

MGS Mission Statement

Promote the guitar in all its stylistic and cultural diversity through sponsorship of public forums, concerts, and workshops. Serve as an educational and social link between the community and amateur and professional guitarists of all ages.

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

MAY / JUNE 2013

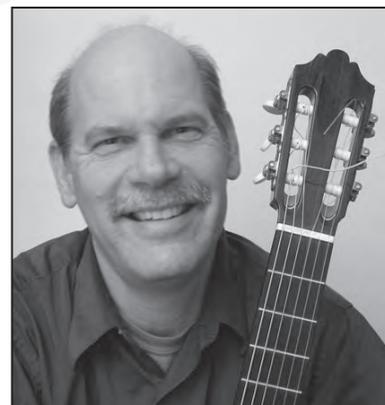
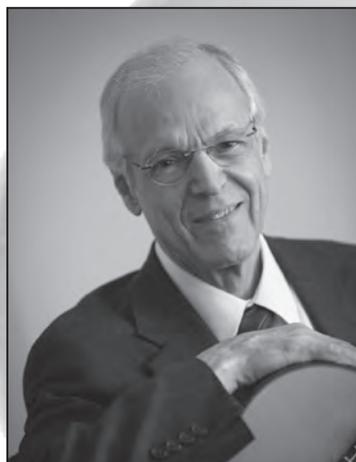
VOL. 29 NO. 3

Last Concert of This Season at Sundin Music Hall

Saturday, May 25th

Classical Guitarathon

featuring Kris Anderson, Ben Gateño, Jake Jonker,
Jeff Lambert, Jeffrey Van, and Brent Weaver.



Also in this issue: Last Concert in
This Season's Community Series;
News and Notes

Sundin Music Hall Concert Series

It's time again for the annual extravaganza known worldwide as the MGS Classical Guitarathon. Our first-ever event is now a season-ending tradition that always brings together friends new and old of the MGS and the classical guitar. This year, our theme is "Favorites of the Standard Repertoire." As you'll see from the artist and program sidebar, we'll have a chance on Saturday, May 25th to hear some of the great literature for our instrument, wondrously played. Join us that night at Sundin Music Hall. Call 612-677-1151 to reserve your ticket(s), right now! Then read on, to learn more about the evening's performers.



Kristian Anderson

Kristian Anderson's versatility as a musician has resulted in a thriving performing career, covering a wide range of endeavors and accomplishments. Upon completing his doctoral degree with Bruce Holzman at Florida State University, Kristian returned to his native Minneapolis in 2008, where he has been in demand both in and out of the classical realm. A founding member of the Tantalus Quartet, he has performed throughout the world, including Carnegie Hall, the GFA Festival, the Iserlohn Guitar Symposium, National Polish

Radio, and more. As a soloist, he has been a gold medal winner at several classical guitar competitions and has concertized at festivals and guitar societies throughout the US. As a composer, he has written and arranged pieces for solo guitar, guitar duo, and guitar quartet. His solo piece "Improvisation" was published in *Soundboard* magazine (the journal of the Guitar Foundation of America), and his new quartet "Igles Fatui" is featured on the latest recording from the Tantalus Quartet. Kristian has also performed on the Broadway tour of *Legally Blonde: The Musical*, on electric guitar with the North Carolina Symphony, and performs approximately 400 shows a year throughout the Twin Cities as a professional theater musician. A passionate educator, Kristian has lectured, adjudicated competitions, and given masterclasses throughout the US and abroad. He has held faculty positions at the University of North Texas and Thomas University in Georgia, and now heads guitar studies at North Hennepin Community College in Brooklyn Park. His past students have gone on to win competitions and been accepted into the studios at Florida State, Arizona State, and the University of North Texas. His primary teachers include Bruce Holzman, Frank Koonce, Thomas Johnson, and Alan Johnston. He has also studied under such guitar luminaries as Oscar Ghiglia, Leo Brouwer, Roland Dyens, and Odair Assad. He currently lives in Minneapolis with his wife and newborn son. His son has long fingers. Any ideas what instrument he should start on?

Minnesota Guitar Society

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Ben Gateño



A native of southern Minnesota, Ben Gateño began playing electric guitar at age 13 and began study of classical guitar after a few years of playing only rock music. His early classical training included lessons with David Crittenden at the Perpich Center for Arts Education. Ben continued on to earn a bachelor's degree at Minnesota State University in Mankato while studying with James McGuire. Immediately after finishing his undergraduate work, Ben attended the Eastman School of Music where he earned master's and doctoral degrees in performance and literature, and studied guitar with Nicholas Goluses and performance practice with Paul O'Dette. Ben's awards and honors include the Eastman School of Music's

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Sundin Music Hall is on Hamline U. Campus at 1536 Hewitt Ave. in St. Paul.

HAMLINE UNIVERSITY **Directions:** from I-94, head north on Snelling Ave. in St. Paul, past University Ave. to Hewitt Ave. Turn right, Sundin 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).

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Sundin Music Hall Concert Series

■ Sundin Music Hall Concert, *continued from p. 2*

Andres Segovia award, and first prize in the 2004 Boston Classical Guitar Society duo competition. He was also a finalist in the 2003 Winter Guitar Festival competition in Volos, Greece. Gateño has been the recipient of several study grants and fellowships including a generous fellowship from the Belgian American Educational Foundation, allowing him to study guitar with Antigoni Goni at the Koninklijk Conservatorium in Brussels. Since 2009 Ben has concertized all over the nation as a member of the Minneapolis Guitar Quartet. Ben resides in Rochester, MN, where he teaches privately and at Rochester Community and Technical College.



Jacob Jonker

Jacob Jonker holds a master's degree in Classical Guitar Performance from the University of Minnesota—Twin Cities, and a bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin—River Falls. His principal teachers were Jeffrey Van and Joe Hagedorn. He is also a Schubert Club and Thursday Musical prize winner. Jacob currently serves as instructor of classical guitar at the University Minnesota in Duluth, where he lives with his wife Laura and daughter Ana. He is the first guitar instructor to teach for the Lake Superior Suzuki Talent Education Program and has received pedagogy training from David Madsen, William Kossler, and Andrea Cannon. Outside of the academic world, Jacob is an active member of Duluth's independent music scene, performing with local songwriters and in his own band, The Formal Age. He has also composed several original works for both classical and steel-string guitar.



Jeff Lambert

Guitarist and composer Jeff Lambert has performed extensively as a soloist and ensemble musician, having appeared in over 30 states in the US, and in Canada. As a soloist, Jeff has been awarded top prizes in guitar competitions in both Minneapolis and Chicago. He has released three solo albums and enjoys working with composers to present new works. Each album showcases a new piece commissioned by Jeff, including David Crittenden's concerto for guitar and orchestra, *Haunted*. Jeff has twice been awarded a Minnesota State Arts Board Artist Initiative grant to help fund such projects. As an ensemble musician, he has shared the stage with a variety of world-class artists including the Minnesota Contemporary Ensemble and members of the Lyric Opera of Chicago and Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra. In addition, Jeff was a member of the Minneapolis Guitar Quartet (MGQ) for ten years. As a member of the MGQ, he appeared as a soloist with the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, Minnesota Orchestra, Austin Symphony Orchestra, Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra, and others. The group also appeared on National Public Radio, Minnesota Public Radio, Twin Cities Public Television, WFMT—Chicago, and Wisconsin Public Radio. As a composer he has written for a variety of instrumentations including orchestra, drumset, percussion ensemble, electric guitar, guitar ensemble, clarinet, violin, and marimba among others. A full album of his works is currently in production. Jeff holds Master of Music and Doctor of Music degrees from Northwestern University. He teaches at MacPhail Center for Music in downtown Minneapolis. He enjoys working with students in a variety of styles including rock and roll where he can revisit his roots as a musician on a weekly basis.



Jeffrey Van

Guitarist and composer Jeffrey Van has premiered over 50 works for guitar, including Dominick Argento's *Letters from Composers*, five concertos, and a broad variety of chamber music. He has performed in Carnegie Hall, London's Wigmore Hall, and the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC; as part of Duologue, with flutist Susan Morris De Jong, he premiered and recorded commissioned works from more than a dozen composers, including Stephen Paulus, Roberto Sierra, Tania Leon, Michael Daugherty, Libby Larsen, and William Bolcom. He is a founding member of The Hill House Chamber Players, now in their 27th season. He has been featured on many NPR broadcasts, made several solo and ensemble recordings, and appeared on ten recordings with the Dale Warland Singers. A recording of his *Reflexiones*

continued on p. 4

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This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

Sundin Music Hall Concert Series

■ Sundin Music Hall Concert, *continued from p. 3*

Concertantes (Concerto for Two Guitars and Chamber Orchestra) has been released on the Centaur label.

Van has performed and taught masterclasses throughout the US. He earned a Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of Minnesota School of Music, where he recently retired as a lecturer in classical guitar. Former students include Sharon Isbin, John Holmquist, and many members of the Minneapolis Guitar Quartet. Van's compositions include works for guitar, guitar and violin, guitar and flute, chorus, chamber ensemble, and vocal solo.



Brent Weaver

Brent Weaver earned a Bachelor of Arts in music from California State University Sacramento in 1980. He worked as a guitar and elementary school music teacher in Nevada City, California, for several years. In 1996, Brent received his Master of Music in Music Education degree with a Kodaly emphasis from Holy Names College in Oakland, California. Soon after, he moved to Minneapolis and began teaching guitar and early childhood music at MacPhail Center for Music. Brent has studied with Jose Rey de la Torre, John Majors, Alan Johnston, Chris Kachian, and Jim Flegel. He has appeared in masterclasses with many distinguished artists, most recently with Eduardo Fernandez, Carlos Perez, and Alieksey Vianna. Brent teaches traditional classical guitar and Suzuki guitar at MacPhail. In 2003, Brent became a Minnesota Guitar Society board member and in 2006 cre-

ated the MGS Youth Guitarathon. In 2008, he founded Gringo Star Guitar, a company that specializes in the sale of quality imported handmade classical guitars for all ages.

Sundin Music Hall Concert: Classical Guitarathon Program

Brent Weaver plays

Llobet: Four Catalonian Folk Songs

Jacob Jonker plays

Bach: Prelude BWV 999

Bach: Fugue from Violin Sonata #1

Kris Anderson plays

Albeniz: Asturias

Dyens: Tango en skai

Brouwer: AfroCuban Lullaby

Jeff Lambert plays

Tarrega: Lagrima, Adelita, Capricho Arabe

Villa-Lobos: Prelude #1

Ben Gateño plays

Introduction and Variations on a Theme by Mozart, Op. 9

Etude in B Minor, Op. 35, No. 22

Jeffrey Van plays

Falla: Homenaje: pour le Tombeau de Debussy

Turina: Homage a Tarrega

Villa-Lobos: Choro No. 1

To reserve tickets for any Sundin Hall concert, please call 612-677-1151.

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Community Concerts Series

Our Community Concerts Series has been a great success in this, its first year. We've presented artists at venues in St. Paul and Woodbury, and for our series finale we are excited to return to Yellow Tree Theatre in Osseo. Yellow Tree is a wonderful performing arts space with great sight lines and terrific acoustics. For our Community Concert there on Sunday, May 5th, at 6 pm, we'll be presenting guitarists drawn from both of our Sundin Hall Guitarathon events this season, four artists of varying styles and temperaments with one thing in common—breath-taking virtuosity! Join us in the northwest corner of the metro for a night of music-making you'll never forget! See the sidebar for details about the venue, and visit their website for more about the event, titled "The 2013 Traveling Guitar All-Stars." Now let's meet the all-stars.



Bobby E. Ekstrand, steel-string guitar

Guitarist and composer Bobby E. Ekstrand began playing the guitar at age ten. His eclectic tastes and myriad influences have inspired him to create music that is extremely diverse stylistically. Over the past 25 years his original work not only has won songwriting contests, but also has been featured in a National Public Radio broadcast that was later

issued as an accompanying CD with the book *Remembering Jim Crow* (The New Press). He has produced almost 20 CDs, ranging from the eccentric *One Continuous Wiping Motion* (a collaboration with poet Kelly Green) to his most accessible recording, the recent CD *The Guitar*, which is a collection of 11 songs, including one original by Bob. It is divided between Brazilian compositions and some of his favorite songs. The instrumentation ranges from solo guitar, to trio (guitar, bass and drums), to small ensemble. In addition to his own recordings, Bob has been featured as vocalist and guitarist on six CDs on the Compass Label, distributed through Target Stores. He has played at numerous clubs, concert halls, and festivals including Orchestra Hall in Minneapolis, and WE Fest, the largest country music festival in America. Bob currently performs and teaches in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area. At the May 5th concert, he will have copies of his latest CD—(*Mostly*) *Solo Guitar*—a recording of guitar solos and cross-strung harp solos.

Jeff Lambert, classical guitar

See bio under the May Classical Guitarathon line-up.



Reuben Ristrom, archtop guitar

Reuben Ristrom is a legend in the Minnesota jazz community. His decades of experience include night clubs, jazz festivals, concerts, shows, recording sessions, strolling ensembles, solo guitar or banjo, wedding music, funerals (including New Orleans-style Jazz Funerals), leading sing-alongs, and more. The styles he has mastered include

Dixieland, mainstream jazz, swing, standards, Latin, and a dose of vintage rock-n-roll. A Twin Cities native and U of M gradu-

ate with 40 years in the music business, Ristrom has headlined at concerts, shows, and jazz festivals throughout the continental US and Hawaii, sharing the stage with the best local musicians and national "name" artists. With his own groups or as part of an all-star band, he had recorded many CDs on his own label as well as for the Arbors jazz label in Florida.



Bobby Stanton, steel-string guitar

Bobby Stanton has been playing in world-class bands since he was a teenager. He moved to Nashville for three years before moving to Boston to go to Berklee College. Bobby graduated with honors and became the first student to receive the prestigious "Ovation" award, presented by Bill Leavitt and Gary Burton. Bobby later won 7 Boston music awards. He also

received awards from ASCAP and BMI. He is now a professor at Berklee, and at McNally Smith College of Music in St Paul. His musical path has been very diverse and there is an extensive list of artists he has played and recorded with. He has been featured on NPR several times, on Garrison Keillor's *A Prairie Home Companion* and Dave Brubeck's *A Welcome Home Christmas*. He has contributed articles to several international music publications including *Guitar Player* magazine. Artists he has played with include James Taylor, Mark O'Connor, Richie Havens, Gillian Welch, Greg Leisz, Rhonda Vincent and the Rage, Mollie O'Brien, Trini Lopez, Del Shannon, The Shirelles, Bo Diddley, Maurice Starr, Martha Reeves, Matt Glaser, Susan Tedeschi, Dave Dudley, Dick Curless, Faron Young, Ferlin Husky, Fabian, The Crystals, Mike Ried, Livingston Taylor, Sam Harris, The Temptations, Bill Carlson, The Drifters, Leslie Gore, Little Anthony, The Diamonds, Pee Wee King, The Shangri-las, Julia Wade, The Coasters, The Marvelettes, The Platters, Toy Caldwell, Sammy Creason, Gary Puckett, Dave Mallet, Big Al Downing, Billy J. Kramer, Charo, Ray Flacke, Sleepy LaBeef, Hal Crook, Walter Beasley, Dave Rawlings, Rev. Lee Mitchell, Billy Davis, Billy D. Hunter, Darrell Scott, Donny Osmond, Tommy Roe, Brian Highland, Boogaloo Swamis, Frankie Ford, Gary U.S. Bonds, Eugene Pitt, Box Car Willie, Abe Laboriel Jr., Anthony Cox, Hal Blaine, Charlie Daniels, Noel Redding, and Maureen McGovern.

MGS Community Concerts Series

at

Yellow Tree Theatre

320 Fifth Ave. SE, Osseo

Sunday, May 5th, 6 pm (note early time!)

Box Office: 763-493-8733

Tickets by donation (\$10 suggested)

Reservations encouraged.

For more information visit

<www.yellowtreetheatre.com>

■ Minneapolis Guitar Quartet Concert

A rare chance to hear the MGQ in concert in our area on Sunday, April 28th, at 4:00 pm. Part of the "Music at Trinity" series at Trinity Episcopal Church, 322 Second St. in Excelsior. The quartet will play music by Debussy, Corelli, Stravinsky, Rodrigo, Crittenden, Kalaniemi, Roumain, and Piazzolla. Free admission! Visit <www.trinityexcelsior.org/ministries/music/music-at-trinity/> for more information.

■ Good News!

Shortly before we went to press, we learned that we've received an Arts Tour MN grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board for \$31,500 to help fund our 2013–14 season, including concerts, masterclasses, and workshops by the artists on our Sundin Music Hall Series, at locations throughout Minnesota. We will partner with venues and organizations in four other cities. Less than half of the nearly 100 applicants who applied to this program received a grant, one of the most competitive programs we have ever applied to, and the largest single grant we have ever received. Look for more about our exciting plans for next season in the next issues of this newsletter.

■ MGS Board Changes

At our March board of directors meeting we were delighted to welcome Jerry Bannach back onto the board (where he served for several years around 2000 or so). Jerry has an extensive background as composer and guitarist, as well as long experience in the world of business. His skills and insights, and good humor, will be much appreciated. As this issue went to press, we were well into the process of searching for and selecting a replacement for our retiring Managing Director, Paul Hintz. A search committee of Mark Bussey (board president), MGS Artistic Director Joe Hagedorn, and board members Joe Haus and Jerry Bannach has taken the lead in this process. Look for more about the new Managing Director in our next newsletter.

■ Classical Guitar Novel

Ann Ireland, an award-winning Canadian novelist who lives in Toronto, has just published a new novel, *The Blue Guitar*. The action centers around an international classical guitar competition. It's available in book shops across Canada and via Amazon.com in the United States. It's also available as an e-book. Guitarist Steven Thachuk, classical guitar instructor at California State University, Northridge, says "Everyone should check out this book—not just because I'm in the acknowledgements, but this

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First-Ever MGS Garage Sale!

Regular Sundin concert attendees have seen our info table. You may have checked out the display of donated sheet music—our small, fun- and fund-raising enterprise. Well, we're making a good thing better. All this season, we have collected guitar-related items—books, sheet music, vintage MGS T-shirts, and CDs.

**All items are in good or better condition.
All will be displayed and for sale at the last concert
of our season—the Classical Guitarathon
on May 25th.**

Come to the concert! Bring something to donate, and
buy something to take home!
Proceeds benefit the Youth Guitarathon project!

book is really a fantastic read for guitarists, musicians and music lovers alike." You can find out more at <www.dundurn.com/authors/ann_ireland>. Just the thing for quiet summer evenings when you've gotten all your practicing done and want to enliven your mind while resting those weary fingers! To learn more about the book, find the excellent review on the site of Canada's national newspaper <www.theglobeandmail.com> (search on "Ann Ireland").

■ OpenStage

Schedule—once a month, on (usually the first) Sunday, from 2 till 4 pm. Last meeting this season is May 5th. Location: Coffee Grounds in Falcon Heights, about 10 minutes from either Minneapolis or St. Paul downtown, at 1579 Hamline Ave. N. (651) 644-9959 / <www.thecoffeegrounds.net>. Easy to get to from Hwy 35E/W, 94, or 36 (but check the MnDOT website for construction updates!). Sign up! If you'd like monthly email reminders and notices of all OpenStage events, please send an email to <editor@mnguitar.org> requesting to be put on the OpenStage mailing list. We also post our schedule on the MGS Calendar at <www.mnguitar.org/calendar>.

■ Twin Cities Classical Guitar Meetup

The Twin Cities Classical Guitar Meetup is an informal group of players interested in getting together to perform pieces, attend concerts, or simply enjoy sharing ideas about classical guitar. Whether you are a rank beginner or a seasoned pro, you are welcome here. Through our website we organize regular meetings and performance events at various venues (members houses, cafes, etc.), as well as provide a discussion forum where members can exchange information on a variety of topics related to classical guitar. The group has met several times with very positive feedback from participants. Membership is free and open to all. The only requirement is an interest in the fascinating world of classical guitar. To find out more about our group, you can visit us at <www.meetup.com/classicalguitar> (where you can also read about our past gatherings).

■ Send Us Your News

Got a CD release planned? New teaching studio or schedule? Concert coming up? We want to hear about it! We want to tell the (MGS) world! Send all and any news of a guitaristical nature

to <editor@mnguitar.org>. *Nota bene:* the deadline for each issue is the 25th of each odd-numbered month. (So, to get stuff in the July/August issue, send it to us by May 25th.)

■ Support Our Friends

We appreciate the support of music stores and schools throughout the metro area who help distribute our newsletter. Wherever you see copies available, please take a minute and thank the people in charge for helping the MGS!

■ Have Fun with the MGS—Volunteer!

Our members make it all possible. If you're a friend of the MGS but haven't joined, or haven't renewed your membership, please do so! If you'd like to get (more) involved with our many activities—well, we need help! Specifically:

Distribute our newsletter. Time commitment: 2 to 4 hours every other month.

Help in the lobby at Sundin Hall concerts. Be an usher. Bring refreshments. Time commitment: less than an hour a month.

Help publicize our concerts. Time commitment: Variable.

To learn more about these and other opportunities, email <editor@mnguitar.org>. Thanks!

■ Guitar in Fergus Falls

A Center for the Arts in Fergus Falls, which has partnered with us in past seasons to present concerts and workshops, continues to support live guitar performance in concert. They recently let us know that on Thursday, October 17, they will

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present Neil Jacobs, a masterful performer on the 12 string acoustic guitar. With his own captivating style of playing that the St. Louis *Riverfront Times* describes as "mesmerizing" and the Austin Chronicle describes as "the rockin'est since early Leo Kottke," Neil covers the world vibe with music diverse as Gypsy, World, Balkan Folk, Jazz, Classical and Modern Fingerstyle, while transforming his 12-string acoustic guitar into his own personal orchestra. Neil draws inspiration from his world travels and experiences, and shares his fascinating stories with his audience. Part of the Center's on-stage series, the event will be an intimate chamber music experience with limited seating on stage with the artist. To learn more, visit the Center's website: <www.fergusarts.org>.

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Classified Ads are free to MGS members. Place ad by mailing (please type or print clearly) to: MGS, PO BOX 14986, Mpls., MN 55414 or send an email to: <editor@mnguitar.org>. Please limit ads to a 6-line maximum. Ads will run for a maximum of 6 issues (1 year) unless renewed. Ads are due the 15th of each odd-numbered month for the next issue.

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GUITAR FOR SALE: Almansa 435 Senorita, solid cedar top, laminated rosewood sides and back, ebony fingerboard. Short (636mm) scale length, 50mm nut. Excellent condition. New lower price, only \$400. Email <amyegc-mgs@yahoo.com> for more info.

GUITARS FOR SALE: 1980 Stephen Kakos classical guitar. Cedar top, Brazilian rosewood back & sides, 65.5 cm scale length. Hard case included. \$3,500. 1966 CONDE Flamenco. Cypress. Machines. French Polish. Excellent condition. Stephen Kakos 952-472-4732 or <KakosG@aol.com>.

GUITAR FOR SALE: 2010 Kevin Aram classical guitar, spruce/Indian, 20th fret, played in, better-than-new condition! \$8,950 or best offer. Call Jeff Lambert at 952-546-1429 or email <jeffguitar@gmail.com>.

BOOKS FOR SALE: Chris Proctor (Travelogue, Fingerstyle Magic, Runoff), Al Petteway (Whispering Stones), Eric Schoenberg (Beatles), Joe Spence, Parkening Plays Bach, The Music of Blind Blake. \$5 each (plus shipping). Email: <georgepseifert@gmail.com>.

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