

# GUITARIST

Fall 2023  
Volume 39, Issue 3

## Stephanie Jones, Guitarist and Explorer



Stephanie Jones, a guitar virtuoso currently based in Germany, will perform at Sundin Hall in St. Paul on September 23, 2023.

Stephanie Jones is an explorer: she loves to travel, test her boundaries as a musician, and meet people the world over. She also knows a good pretzel when she eats one. In fact, the quality of the pretzels is one of the reasons she gives for settling in Germany!

Jones was born and educated in Australia but moved to Germany to attend graduate school at the University of Music Franz Liszt Weimar where she received a master's degree and Konzertexamen, the highest postgraduate degree to be awarded by conservatoires. Her love of music

began at a very young age when she began playing the piano, after which she progressed to the violin, viola, saxophone and flute. She says her first love, though, is the guitar: "The guitar is a fantastic instrument as it is so versatile. I always say how important it is for guitarists and musicians to explore many different types of genres and styles as it makes your overall playing much richer and multifaceted."

Jones divides her time between teaching guitar at the University of Augsburg and online via Patreon, creating

(continued on page 2)

### MGS Mission Statement

MGS is a non-profit organization that promotes the guitar in all its stylistic and cultural diversity through sponsorship of public forums, concerts, and workshops. We serve as an educational and social link between the community and amateur and professional guitarists of all ages.

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# Stephanie Jones (continued from page 1)

content for a variety of learning platforms and YouTube, and performing around the world. She says that she enjoys her students and particularly “figuring out solutions to the individual problems people face when playing the guitar. I also find it fascinating to explore the instrument in a ‘removed’ position; it has provided me with an extra layer of insight into how to best approach technical and musical development.”

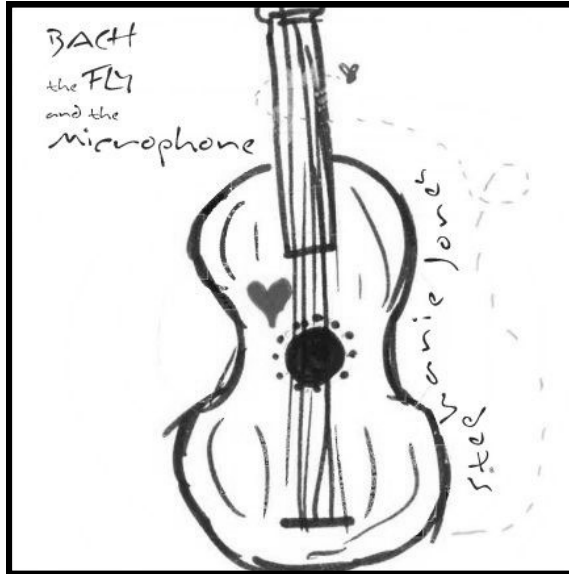
As to performing, which currently occupies most of her time, Jones says that earlier in 2023 she toured with International Guitar Night. Founded in 1995, IGN is “a forum for the world’s finest guitarists and composers to play their latest

original songs and share musical ideas and talent with their peers.” Jones says she “had such an interesting time sharing the stage with a flamenco guitarist, a jazz guitarist, and a gypsy jazz guitarist. I learnt so much from these musicians, and it was so great for my development to explore and perform these different types of music.”

Jones says that musical explorations like this are a great motivator for her to continue touring and recording.

“Even within our classical guitar repertoire, we can explore a whole deal of contrasting genres, from Renaissance music, Baroque music from Johann Sebastian Bach, to Romantic Spanish guitar, Venezuelan waltzes, Brazilian Bossa Novas, modern Australian works, and so on,” she notes.

When asked what the future holds for her, Jones says that she “enjoys sharing with others what I absolutely love to do: forming that musical and emotional connection with listeners. The appreciation I receive means so much to me, and I really enjoy meeting people from all over the globe.”



Jones has released five albums: “Bach, the Fly, and the Microphone” (2009), pictured above; “Colors of Spain” (2015); “Weimar Gutar Quartet” (2019); “Open Sky” (2020); and “A Piazzolla Trilogy” (2021).

For now, Jones says that Germany has proven to be an excellent base for her travels as a performer.

“Because Germany is in the center of Europe and not too far from North America, living here opens up many performance opportunities,” she says. “I am very fortunate to see so many wonderful places, and I hope to continue to build my performing career through numerous future projects and collaborations, and to be able to share my music both online and in concerts with people for many years to come.”

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A \$100,000 endowment fund would enable MGS to continue inspiring the next generation of guitarists through our highly successful music education program, Guitars In Our Schools. The fund would also ensure that, for many years to come, you and your family will have the opportunity to enjoy affordable performances by world-class guitarists.

Remember, MGS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, registered with both the US federal and MN state government. **That means your donation is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by current law.**

Furthermore, if you are have an IRA and are over the age of 70½, you can legally transfer up to \$100,000 to a charity *tax-free* each year via a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). MGS is a qualified charity as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Please help us protect MGS's future for another 40 years by generously donating to the MGS Endowment Fund now. It's a sound investment!

# MGS President Joe Haus at the GFA Convention in New York City



Above: Representing Minnesota at the 2023 GFA convention were (left to right) MGS president Joe Haus, Maja Radovanlija, Miloš Soćanin, Momčilo Aleksandrić, Doug Whorton, and Dick McDaniel.

In late June, a half dozen Minnesotans traveled to Manhattan to attend the Guitar Foundation of America's (GFA's) 2023 "50th Anniversary" convention. Among that group was MGS president Joe Haus, who sent home regular dispatches about the experience of being surrounded by some of the world's greatest guitarists, composers, and luthiers.

The schedule of the six-day convention was packed. Haus says he saw about 40 of the 61 guitarists perform in the preliminary round of the international competition in the first two days alone. These are some highlights of the convention:

On the first day, Haus, former MGS board of directors member Douglas Whorton, and MGS member Dick McDaniel walked around Harlem, making their way to the Manhattan School of Music where the convention took place. Haus commented that, "The Manhattan School of Music is in a wonderful old building that was built in 1910 as the Juilliard School of Music. In 1967, Juilliard moved to the new Lincoln Center complex and Manhattan School of Music moved in. You can look at the doors and think, 'Pinchas Zukerman' (and a million others) pushed this door open!"

Once inside, Haus, Whorton, and McDaniel watched the international competition and ran into Minnesota's own Soren Winikoff who had just finished up the International Youth Competition (picture #1). Later that day, Haus attended a performance by Marcin Dylla and Lovro Peretic, and found that the legendary

composer Sergio Assad was sitting behind him (#3). That evening he enjoyed another great concert featuring the Cavatina Duo, Ty Zhang, and Jason Vieaux.

The next day, Haus attended a lecture on hand health by Jack Sanders and dropped in on "a new thing the GFA is doing called 'I Played at the GFA'. Anyone can sign up and play on stage for 10 minutes (there are at least three concert halls in the building). We caught the last two players. I'm proud to say that any one of MGS's OpenStage players could hold our own on that stage."

Haus saw performances by the "astounding" Rovshan Mamedkuliev, Martha Masters, and Judicael Perroy before taking the train downtown to eat at Eisenberg's deli, listen to buskers playing guitar, and admire the Flatiron and Empire State buildings. That evening he enjoyed a concert with Jérémy Jouve and Mathias Duplessy (#4), and a unique performance of "advanced guitartray" by Kaki King. (Regarding "advanced guitartray," King's website says she aims to "deconstruct and redefine the boundaries of guitar.")

On the fourth day of the convention, Haus watched Minnesotan Maja Radovanlija perform with the GFA guitar orchestra. They played *The Walls* by Sergio Assad and *Ellis Island* by Benjamin Verdery. Both pieces blew away the audience!

Haus said Minnesota's own Sharon Isbin (#5) performed beautifully and was warm and funny as she told stories of having guitar lessons with the great—but somewhat difficult—Andrés Segovia.

The final day was spent visiting the guitar builder's room (#2). Haus remarked that an afternoon performance by SoloDuo (#6), who will be playing at Sundin Hall in February 2024, "brought the house down with a fabulous program!"

Saturday night's concert was the final round of the International Concert Artist Competition, after which Sharon Isbin was given the Artistic Achievement Award. She is the first woman ever to receive it.

Back in the Twin Cities, Haus said his favorite thing about the conference was "the strong sense of community. It was really amazing to sit at a restaurant table outside and see so many guitarists walk by. To see so many guitarists recognize each other from past conventions and start up talking right where they left off. To be able to start a conversation with any of them at the drop of a hat."



# In Memoriam: Jim Campbell



Jim Campbell was a board member and treasurer of MGS for many years.

treasurer, a position of much tedium and much importance that had been unfilled for several years. From then until 2009, Jim kept the books and also served as box office manager for our concert series with grace and meticulous attention to every detail.

But that's not all. Jim was generous, and knew how to handle an emergency. Arrive at the concert hall to find no coffee for intermission? No problem. Out and back, in time to open the box office.

and his friendly comments could often be found on Facebook postings.

In the words of current MGS president Joe Haus, who worked with Jim throughout his years on the board, "Jim Campbell was a great friend and asset to the guitar society. His good humor in the box office at concerts and steady hand on the finances strengthened the structure and comradeship that the MGS is built on."

He is much missed and will be long remembered. Here's a link to a memorial site his friend Michael set up. Anyone can publish a tribute, memory, or pics: <https://www.inmemori.com/jcampbell-u60gj/tab-infos>.

By Paul Hintz

In early August, we were shocked to learn of the sudden passing of long-time MGS friend Jim Campbell on July 12.

Jim was never shy about trying new things, and never failed to show up when needed. Not long after graduating from the U of MN and starting his career as an IT engineer and salesperson, he heard a recording of Gaspar Sanz's "Canarios" on MPR. It was love, for Early Music and for the classical guitar, at first note. He contacted Joe Hagedorn for lessons and during that year (1997) Joe, who was then board president, invited Jim to join the MGS board. Soon after, Jim became

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When work responsibilities required him to step down as treasurer in 2009, he continued to serve as board "tech guru" until his move to Colorado in 2015 with his wife Melanie. Even then, Jim stayed in touch,



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# Guitars In Our Schools Program Expanding to Como High School

When Katie Miller began her first year as the instrumental music teacher at Como Park Senior High School in the fall of 2022, she was surprised to learn that she was required to teach five sections of introductory guitar.

Miller—who grew up in White Bear Lake, MN and in 2022 received her degree in instrumental/general music education from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire—quickly learned some guitar basics and enjoyed a very successful first year at Como.

“I was able to teach guitar basics to more than 90 students,” she says. “Favorite moments of mine include small group playing and the discovery of everyone’s musical tastes.”

Miller’s introductory guitar class included basic chords and power chords, blues progressions, and basic note reading and tablature. The students used the school’s guitars in the classroom but were encouraged to acquire a guitar for practicing at home.

She says that several of her students took to the guitar beyond the expectations of her classroom. “Every now and then I would find a student attempting to learn a song that they like to listen to. I think this shows they’re intrinsically motivated, going beyond the material learned in class and learning simply because they desire to.”

For the 2023-2024 academic year, Miller expects to teach an even larger group of novice guitarists, but this time with support from MGS’s Guitars In Our Schools program.

“Como Park is so excited to learn from MGS and soak in all the knowledge and wisdom they have to offer!” she enthuses. “My goal is to spark or support students’ love of playing an instrument and listening to music. I think music provides an opportunity for high schoolers to take risks, increase their self-confidence, be creative, and become



Katie Miller teaches music at Como High School in St. Paul.

more well-rounded people. Learning guitar provides an outlet for this and is something they can continue for the rest of their lives!”

Starting this fall, MGS plans to provide Como High School with curriculum support and enrichment. Additionally, MGS will give Miller weekly assistance from a teacher on our GIOS team which currently consists of Ryan Picone, Ben Abrahamson and Milena Petkovic. Finally, MGS hopes to arrange for a performer from the 40th anniversary season of our International Artists Series to visit Como, providing Miller’s students with a unique opportunity to see up close world-class, touring guitar virtuosos and ask questions afterwards.

MGS wants to thank our generous donors and the Augustine Foundation for their support, without which it would be impossible to make commitments to teachers like Miller for the fall 2023 semester. If you would like to support Guitars In Our Schools, please visit our website and click on “Donate,” or email us at [mgsdir@mnguitar.org](mailto:mgsdir@mnguitar.org).



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## Meet Our VP



Annett Richter performing.

In former East Germany during the Cold War, MGS Vice President Annett Richter was spellbound whenever her elementary school music teacher played the guitar.

“I could hardly wait for music class every week,” she recalls. The teacher taught solfège and how to read music, accompanied Richter’s class when they sang songs, and introduced the students to masterpieces of the Western canon.

“I was intrigued by the guitar and told my mother that I wanted to learn to play,” Richter remembers. “But musical instruments were not always readily available in music stores in former East Germany.”

Eventually her mother acquired a guitar. In high school and college, Richter continued with guitar lessons in Halle/Saale, Germany and also played in an all-female guitar trio. She later went to college at Montana State University, performing at events for international students on and off-campus. On Sundays, she played during brunch at a local restaurant on Main Street in Bozeman. Her path led her to the Uni-

(continued on page 6)

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# Hauser Harkens Back to Guitar Society's Hectic Beginnings



Tony Hauser helped found MGS in 1984.

The co-founder and first president of MGS, Tony Hauser, has fond memories of a remarkably different guitar society in its formative years. We spoke to Hauser to mark MGS celebrating 40 years in 2024.

Hauser recalls that, in 1984, he and several other local guitarists formed what we know today as the Minnesota Guitar Society after an earlier organization of classical players disintegrated. The goal of this new guitar society, MGS, would be to promote a variety of playing styles including classical, jazz, fingerstyle, blues, rock, and flamenco.

"Back then, MGS was run entirely by volunteers and was very successful—until we ran out of energy," says Hauser. "It was a ton of work because we had so many events!"

Hauser explained that, in the early days, MGS was more focused on education than concerts, and hosted numerous, themed guitar-a-thons and monthly forums throughout the year.

"The forums were like seminars: two or three guitarists would play to expose the audience to new styles and techniques, and then we'd open it up to the audience for questions," he says. "Our philosophy was

that the players in the Twin Cities were every bit as good as the players overseas."

By 1984, Hauser had already been performing professionally for several decades and had a large mailing list to draw upon. This mailing list was initially used to fill seats at MGS events and distribute the newsletter, which was lengthy at times and contained a list of guitar gigs submitted by local guitarists.

"There was definitely an energy and excitement, although we were kind of flying by the seats of our pants," Hauser admits with a chuckle. "Personally, I loved the interplay and exchange of ideas."

Today, Hauser says he performs about monthly, and often in Hudson, having turned his attention to arranging music for classical guitar. He currently has

about 85 scores uploaded and freely available on his website ([tonyhauser.com](http://tonyhauser.com)), including Scarlatti and Haydn sonatas, Respighi duets, and works by Mozart, Beethoven, and Bach.

Hauser says he still enjoys classical guitar and recently recorded his own Albeniz arrangement but has long been a big fan of jazz and flamenco guitar.

"There are some really world-class jazz and flamenco players here in the Twin Cities," he points out. "That said, one of the best MGS concerts I've been to was Yamandu Costa, from Brazil, in 2012."

**STAY  
TUNED**  
The winter issue of  
Guitarist will contain an  
interview with fellow MGS  
co-founder and long-time  
editor of this newsletter,  
Steve Haskin!

## Meet Our VP

(continued from page 5)



Rose and Berries, 2021. Photo by Richter.

versity of Minnesota where she pursued a master's degree in classical guitar under Jeffrey Van and received a PhD in musicology.

Today, Richter works with music students and faculty at Concordia College, Minnesota State University Moorhead, and North Dakota State University, and continues to perform on both guitar and lute. She says, "Sharing music with others is part of who I am, and it is something I am very passionate about as a musician and a teacher." She also teaches music history, music iconography, and courses on writing about music.

When she can, Richter drives from Moorhead to St. Paul for MGS concerts. Among many others, she fondly recalls performances by Bokyung Byun (Korea), Andrea Gonzalez Caballero (Spain), Antigoni Goni (Greece), Celil Refik Kaya (Turkey), and the Kupinski Duo (Poland).

"I am beyond grateful to have had the opportunity for the past twenty years to hear inspiring guitarists from across the globe, each unique and brilliant in their own way, and to interview some of them for *Classical Guitar Magazine* and other venues," she says.

Richter is also a visual artist and has exhibited her paintings (made with alcohol inks) and photographs of nature online, in the Fargo-Moorhead area, and with the Minneapolis Institute of Arts.

# MGS Members' Classified Advertisements

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**SEPTEMBER**

- 10 **OpenStage** at Amore Coffee, W. St. Paul
- 13 **Jazz & Fingerstyle** at MetroNOME Brewery, St. Paul
- 23 **Stephanie Jones** at Sundin Hall, Hamline U., St. Paul

**OCTOBER**

- 8 **OpenStage** at Amore Coffee, W. St. Paul
- 11 **Jazz & Fingerstyle** at MetroNOME Brewery, St. Paul
- 14 **Irina Kulikova** at Sundin Hall, Hamline U., St. Paul

**NOVEMBER**

- 8 **Jazz & Fingerstyle** at MetroNOME Brewery, St. Paul
- 12 **OpenStage** at Amore Coffee, W. St. Paul
- 18 **Xavier Jara** at Sundin Hall, Hamline U., St. Paul

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