



NJGMS Newsflyer

A Publication of the New Jersey Guitar & Mandolin Society, 200 Hackensack Ave. Hackensack, NJ. 07601

Monthly Meetings in the 2009-2010 Season!

Here is a recap of the events that took place during the meetings we held this season:

September: The new season started off with a special performance by Threfifty Duo who treated the membership to compositions from their new CD. Threfifty Duo members Brett and Jeremy also talked about writing and performing in a duo format. www.threfiftyduo.com.

October: Our professional member Christopher Kenniff introduced us to Dan Bulich, a graduating student at Kean University. As he was preparing his senior recital we were glad to have him come by to present selection from his program. His program featured works by Scalatti, Dyens, Sor, and Pujol, It was very well received and we know will have a bright future in music as he takes the next step!

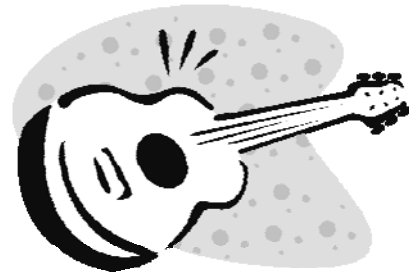
November: This was our first Ensemble Session in which members were able to download ensemble music form our website, prepare a part and then work together in an ensemble at this meeting. We performed *Xote* and *Caterete* (Machado), *Theme from New York, New York* (Kander), *Etude in Em* (Tarrega) and sight read *Medley of Christmas Themes* (Houghton).



NJGMS Guitar Ensemble Session. November, 2009

December: Tonight's meeting was our first of two Players Circle. Here, NJGMS members sit in a large circle and take turns performing music. A great opportunity for people to perform, learn about new music and interact with each other. The non-pressure environment encourages beginners to perform and also professionals to try new material. The session began with an ensemble rehearsal. Here is the evening's playlist:

Jeff- Adios a Ocumare (Lauro) Serpent Sea (Kindgren)
Gary- Julio Florida (Barrios) Estudio (Damas)
Max- I Will (Beatles) Killing Me Softly (R. Flack)
Benji- Minuet (Bach)
Nick- Sonata (Giuliani) Capprichio Arabe (Tarrega)
Bernard- Etude 85/86 (Sagreras) Bron-yr-aur (Page)
Bob- Jean (show tune) If Only She Knew (Bensusan)
John- Two of Us (Beatles) Yesterday (Beatles)
Doreen- Etude 5 in bmi (Sor) Packington Pound (anon)
Dave- El Colibri (Sagreras)



January: Guest artist Joe Giacoio visited to discuss amplifying acoustic guitars. He demonstrated a variety of systems and products on the market and discussed the advantages of each. Some of the items demonstrated included microphones (internal and external), sound hole transducers, soundboard transducers, under-saddle pickups, as well as combination "blender" systems. Joe is also an active composer and guitarists. www.joegiacoio.com.

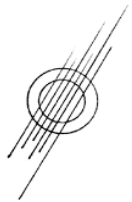
February: This month's guest artist was a multi-instrumentalists David Rimelis. Dave performed on nylon and steel string guitar as well as violin. His theme

was a "trip around the world" and performed music from Cuba, New Orleans, Ireland, Israel, and China! He ended the session with an interactive song that involved the entire membership. www.davidrimelis.com.

March: During this month we had a guest lecturer about composing for plucked stringed instruments. Victor Kioulaphides, "*Writing for Plucked Instruments: The Voice(s) Inside*." Victor also prepared a power point presentation and discussed many of the concepts composers consider when composing for guitar and mandolin. Web: home.earthlink.net/~kioulaphides.

April: Our last meeting of the season included our second *Player's Circle*. Here is the evening's playlist:
Bob- Get a Klugh (Huttinger) Flintstones (arr. Thompson)
Max- Falling in Love (Elvis) In My Life (Beatles)
Rob- Three Little Words (Ruby) I'll Be Seeing You (Fain)
Katherine- Kaze No Densetsu (Hisaishi)
Gary and Ramon- Pacoca (Machado) for guitar and cuatro
Sergio- Little Poor One (Yupanqui) Bambas (Fleuri)
Dave- Prelude 1 and 4 (Villa-Lobos)
Gary- Preludio de Adios (Montes)
Ramon- Preludio (Morel)

May: *Guitar Night 2010* will be on May 11 at Trumpets Jazz Club in Montclair (7:00-9:30). The event features young, up-and-coming musicians paired with seasoned talent- Threefifty Duo and Vicki Genfan. Trumpets has a menu for dinner, dessert or just a drink. A \$15 music fee will be added to your check- funds go to NJGMS.



New Jersey Guitar & Mandolin Society

MEMBERSHIP: Our next season is already being planned and will include Players Circle, Ensemble Reading Session, lecture, as well as guest artist presentations. Since our season ends in April, we ask you to consider renewing your membership now. Membership renewal forms are available from our website. Our new season will begin in September! Please introduce the society to your friends and neighbors who have an interest in music- bring them to a meeting! The membership fee of \$30 is less than \$4 per meeting... the best deal found anywhere! So, don't hesitate to include a tax deductible donation with your membership renewal.

Budget for Fiscal Year 2009

(January 1 – December 31, 2009)

<u>Income</u>	
Membership fees	900.00
Donations	464.00
T-shirt sales	0.00
Guitar Night	590.00
NJSCOA Grant	899.00
Income total	2853 .00

<u>Expenditures</u>	
Artist honorariums	850.00
Meeting /office materials	0.00
Government form fees	25.00
T-shirt order	0.00
Advertising	552.44
Expenditure total	1427.44

Total at beginning of fiscal year	1082.95
+ Income	2853.00
- Expenditures	1427.44
Total at end of fiscal year =	2508.51

NOTE: funds for food served at meetings is taken from the donation jar. The average total of the donation jar per meeting is \$35.00. Remaining funds from the jar are deposited as a donation or given to the guest artist to supplement travel.

NJGMS Administration

NJ Guitar & Mandolin Society was founded in 2002 by Michael Lemma as a way to get people together to share their appreciation of plucked string music. The society functions as a center by featuring local talent, workshops and educational endeavors. NJGMS is run entirely as a volunteer organization and prides itself on contributing to the artistic community while also running a financially responsible organization. We look forward to our 2010-2011 season.

Found and Director

Michael Lemma

Board of Advisors (2008-2013)

Jeff Wilt

Gary Lee

Former Board of Advisors (2002-2007)

Gabe Nevola

Tim Lee

Joel Perry

Learning Guitar

(the Second Time Around)

by Gary Lee

Two years ago, I began a journey that has transformed my enjoyment of the guitar. Although I have played guitar since I was young, I was primarily self-taught in classical guitar. As each year passed, I found myself perpetually bound at a mediocre skill level that seemed to be retreating more than advancing. Career and family obligations were convenient excuses on why I didn't have the time or attention to focus on improving on the instrument that has captivated me since the day my dad brought home my first guitar. I was resigned to use whatever minutes I did have to just "run through" a handful of pieces. I suspect that many other NJGMS members have had a similar experience.

Still, I lived and breathed guitar vicariously. I attended concerts, listened to the latest CDs, and watched YouTube videos with a passion, always marveling at the skill and artistry of accomplished players. One day, a question dawned on me, "what's stopping me from studying with a good teacher and developing a technically solid foundation of my own?" For an adult, the question can be psychologically intimidating, and my mind immediately, yet wistfully, reminded me that, "lessons are for kids who learn faster than adults," and, "serious study is for performers," or, "it takes too much time." Fortunately, courage and desire prevailed over fear, and I concluded that my excuses were fallacies because 1) despite what the popular television program might profess, I *am* smarter than a fifth grader, 2) I can learn to perform in public (in baby steps) in non-threatening and supportive place like the NJGMS, and 3) why not use the time that I have to learn to play in a directed fashion that will help me to improve?

I took the plunge. Tapping into the NJGMS membership, I contacted NJGMS professional member Seth Himmelhoch, a concert guitarist trained at the Manhattan School of Music and Director of Guitar Studies at William Paterson University. My initial conversation with Seth (a crucial step for selecting any



teacher) told me we were on the same page--adults have different needs, goals, and amounts of free time compared to children, but they *can* make good progress if motivated. I had found my teacher.

Through conversations with other fellow amateur guitarists, I know that many of us have had the fantasy of entering a music program, but life and other career paths derailed it. Studying with a teacher who has gone through a rigorous music program, I've gotten a fascinating glimpse of that world. Most importantly, I've reaped the benefits of the techniques and wisdom accumulated from the generations of guitar teachers in Seth's pedagogical lineage. With lessons every two or three weeks and attentive practice on my own, my playing has improved steadily and my enjoyment of the instrument has grown exponentially. I no longer view my playing as just a list of pieces I can play, but rather, as an ongoing adventure of learning how to play music instead of notes. I believe my long-term question of, "how did professionals get so good?" has been answered in two parts. They worked hard with skilled and perceptive teachers who efficiently helped them break through technical and musical barriers, and they genuinely enjoy the day-to-day experience of directed practice, development, and performance.

Armed with an improving technical ability and a sense that my playing will forever be a work in progress, I'm now able to approach public performance for the fun and joy that sharing music is meant to be. Is it still scary and intimidating? Absolutely, but the anxiety and sweaty hands are easing, and I know that one day I'll be able to comfortably enjoy the ride. The performance opportunities at the NJGMS, coupled with the warmth of its members, are rare and wonderful things. This year I may have played many wrong notes and had a few memory lapses, but as they say in baseball, there's always next season.

NJ Council on the Arts Grant for 2010

NJGMS received its third grant for from the NJ State Council on the Arts! We are using the funds for Guitar Night 2010. When you see the following quote you know grant funds have been applied to the specific event: "*Funding has been made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, through grant funds administered by the Bergen County Department of Parks, Division of Cultural and Historic Affairs.*"

