

**2025
PHILADELPHIA CLASSICAL
GUITAR SOCIETY
FESTIVAL
APRIL 5-6**

Featuring

René Izquierdo

David Manzanares-Salguero

Masterclasses

Guitar Competitions: Youth and Adult

Student Recitals

Guitar Workshops

Vendor Fair



Philadelphia Classical Guitar Society

58th Concert Season - 2025-2026

OCTOBER 2025 - Douglas Lora (Brazil) <https://www.douglaslora.com>

- **Sat. Oct. 4, 2025 @3:00 pm - Doylestown Masonic Lodge No 245** - E. 55 State St. - Doylestown, PA 18901
- **Sun. Oct. 5, 2025 @3:00pm - Settlement Music School** - 416 Queen Village - Philadelphia PA 19147 (free parking on premise).

NOVEMBER 2025 - Adam Cicchillitti (Canada) <http://adamcicchillitti.com/home.php>

- **Sat. Nov. 8, 2025 @3 pm - Zlock Performing Arts Center - Bucks County Community College** - 275 Swamp Rd, Newtown, Pa 18940 (free parking)
- **Sun. Nov. 9, 2025 @3 pm Settlement Music School** - 416 Queen Village - Philadelphia PA 19147 (free parking on premise).

DECEMBER 2025 - Leonela Alejandro (Puerto Rico) - 2023 GFA Award Winner

<https://leonelaguitar.com/>

- **Fri. Dec. 5, 2025 @6:00 pm - The Athenaeum of Philadelphia** - 219 S. 6th St, Phila, 10106
- **Sat. Dec. 6 @3:00 pm - Zlock Performing Arts Center - Bucks County Community College** - 275 Swamp Rd, Newtown, Pa 18940 (free parking)
- **Sun. Dec. 7, 2025 @3 pm - Settlement Music School** - 416 Queen Village - Philadelphia PA 19147 (free parking on premise).

JANUARY 2026 - Duo Silvio (US) - <https://duosilvio.com>

- **Fri. Jan. 9, 2026 @6:00 pm - The Athenaeum of Philadelphia** - 219 S. 6th St, Philadelphia PA 19106
- **Sun. Jan 11 - Settlement Music School** - 416 Queen Village - Philadelphia PA 19147 (free parking on premise).

FEBRUARY 2026 - David Leisner (US) <https://davidleisner.com/>

- **Sat. Jan. 31, 2026 @3:00 pm - Zlock Performing Arts Center - Bucks County Community College** - 275 Swamp Rd, Newtown, Pa 18940 (free parking)
- **Sun. Feb. 1, 2026 @3 pm - Settlement Music School** - 416 Queen Village - Philadelphia PA 19147 (free parking on premise).

MARCH 2026 - Laura Snowden (UK) <https://www.laurasnowden.co.uk/>

- **Sat. Mar. 7, 2026 @3:00 pm - Zlock Performing Arts Center - Bucks County Community College** - 275 Swamp Rd, Newtown, Pa 18940 (free parking)
- **Sun. Mar. 8, 2026 @3 pm - Settlement Music School** - 416 Queen Village - Philadelphia PA 19147 (free parking on premise).

APRIL 2026 - PCGS 2026 GUITAR FESTIVAL

Ana Vidovic (Croatia) <https://www.avidovic.com> - Festival Opening Concert

- **Sat. April 18, 2026 @7:30 pm - First Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia** - 21st and Walnut St. Philadelphia PA 19103

MAY 2026 - PCGS Members and Ensemble Concert (free concert - donations welcome)

- **Sun. May 17, 2026 @3pm - Settlement Music School** - 416 Queen Village - Philadelphia PA 19147 (free parking on premise).

Note: Venues to be confirmed

Message from the Philadelphia Classical Guitar President

Welcome to the 2025 Guitar Festival of the Philadelphia Classical Guitar Society (PCGS). Since its inception in 1967, PCGS has fostered a community of members of all ages and skill levels dedicated to supporting and promoting classical guitar activities throughout the Delaware Valley. Our vision has been to celebrate the classical guitar and ensure access to guitar music and instruction. In doing so, PCGS has enjoyed performances from world-renowned artists and emerging talents on both the national and international stage.

Our Guitar Festival is the heartbeat of our society, featuring incredible concerts, workshops, a vendor fair, student recitals, a masterclass, and social gatherings. We invite everyone, from music enthusiasts to new friends, to our festival- a meeting point for all celebrating the instrument's diversity and mastery. I want to thank our members for their loyal support and generosity and our incredible partners: The Study, University City's boutique hotel, and the Classical Guitar Store, which has served as our loyal PCGS "headquarters" for many years. We thank them for their support and friendship.

I am also very excited that this year, through our Bill Viola Fund, we are entering the second year of our community outreach program with Esperanza Academy Charter School in north Philadelphia. By providing classical guitars and PCGS-sponsored instruction, we serve under-resourced youth tuition-free and weave classical guitar music into the fabric of Philadelphia. We also applied for and received grants from the Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance and the Presser Foundation to support our concerts and educational programs moving forward.

We rely heavily on your donations and generosity, and I want to thank each of you for supporting our programs. With your help, we can continue bringing the beauty of classical guitar to our wonderful city. Everyone can appreciate music; no prerequisites are necessary. As we look ahead, we are committed to bringing you diverse and interesting classical guitar music, whether on stage or in the classroom.

Please sit back and enjoy our festival. As the German philosopher Nietzsche suggested, "*Without music, life would be a mistake.*" Indeed!

In gratitude,



Eric Zillmer, President, PCGS



René Izquierdo

Festival Opening Concert

First Presbyterian Church of Philadelphia, 201 S 21st St

Sat Apr 5, 2025, 07:30pm EDT



Cuban-born René Izquierdo is a unique artist and passionate educator whose career has been dedicated to inspiring individuals and connecting communities. Whether passionately performing on stage, devotedly mentoring his students, fundraising, or leading community outreach, René's multi-faceted approach endeavors to continue creating experiences that enrich people's lives and add beauty to our world.

"His natural and instinctive interpretations are second to none: his virtuoso technique allows him absolute command of the instrument, subtle phrasing, dazzling speed, beautiful tonal control... everything." (Classical Guitar Magazine)

René has firmly established himself as one of the world's classical guitar virtuosos. He is celebrated for his ability to weave an unparalleled technical command of his instrument with his gift of storytelling, accomplishing an intimate musical experience with his audience.

With over seventy engagements per year, whether as a solo performer, chamber musician, or as a guest soloist with orchestras, he has performed to critical acclaim touring extensively throughout the Americas, Europe, and Asia. He is frequently invited by renowned festivals and institutions, having played at stages such as Carnegie Hall in New York, Manaus Opera House in Brazil, and National Recital Hall in Taiwan.

Self-described as a lifelong learner and explorer, his recording projects reflect his wide-ranging interests. Through his discography, René seeks to expand the guitar repertoire frequently performing new arrangements, lesser-known music of the 20th century as well as world premieres of concertos and new compositions.

As an educator, René is passionate about engaging the mind and the heart. Through his teachings all around the world, he shares his belief that the greatest musicians not only have the technical mastery to communicate effectively but also are deeply curious, and equally adept at analytical and emotional modes of thought.

Rene Izquierdo PCGS Program 4.5.2025

Guajira a Mi Madre	A. Rojas (1921-2008)
Mirándote	E. Martín (1956)
Perla Marina <i>arr. Guerra</i>	S. Garay (1867-1968)
La Comparsa <i>arr. Barrueco</i>	E. Lecuona (1895-1963)
El Velorio <i>arr. Ortega</i>	I. Cervantes (1847-1905)
Adios a Cuba <i>arr. Ortega</i>	
El Mensaje <i>arr. Ortega</i>	
Los Tres Golpes <i>arr. Ortega</i>	
Un Dia de Noviembre	L. Brouwer (b. 1939)
Elogio de la Danza	
Son del Barrio	E. Martin
Intermission	
Sonatas	D. Scarlatti (1685-1757)
K.208	
K. 14	
K.1	
K.146	
Madroños	F. Moreno-Torroba (1891-1982)
En los Trigales	J. Rodrigo (1901-1999)
Rondeña	R. Sainz de la Maza (1896-1981)
Petenera	
Zapateado	
Gran Jota	F. Tarrega (1852-1909)

Upcoming Concerts

- May 10, 3 pm - Classical Guitar from Latin America, Teatro Esperanza
- May 18, 4 pm - PCGS Members and Ensemble Concert, First Presbyterian Church of Philadelphia
- May 20, 6 pm - The Baroque and Renaissance Guitar of Latin America: An Evening with Alejo de los Reyes (Argentina), Athenaeum of Philadelphia

Visit phillyguitar.org for more information.

PCGS Hand-On Guitar Workshops

Introduction to South American Guitar Music with Patricio Acevedo

Sunday, April 6th, 2024 - 9:00 to 10:10 am
Settlement Music School, 416 Queen St., Philadelphia



Introductory Workshop - 70 Minutes (bring your guitar)

This workshop will feature the rhythms of South and Central America, specifically focusing on the rich strumming of the guitar. This participatory workshop will be in-person (bring your guitar) and focus on the rhythmic patterns to accompany some of the most exciting Latin American music genres.

Patricio is the conductor of the Camden High School orchestra and an accomplished guitarist and vocalist. His most recent album, *Postales*, features a collection of music from Argentina, Chile, Peru, and Venezuela.

This participatory workshop will be in-person (bring your guitar).

Contact: patripe@me.com

Zamba and the folkloric strumming of Argentina with Alejo de los Reyes



Sunday, April 6th, 2024 - 10:15 to 11:30 am
Settlement Music School, 416 Queen St., Philadelphia

Intermediate Workshop - 70 Minutes (bring your guitar)

This workshop will feature a three-part arrangement of a traditional "Zamba" from the North of Argentina (available on the phillyguitar.org website), written by Alejo de los Reyes. To correctly render the arrangement, the workshop will address the topics of leading, playing a second voice to the leading part, and rhythmic accompaniment through the use of the characteristic "rasgido" strumming of South American music, as well as accentuation and articulation on the typical polyrhythmic (3/4 vs 6/8) of the Zamba.

Alejo is one of the world's leading guitarists who combines the many facets of classical guitar with an in-depth knowledge of Argentine folk music. He has emerged as a sought-after international performer who stands out for his creativity and profound musical expressiveness.

This participatory workshop will be in-person (bring your guitar).

<https://alejodelosreyes.com/en/>

Vendor Fair

Settlement Music School, 416 Queen St., Philadelphia

Sun Apr 6, 2025, 10 am to 3:00 pm EDT

CLASSICAL GUITAR STORE

We offer a large selection of fine Spanish, French, German and American student and concert guitars, as well as lessons, sheet music, strings, and accessories. Please visit 2038 Sansom St., Philadelphia, PA 19103. 215-567-2972 www.classicalguitarstore.com

PARACHO CLASSICAL GUITARS

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Contact: Emiliano Pardo-Tristán epardo@temple.edu

WHY MUSIC? (sponsored by THE HAPPINESS LAB)

WHY MUSIC examines the ingredients of happiness and music's role in our lives. Guitar case stickers, books, and catalogs will be available, including an essay on Why Music and a catalog on the history of pop and rock guitar music in Philadelphia. Contact: Eric Zillmer zillmer@drexel.edu

DON'T BLAME THE GUITARIST

Don't Blame the Guitarist is a new novel by local guitarist Kathleen Mayes. Step into a suspenseful world of music and mayhem when a classical guitarist mixes with an aging hitman, setting the stage for a mysterious and darkly funny adventure. Stop by and chat with Kathleen at the Vendor Fair where the book will be for sale with the author's signature and a free CD.

BRUCE THOMPSON GUITARS

The inspiration for my guitars has always been the great Spanish guitars of the first half of the 20th century. I work with spruce, cedar and redwood tops, and a variety of back and side materials. For the past 8 years I have been working with laminated sides, sound ports, armrest bevels, and "parlor" guitars. Mostly I make classical and flamenco guitars, but also some steel string (especially parlor) and occasional 12-string instruments. Please visit with me at the vendor fair, or contact me in follow up at brucethompsonguitars@gmail.com or 518-726-0954.



David Manzanares-Salguero

Festival Closing Concert

Settlement Music Sun Apr 14, 2024, 03:30pm EDT

School, 416 Queen St., Philadelphia



Having been described as “technically flawless,” David Manzanares-Salguero is a multi-award-winning classical guitarist from Houston, Texas. David has been a finalist and has won first prize in many competitions, including but not limited to the Philadelphia Guitar Competition, Southwest Guitar Symposium, Florida Guitar Festival, Columbus Guitar Symposium, and the Houston Classical Guitar Festival.

One of David’s passions is sharing his music with the community through outreach concerts. From 2021-2022, David performed for the Music for a While program at Peabody, aiming to bring music to the Johns Hopkins Hospital. David now has gone on to become the Musician in Residence at the Edenwald Senior Living Community where he performs and curates concert programs on a weekly basis for the independent and assisted living communities.

David is also passionate about finding ways to make higher education more accessible for low-income students. He recently won the competitive Launch Grant from the Peabody Institute to fund the creation of “For the Future,” a college readiness program that guides high school classical guitarists facing financial barriers through the college application process. As a supporter and performer of new music, David has collaborated with various composers, particularly those from underrepresented communities, to create new works for solo guitar and guitar ensemble. Recently, David received a Peabody Launchpad Grant to commission underrepresented composers to write guitar duets for the Mina Duo, a guitar duo he started with Gwenyth Aggeler. They will also record these commissions for an upcoming album, aiming to “give a voice to communities that are unheard.”

David received his Bachelor’s of Music at the Peabody Institute of Music studying with Dr. Thomas Viloteau.

Bach, Johann Sebastian (1685-1750)

Concerto No. 1 in D Major After Vivaldi, BWV 972

I. Allegro

II. Larghetto

III. Allegro

Barrios, Agustin (1885-1944)

Un Sueño en la Floresta

Dyens, Roland (1955-2016)

Triaela

I. Light Motifs (Takemitsu au Brésil)

II. Black Horn (when Spain meets Jazz)

III. Clown Down (Gismonti au cirque)

(15 Minute Intermission)

Scarlatti, Domenico (1685-1757)

Sonata K. 491

Sonata K. 10

Coste, Napoleon (1805-1883)

Rondeau de Concert

Takemitsu, Toru (1930-1996)

Equinox

Castelnuovo-Tedesco, Mario (1895-1968)

Guitar Concerto No. 1, Op. 99

**On behalf of PCGS, we thank all our donors and supporters.
Please help us support our guitar programming and the
Esperanza/PCGS Community Outreach Program in North
Philadelphia by donating using the QR code below.
All donations are tax-deductible. Thank you!**

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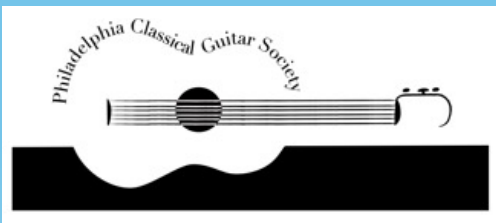
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Luis Bayona
Manuel Tubio
Mark Garrison
Matthew Botvinick
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Clockwise: Dr. Emiliano Pardo-Tristán teaching a community outreach class at Esperanza, Marco Corrales at the Doylestown Lodge, the Ranallo-Tapia duo, Nadja Janković at Settlement Music Scho, Juanito Pascual at the Athenaeum, and Bokyung Byun at Settlement Music School.

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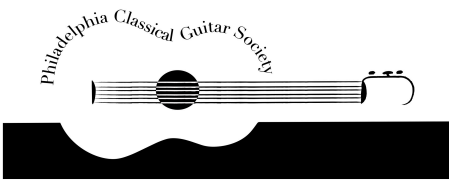
WWW.PHILLYGUITAR.ORG

Become a member to enjoy the benefits (several types of membership to choose with varying benefits)

- Discounted tickets to all events
 - Free entry and opportunity to perform at our annual Members Concert
 - Participate in salons, workshops, and masterclasses
 - Have your students perform at festival recitals
 - Professional listing on PCGS website
- Scan QR to donate, become a member, and more.



	First Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, 21st & Walnut Street Philadelphia, PA 19103	Presser Hall	Field Hall	Office Lobby
	Saturday, April 5, 2025	Sunday, April 6, 2025	Sunday, April 6, 2025	Sunday, April 6, 2025
9:00:00 AM		9:00 - 10:30 am Competition Finals Youth Division	9:00 - 10:15 Workshop I Patricio Acevedo Introductory "hands-on" Latin American Music workshop on the Classical Guitar with Patricio Acevedo	VENDOR FAIR SET UP
9:30:00 AM				
10:00:00 AM		10:30 am - 12:00 pm Competition Finals Adult Division	10:15 - 11:30 Workshop II Alejo de los Reyes Intermediate "hands-on" workshop on Zamba Argentinian Classical Guitar Folk Music with Alejo de los Reyes	VENDOR FAIR 1. CLASSICAL GUITAR STORE 2. PARACHO CLASSICAL GUITARS 3. WHY MUSIC? (sponsored by THE HAPPINESS LAB) 4. DON'T BLAME THE GUITARIST Autor Kathleen Mayes 5. BRUCE THOMPSON GUITARS 6. PHILADELPHIA CLASSICAL GUITAR SOCIETY (PCGS)
10:30:00 AM				
11:00:00 AM				
11:30:00 AM				
12:00:00 PM	PCGS Competition Semifinals Competitor Competitor Competitor Competitor Competitor Competitor		11:30 am - 1:00 pm Student Recitals	
12:30:00 PM				
1:00:00 PM				
1:30:00 PM		1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Masterclass Featuring Rene' Izquierdo		
2:00:00 PM				
2:30:00 PM				
3:00:00 PM				
3:30:00 PM				
4:00:00 PM		3:30 pm - 5:00 pm Closing Concert Featuring David Manzanares-Salguero Announcement of the competition results are announced immediately following the concert!		
4:30:00 PM				
5:00:00 PM				
	7:30 pm Opening Concert Rene' Izquierdo First Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, 21st & Walnut Street (entrance on Walnut st.) Philadelphia, PA 19103			
7:30:00 PM	9:30 pm to 10:30 pm Post Concert Social			



Join PCGS Today!