



18th Annual Mid-America Guitar Ensemble Festival

March 19-21, 2010

Guest Artists:

The Los Angeles Guitar Quartet

- **Student Ensemble Recitals**
- **Master Classes**
- **Festival Guitar Orchestra**

Hosted by Grand Rapids Community College at St. Cecilia Music Center
Grand Rapids, Michigan

Greetings!

You are invited to attend the 18th Annual Mid-America Guitar Ensemble Festival sponsored by Grand Rapids Community College in Grand Rapids, Michigan on March 19-21, 2010.

All Festival concerts and classes will take place in the beautiful Royce auditorium at St. Cecilia Music Center, 24 Ransom Avenue NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503-3217, (see map enclosed).

I am very pleased to announce that this year's guest artists will be the Los Angeles Guitar Quartet.

They will present a concert on Saturday evening and members of the LAGQ will give a master class on Saturday afternoon. The concert and class are jointly sponsored by Grand Rapids Community College and St. Cecilia Music Center.

The weekend will be filled with concerts, rehearsals, master classes and more. You will have the opportunity to hear ensembles from the finest schools of music in the mid-west, perform in the festival orchestra and enjoy the camaraderie of others who are passionate about the guitar. I hope you can join us!

—Professor Brian Morris
2010 MAGEF Director

QUESTIONS? Please contact me at bmorris@grcc.edu or by phone (616) 234-4095.

This Year's Festival is Focusing on New American Music

We are requesting that ensembles include one or more compositions by a contemporary American composer.



About the Mid-America Guitar Ensemble Festival

The Mid-America Guitar Ensemble Festival (MAGEF) is an annual event hosted by different colleges and universities throughout the region. Ensembles have come from as far away as New Mexico, North Carolina, Kentucky and Ohio.

The festival was established with the following goals in mind: to foster camaraderie and pedagogical exchanges between classical guitar teachers and students, to provide performance and learning opportunities for student ensembles, and to contribute to the over-all artistic and cultural enrichment of its audiences. The festival has also worked to increase the ensemble repertoire through the commissioning of pieces for the festival orchestra.

The first festival took place in 1991 at Millikin University in Decatur, Illinois, and has since been hosted by schools in Illinois and surrounding states, such as Bradley University, Elmhurst College, Illinois State University, Indiana University/Purdue University at Fort Wayne, Northwestern University, Roosevelt University, and Webster University.



The Los Angeles Guitar Quartet

Celebrating their twenty-seventh year on the concert stage, the members of the GRAMMY®-winning Los Angeles Guitar Quartet continue to set the standard for expression and virtuosity among guitar ensembles, while perennially redefining themselves in their musical explorations. With over a dozen recordings over the past two decades, they have established themselves as masters of the classics, as well as the creators of the unique syntheses of world-music and contemporary styles that have made the “LAGQ-sound” a favorite around the world. Their first recording for Telarc International, *LAGQ: Latin*, was nominated for a GRAMMY® for Best Classical Cross-over Recording in 2003, while the second, *LAGQ Guitar Heroes*, won a GRAMMY® in this category in 2005. Their subsequent Telarc release, *Spin*, gained wide critical acclaim, as did their recent live concert

DVD for Mel Bay Records, *LAGQ Live at the Sheldon*. With the release of their newest Telarc recording, *LAGQ Brazil* in September 2007, the group finds itself writing a new chapter in its history. The three founding members John Dearman, William Kanengiser and Scott Tennant welcome long-time friend Matthew Greif into the group, and this recording showcases his agile musicianship, cultured sound, and mature jazz skills. In its new incarnation, the tradition of refined chamber-music making and category-defying innovation that made LAGQ famous is sure to continue to thrive for years to come. The genesis of the Brazilian-flavored CD began with a touring collaboration of LAGQ with the brilliant Brazilian singer Luciana Souza in 2006; with over a dozen concerts, including one at Zankel Hall (Carnegie) in New York, this joint project

yielded a number of newly composed and specially arranged pieces exploring the music of Brazil. In discovering common musical ground with Ms. Souza, LAGQ was inspired to fully explore the rich traditions of Brazilian music, and to find connections with American forms such as jazz, blues and funk.

LAGQ is already actively planning its next recording project, a Bach celebration, and is working to expand its repertoire with new concerto commissions by Sergio Assad and Carlos Rafael Rivera. Their active touring schedule takes them throughout North America, Europe, and Asia, and their restless curiosity will continue to inspire them to explore new musical directions for the guitar quartet.

www.lagq.com

Festival Schedule

Unless otherwise stated, all events will take place in Royce Auditorium at St. Cecilia Music Center.

Friday, March 19, 2010

Registration:	6:00-7:30 p.m.
Opening Concert: Ensembles from participating schools	8:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 20, 2010

Registration:	9:00 a.m.
Guitar Orchestra Rehearsal:	10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Master Class—Members of the Los Angeles Guitar Quartet:	1:30-3:30 p.m.
Guest Artist Concert—Los Angeles Guitar Quartet:	7:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 21, 2010

Individual Ensemble Rehearsals:	8:30-9:45 a.m.
Guitar Orchestra Rehearsal:	10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Closing Concert: Ensembles from participating schools	1:30 p.m.
Festival Guitar Festival Orchestra World Premiere*	

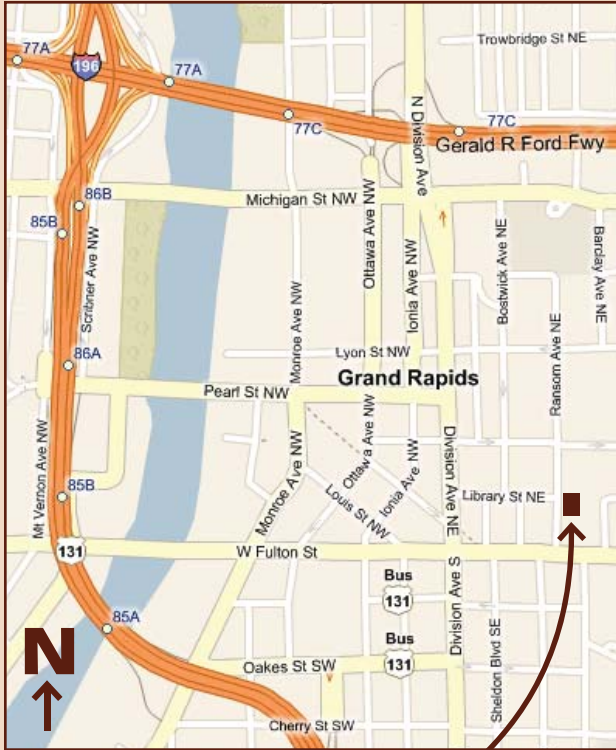
Festival Guitar Orchestra

*We have commissioned James McGuire to write a piece for the Festival Guitar Orchestra. Beginning in January of 2010, I will send PDF's of the music to ensembles who have registered for the 2010 MAGEF.

For further information contact Brian Morris by e-mail at bmorris@grcc.edu or phone: (616) 234-4095.



Directions to St. Cecilia Music Center



www.scmc-online.org
(616) 459-2224

St. Cecilia Music Center is located in downtown Grand Rapids at 24 Ransom NE, at the northeast corner of Ransom Avenue NE and Fulton Street NE, one block south of the Grand Rapids Community College Campus.

From US 131 North

- Exit at Pearl St. and turn left (east)
- Pearl St. ends at Division Avenue, turn right (south)
- Second light is Library Street (Civic Theatre), turn left (east)
- At two blocks, Library Street ends at Ransom Avenue, turn right (south)
- St. Cecilia Music Center and parking lot are directly on the left

From US 131 South

- Exit at Pearl Street and turn right (east)
- Pearl Street ends at Division Avenue, turn right (south)
- Second light is Library Street (Civic Theatre), turn left (east)
- At two blocks, Library Street ends at Ransom Avenue, turn right (south)
- St. Cecilia Music Center and parking lot are directly on the left

From US 96/196 East

- Exit at College Avenue, turning left (south)
- Fourth light is Fulton Street, turn right (west)
- Third light is Ransom Avenue, turn right (north)
- St. Cecilia Music Center and parking lot are directly on the right

From 196 West

- Exit at College Avenue, and turn right (south)
- Fourth light is Fulton Street, turn right (west)
- Third light is Ransom Avenue, turn right (north)
- St. Cecilia Music Center and parking lot are directly on the right

Lodging Information

The Holiday Inn (which will be the Days Hotel until December 2009) is located in Downtown Grand Rapids and is less than a mile from St. Cecilia Music Center.

310 Pearl Street NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49504
Phone (616) 235-7611
www.holidayinn.com/grandrapidsdt

Room rates are \$95.00 plus tax per night and includes free parking. All guest room rates are based on single/double occupancy and are subject to the appropriate state, local and occupancy tax in effect on the date of arrival. Currently 14 percent. (Be sure to mention the "Mid-America Guitar Ensemble Festival".)

The Radisson Grand Rapids Riverfront is located about three miles or a ten-minute drive from St. Cecilia Music Center.

Room rates are \$75.00 plus tax per night and includes free parking and continental breakfast. (Be sure to mention the "Mid-America Guitar Ensemble Festival".)

270 Ann Street NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49504
Phone (616) 363-9001
www.radisson.com/grriverfront



About Grand Rapids Community College

Grand Rapids Junior College (GRJC) was founded in 1914 by the Grand Rapids Board of Education after a resolution was passed by the University of Michigan's faculty encouraging the establishment of junior colleges in Michigan.

In the Fall of 2008, more than 15,000 students enrolled in more than 1,900 liberal arts and occupational courses. The diverse student body represents students from Kent and surrounding counties as well as students from across the U.S. and 22 other nations. Another 10,000 learners are served by non-credit instructional opportunities. In addition to traditional classroom environments, students may also receive instruction through community and distant service-learning offerings, seminars, workshops, training classes, distance learning options and other educational formats. GRCC employs a faculty of more than

250 full-time and 350 part-time members as well as a staff of 650, all of whom are focused on the College's priorities to be student-centered, collaborative, and flexible. Throughout its 90-year history of academic excellence, GRCC has maintained a solid reputation as a premier transfer institution and is nationally recognized for both its liberal arts and occupational programs.

The Grand Rapids Community College Music Department

The GRCC music department is an accredited member of the National Association of Schools of Music, and offers the Associate in Music Degree with emphasis in Music Education, Music Performance, Music Merchandising, and Recording Technology. For those students interested in transferring to the senior institution we also offer the Associate in Arts in Music Degree. This

option allows students to complete all of the general education requirements for the Associate in Arts degree as well as the course work for the Associate in Music.

The mission of the Music Department is to:

- Provide an excellent music education.
- Encourage and nurture creativity and appreciation in all areas of musicianship.
- Enhance lives through quality musical experience.
- Further the evolution and development of the arts, through faculty member contributions to their discipline.



www.grcc.edu