of the two long rows of guitars the students use in their lessons. After a brief introduction, Ana mesmerized them all as

she performed one movement from J. S. Bach's *Sonata No. 1* for violin; *Recuerdos de la Alhambra* by F. Tarrega; *Cavatina (Theme from The Deer Hunter)* by Stanley Meyers; one movement from *Sonatina* by F. Torroba; and *Leyenda (Asturias)* by I. Albeniz.

There are no words to describe how Ana gets those notes rolling off her fingers like someone tumbling down a hill — how notes begin to sound like piano music, how expressive a song feels or the ease of it as you watch her perform. But we do know this — one particular piece had a series of trills that ran all the way through it and it was this piece that brought home to some of the students what classical music was all about. They finally "got it." One student came up to Mark after the first class and said she couldn't believe

how one little girl playing the guitar can make everyone feel so good — how just six notes into the piece and all of a sudden everyone is on the same level.

Mark Czech had directed the students to Ana's website before her visit and they were naturally in awe and full of questions like: Do you play any other kind of guitar? What music do you listen to? Who are your favorite composers to play? Who inspired you to play the guitar? Did you ever want to quit? How many concerts have you played? What kind of guitar is that? Is there a lot of competition in your profession? How much do you practice? — in short just about everything they could think of!!

The students learned that Ana began playing guitar at age five back in her home country of Croatia. She has since performed more than 1000 public concerts and recitals. Ana's practice routine consists of six to seven hours of practice a day and sometimes more. When she's on tour,

she has less time to practice. The students learned she has two older brothers. Viktor Vidovic plays classical guitar and was Ana's first teacher as well as her inspiration to play the guitar. Ana's other brother Silvije Vidovic is a very fine pianist. The students learned that she finished her undergraduate degree in music at about the same age they are. She is currently pursuing an artist diploma (a type of Ph.D) from Peabody in Baltimore



photo credit: Bob Owen

and will graduate in the fall of this year. Ana said that she likes to listen to all kinds of music — jazz, blues, classical

and that she feels it is important to get inspiration from a mix of different music.

Several students asked Ana about her guitar. She told them it was a handmade guitar from France made by Gilles Mercier. She added that she's always searching for the perfect instrument. Ana also told the class she has composed only one short piece for the guitar. She is happy playing and interpreting music written by others with the music of J. S. Bach being one of her favorites to perform. Ana even asked the students which pieces they were working on!

It's sometimes hard for students to enjoy classical music or want to learn to play it if



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they haven't been exposed to how wonderful it can really sound. The more they hear professional players and the closer they get to the real thing, to experience first hand what they are working towards, the easier it will be for them to see the possibilities for their own playing. If the Minnesota Guitar Society can have any part in bringing good players, excuse me, brilliant players, to the schools then that's what we will do. To be exposed to talent, to see how it is done, to see the possibilities for one's own work — these are crucial elements of learning and growing as an artist.

Ana brought a box of 25 of her CDs to the school that day but didn't have any idea she would leave with none, as the students bought them all! Then, of course, there were autographs and photos. One lucky guy had his own guitar in the classroom. Ana autographed it and now he has the photo to prove it!

Hopkins High School has seventy-five classical guitars and each has been named after a famous musician. There were four remaining without names. Mark gave one of them Ana's name and that guitar will forever be a reminder of her generous visit to Hopkins High and an inspiration to all those who practice on it.

We would like to bring this kind of experience to other Twin City metro high schools.

If there are any schools you know of who could benefit from our visiting artists, please contact Nancy Frederiksen by e-mail at <nana93077@msn.com>

The Minnesota Guitar Society would like to establish a continuing relationship with about three or four (even five if that's possible!) schools so that our Minnesota schools can benefit from the talented visiting artists that come to play at Sundin Music Hall.

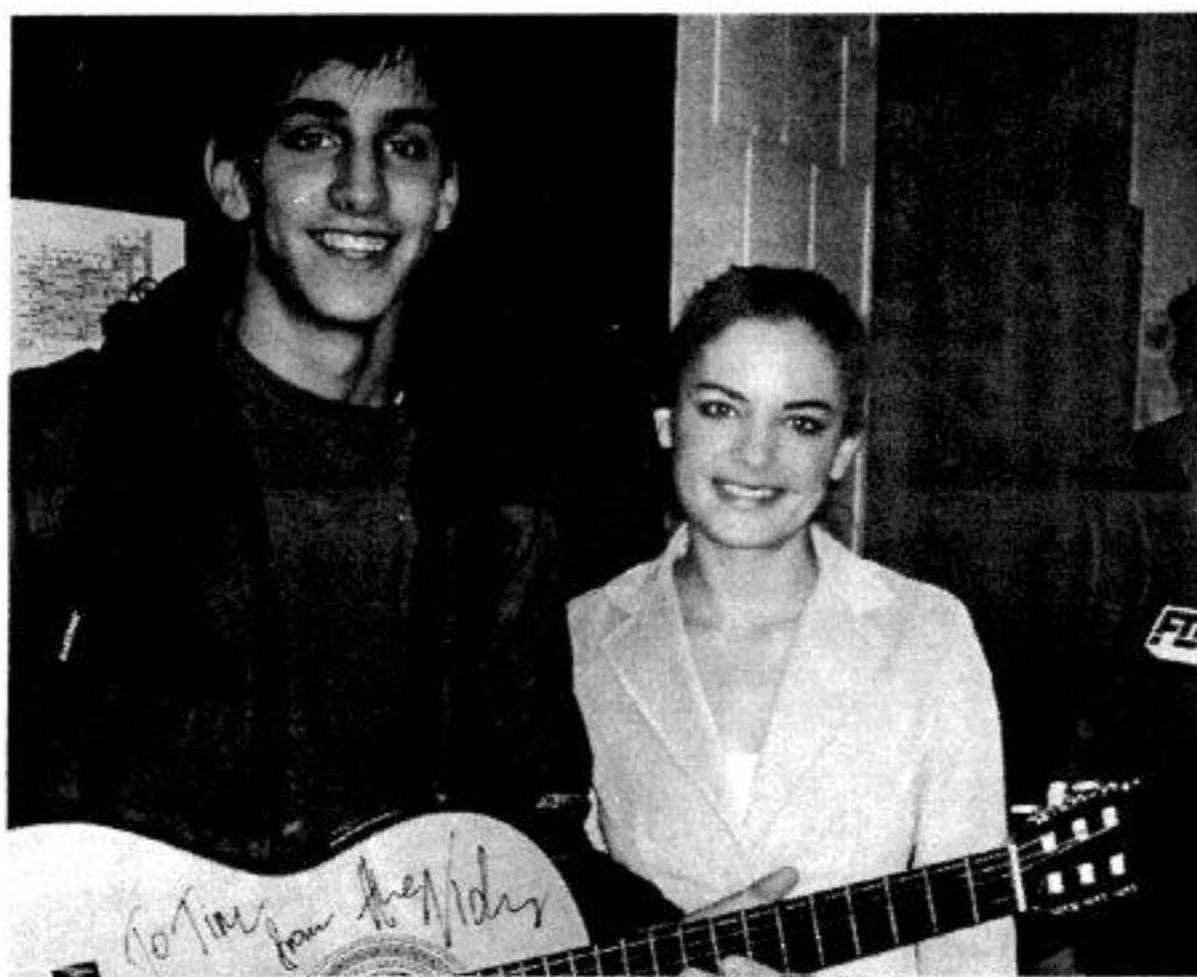
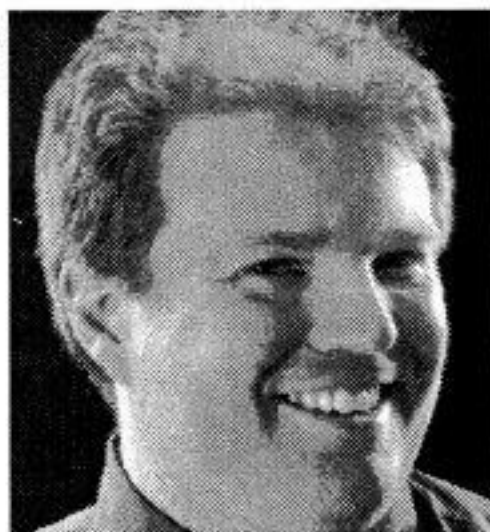


photo credit: Bob Owen

Classical Guitarathon

THE 2005 MGS CLASSICAL GUITARATHON will be presented at Sundin Hall on Saturday, May 28th. This year's concert will highlight area players who have never or almost never performed on an MGS Classical Guitarathon. Most of the performers work or study in the Twin Cities area and two performers will be traveling from Rochester and Duluth. You won't want to miss this exciting event with so many unfamiliar faces and such a variety of repertoire; the program includes works by Sainz de la Maza, Lauro, Sor, Llobet, Cimarosa, Brouwer, Kottke, Bellinati, Rodrigo, Caccini, Barrios and several original works. The concert begins at 8:00 with tickets \$18 general admission and \$15 for MGS members, students and seniors. Call 612-677-1151 to reserve by phone. The featured artists will be:

Jason Vanselow is a guitarist, pianist, teacher, and composer based in the Twin Cities. He has given performances in many cities including New York, Chicago, Cleveland, Bakersfield, as well as the Twin Cities. Jason holds a bachelor's degree from the University of St. Thomas where he studied with Christopher Kachian and a master's degree from the Cleveland Institute of Music where he studied with John Holmquist. Along with giving concerts, Jason has been active in the Twin Cities theater community acting as music director for groups such as the Red Eye Collaborative and Hamline University. Jason recently co-authored the Minnesota Music Teacher's Association Comprehensive Guitar Syllabus, the first of its kind in the nation.



Joseph Spoelstra began studying the guitar in Portland, Oregon with Scott Kritzer. At the age of fifteen, Joe moved to Minnesota and began studies with Jeffrey Van. He is now in his junior year at the University of Minnesota where he continues his studies with Mr. Van. Joe is the recipient of the John Chatterton guitar scholarship. He has performed in master-classes for Paul O'Dette, Carlos Perez, Stanley Yates, Rod Stucky, and Clare Callahan.

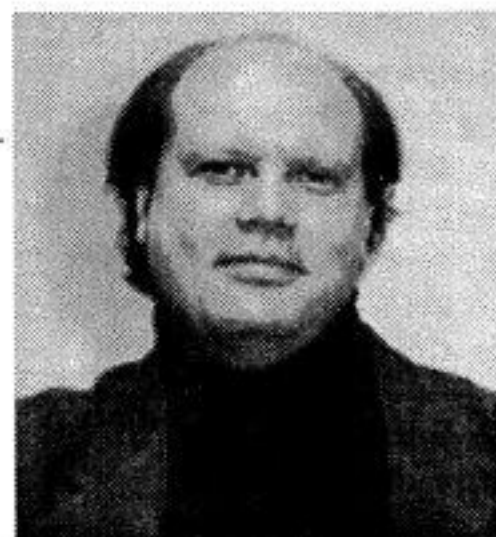


Leandra Hubka, 17, has played classical guitar for over nine years and lives in Rochester, MN. Leandra has studied guitar using the Suzuki method and her primary teacher has been Kerry Klungvedt. For two years, while living in Germany, she took lessons from Ursula Seither. Leandra has also had



opportunities to participate in master classes with Jeffery Van, Alan Johnston, Joseph Pecoraro, and Frank Longay. In addition to classical guitar, Leandra stays busy with piano lessons, three choirs, and many theatrical events. After graduation, Leandra is looking forward to continuing classical guitar study in college.

Tyler Kaiser is a Duluth, Minnesota native active as a guitarist, educator and composer, among other things, particularly in Northern Minnesota and Wisconsin. At 17 he won 1st place in the Northern Minnesota Fingering Championship. Since then, he has performed in numerous recitals and concerts across the region as a soloist, chamber musician and accompanist.



He has appeared as a concerto soloist with the Lake Superior Chamber Orchestra and the Itasca Symphony Orchestra. He has also performed as a Depot Outreach soloist across Northern Minnesota. Tyler is currently an adjunct music instructor at the University of Wisconsin, Superior and the College of St. Scholastica.

Wade Oden is a guitarist and composer who was born in Lubbock, Texas and grew up in St. Paul, Minnesota. He received both his Bachelor of Music and Master of Music in classical guitar performance from the University of Minnesota. He has performed at Ted Mann Concert Hall, the Weisman Art Museum and Landmark Center, where he premiered two

movements from his composition, *Paterson Songs* for soprano and guitar. His composition *Aquam Effunde* was this year's winning submission in the Zeitgeist ensemble's



Eric Stokes Song Contest. He is a member of the music faculty at Normandale Community College and an instructor at St. Joseph's School of Music. He performs with vocalist Kim Sueoka in the duo *Voce y Cuerdas* performing a combination of classical, folk, world music, and new compositions.

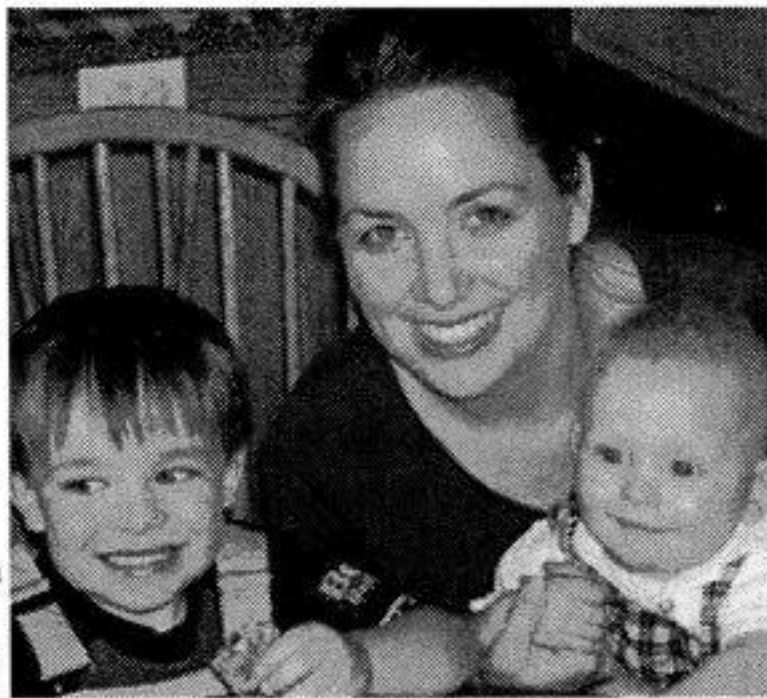
Kim Sueoka is originally from Kauai, Hawaii. She obtained her bachelors degree in vocal performance at the University of Evansville, Indiana, and is presently pursuing a masters degree in vocal performance at the University of

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Minnesota. In the Twin Cities she has performed in The Schubert Club's Courtroom Concert series, The American Composers Forum Salons, with Lyra Baroque Orchestra, The Cleveland Street Collective, Accompany Publishing Group, and appears as a soloist and choral singer at various churches. She currently sings with the Rose Ensemble, Ensemble of the North, with lutenist Paul Berget, and with local band Space Station Alpha. She is also part of the Voce y Cuerdas Duo with guitarist Wade Oden.

Jean Seils graduated from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls in 1997 where she received a bachelor of music degree and soon after received her certification in the Suzuki method at the Intermountain



Suzuki Institute. She has been playing guitar since the age of 8 and began studying with Joseph Hagedorn at the age of 10. Jean has performed in master classes with David Leisner, Eduardo Fernandez, Sergio and Odair Assad, Scott Tenant, and Ricardo Iznaola. Since 1998, Jean Seils has been on the faculty of the MacPhail Center for Music where she currently teaches Suzuki and traditional guitar.

A student of David Lemay, Saint Paul native **Kelvin Nichols** has been studying and playing the guitar since the age of thirteen. Guided by his influences of modern, Spanish, jazz, and Renaissance music, Kelvin's eclectic interests and self studies have developed into a passionate

sharing of composition and of playing the guitar. Kelvin lives with his three children and works as a Pharmacy Technician at Fairview Southdale Hospital.

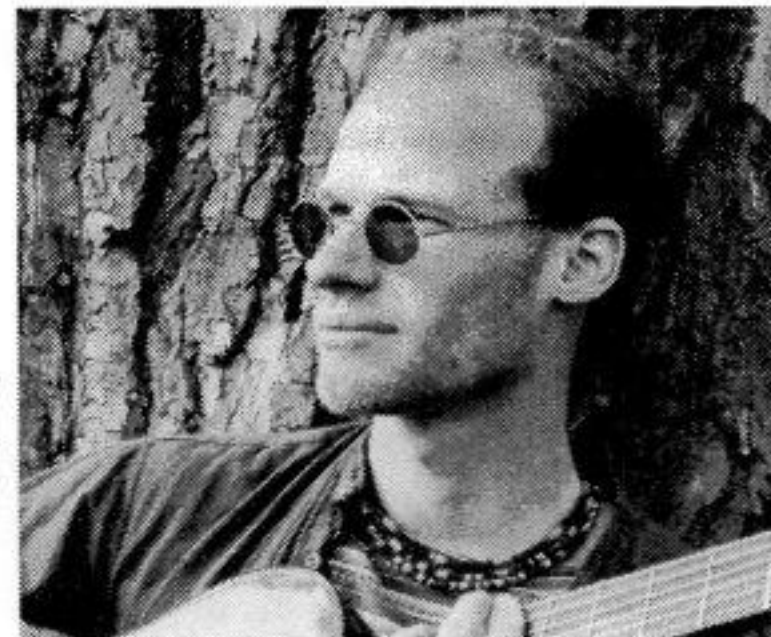


Jeff Warren, B.A. Trinity International University; M.M. Roosevelt University, is a freelance musician in the Twin Cities area. Jeff was the recipient of a scholarship to study



guitar in Spain under the renowned guitarist, Manuel Barrueco and was awarded First Prize in the 77th Society of American Musicians guitar competition held in Chicago, IL. Recently, he was invited to perform a concert of works by Leo Brouwer at Columbia College, Chicago in a city-wide festival for the composer. Jeff was the classical and jazz guitar instructor at The Chicago Academy of the Arts, Olivet Nazarene University and taught guitar courses at the Moody Bible Institute in Chicago. He currently teaches guitar at North Central University in Minneapolis and holds a private studio in the Twin Cities.

Robert Everest has been playing guitar for twenty years, exploring a multitude of musical genres, especially those of Latin American origin. While he leads a few musical



ensembles locally, his solo career has taken him to many international destinations for performance and study. Though mostly self-taught, Robert has studied jazz in Minneapolis, classical guitar in Lisbon, flamenco in Seville, and many Latin American musical styles in Central and South America. With a degree in Linguistics from the University of Minnesota, Robert is also a multilingual vocalist, singing in Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, and French, as well as in his native English. He is currently recording his 4th CD, which consists entirely of original compositions.

The Classical Guitarathon will conclude the Minnesota Guitar Society's 2004-2005 concert season.

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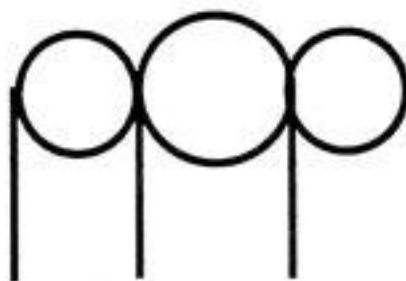
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