

Steve Thorneycroft

Steve composes a bit, plays guitar a bit, arranges a bit, makes a ridiculous amount of tea and likes to do the occasional bit of baking. Originally from Wales, he has been resident in the Australian New England for 40 years, playing guitar within any genre imaginable, often within the same piece of music, and sometimes not even by accident. He was lecturer in composition at the University of New England for over a decade, before receiving his ultimate promotion to 'full-time home dad & house-spouse'.

Dale Kavanagh

Canadian Dale Kavanagh is one of the guitar world's most gifted interpreters. Performing internationally with "overwhelming technique, powerful sound, and fantastic musicality" (Klassik Heute) she has given recitals as a soloist and with Amadeus Guitar Duo in more than 70 countries. With more than 1700 concerts, including appearances at guitar and music festivals all over the world, she has become known as "a powerful and agile guitarist making the soul of the instrument sound." (Fono-Forum)

Kavanagh is an acclaimed composer whose works are played on stages the world over. She has written works for Aniello Desiderio, Zoran Dukic, Costas Cotsiolis, Iliana Matos, ChromaDuo, Emma Rush, and Jorge Caballero, among many others. In 2022, she was commissioned to write three set pieces for the Marlow International Youth Competition. Her works are published by Productions D'Oz, Chanterelle, Edition Margaux, and Hubertus Nogatz Verlag. w: kavanagh.de

Olga Almenika-Vera

Belarusian-American composer Olga Amelkina-Vera is recognised as being "at the very forefront of composers writing for the guitar today" (Soundboard Magazine). Olga is a prizewinner of numerous composition competitions, including the Grand Prize in the instrumental chamber music student division of the 2017-2018 American Prize competition. She is in demand as a composer, performer, conductor, and educator, and her works have been performed and recorded all over the world by a broad array of Grammy award-winning and international concert artists.

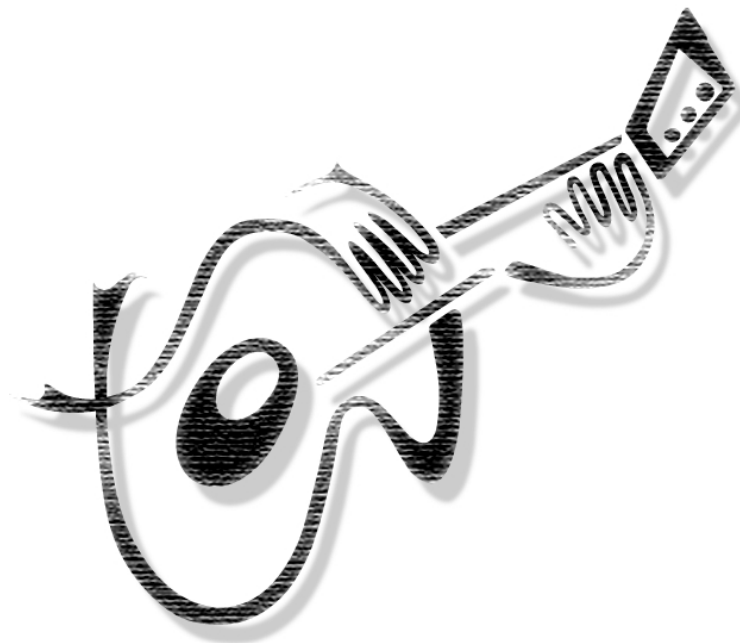
Olga enjoys a busy schedule of commissions for new works and professional travel throughout the US. She performs with Kithara Duo, and has recently released Ka Ao: Works for Guitar, an album exclusively featuring her recent guitar compositions performed by a star roster of artists. She lives in Plano, TX with her husband and duo partner Fernand Vera and their daughter Nina Brigitte. w: olgaalmenikavera.com

EPHENSTEPHEN is an Australian classical guitar duo from the rural New England region of NSW. Comprising multi-instrumentalist & guitar teacher **Stephen Tafra** (bio w: stephentafra.com), and guitarist/composer Steve Thorneycroft, they have a long and diverse history of projects, from new music commissions to groundbreaking transcriptions of classic works. EphenStephen has recorded two albums to date, GUITARmidale (2005, music written by Armidale composers), and their own arrangement of J.S. Bach's 'Goldberg' Variations (2008). Both have received regular airplay on ABC Classic FM and elsewhere... w: ephenstephen.com

Uralla Arts Presents

EPHENSTEPHEN

in concert



McCrossin's Mill Museum, Uralla
3pm, 22nd March, 2026

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Anaiwan people who are the Traditional Custodians of this land and offer our respect to the Elders both past, present and emerging.

Programme

*Distracted by the Stones on the Path**

Christine Donkin

Oriental - No.2 from 12 Danza Españolas
Enrique Granados, arr. Steve Thorneycroft

Aquamarine
Arina Burcéva

Spain
Chick Corea, arr. Matthew Cochran

Autumn
poem: Sarah Lawrence, music: Steve Thorneycroft

The Ghost of Peggy's Cove
Dale Kavanagh

poem: *Sugar* - Tina Chang, followed by
Strong Stand We At Last - Olga Almenika-Vera

**Australian premiere*

Stephen Tafra plays a guitar by Paul Sheridan
Steve Thorneycroft plays guitars by Philip Woodfield & Oliver Moore (8 string,
'La Mitica') and Simon Marty

About the Composers

Christine Donkin

Canadian composer Christine Donkin's works have been widely performed by pre-eminent instrumentalists, ensembles and orchestras across Canada and internationally. Through her work as an educator, Christine prioritises creation of music for students of all levels, and her pedagogical compositions are featured in the publications of several music exam organisations, including the Royal Conservatory of Music (Canada), the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music and Trinity College London. As well as composing, Christine works with student composers in private lessons, and as a clinician and adjudicator in collaboration with various music organisations. She also teaches theory, harmony and composition at the Victoria Conservatory. w: christinedonkin.com

Arina Burcéva

Classical guitarist and composer Arina Burceva holds Master of Music degree from the San Francisco conservatory of Music, where she studied classical guitar, counterpoint and improvisation with David Tanenbaum, Dusan Bogdanovic and Sergio Assad. As a soloist and in collaboration with other artists, she has performed numerous recitals across the United States, Canada and Latin America. She has taught master classes on interpreting classical guitar repertoire and workshops on improvising and composing new music for guitar. Arina's compositional style combines elements of classical, contemporary and world music. She has written works for solo guitar and ensemble. Her compositions are published by Les Productions d'Oz. w: arinaburceva.com

Chick Corea

Famous American jazz composer, keyboardist and bandleader. As a member of the Miles Davis band in the late 1960s, Corea participated in the birth of jazz fusion, and is considered one of the foremost pianists of the post-John Coltrane era. Corea won 29 Grammy Awards and was nominated for the award 79 times.

Matthew Cochran

American guitarist, composer, and producer Matthew Cochran is establishing a bold new repertoire for the guitar in the 21st century. His music combines elements of romanticism, minimalism, and popular styles. No Depression raves, "The pure emotive quality of Cochran's music pulls you into its embrace and empties your heart with every note," and This is Classical Guitar praises Cochran's "wide variety of textures from melodic exchanges, intricate kaleidoscopic grooves, to spacious mediations." w: matthewcochranguitar.com

Sarah Lawrence

Sarah is an Associate Professor at UNE Armidale, teaching Latin and Ancient History. She is widely published as a researcher and writer, including a forthcoming book publication, and has a deep affinity for granite and all kinds of lichen. And cats.