About the VCU Guitar Program

The VCU Guitar Program is a vibrant part of the VCU Department of Music. Several of our alumni are teaching at VCU and at other universities, including Norfolk State University, the College of William and Mary, Longwood University, Christopher Newport University, the University of Richmond, and Randolph-Macon College. In addition, several of our graduates are currently teaching in Virginia public and private schools.

Each year, the VCU Guitar Series and the Guitar and Other Strings Series bring nationally and internationally acclaimed guitarists to the VCU campus for concerts and master classes. Past performers include William Kanengiser, Manuel Barrueco, Eliot Fisk, Dennis Koster, David Russell, Simon Dinnigan, the Washington Guitar Quintet, Charlie Byrd (jazz), John Jackson (blues), Torcuato Zamora (flamenco), Miguelito (flamenco), and Leo Kottke (finger-style).

The Jesús Silva Merit Scholarship provides financial assistance to outstanding undergraduate guitar students.
Program

Intermezzo .................................................. M.M. Ponce, arr. Patykula

concerto in C Major .................................. Antonio Vivaldi, arr. Patykula
III. Allegro

Andrew Stevenson, guitar
with the VCU Guitar Ensemble

Prelude No. 5 ............................................. Heitor Villa-Lobos

Jack Henry McAllister, guitar

Sleepers, Awake! ....................................... J.S. Bach, arr. Bullard/Patykula

John Bullard, classical banjo
with the VCU Guitar Ensemble

Prelude in B-flat minor ................................. Adam Larrabee

John Bullard, classical banjo

Prelude No. 3 ............................................. Heitor Villa-Lobos

Dustin Deane, guitar

Bachianas Brasileiras No. 5 ......................... Heitor Villa-Lobos

Jennifer Snyder, soprano
Robert Rosenbrook, guitar

El Noy de la Mare ..................................... M.M. Ponce, arr. Patykula

The VCU Guitar Ensemble

Tango Español ......................................... Isaac Albéniz, arr. Pujol/Patykula

The VCU Guitar Ensemble

Evocacion and Joropo from Suite Recuerdo ........ José Luis Merlin

Ryan Stubbs, guitar

Serenade .................................................. Enrico Toselli, arr. Patykula

Elizabeth Grishaeva and Seamus McDaniel, guitar duo
with the VCU Guitar Ensemble

Valseana ................................................... Sergio Assad

Chris Baker, guitar

From Nashville with Love ......................... Chet Atkins, arr. Adam Larrabee

The VCU Guitar Ensemble

The VCU Community Guitar Ensemble
John Patykula, director

Chris Baker
Dustin Deane
Aidan Giuffre
Liza Grishaeva
Robert Halliday
Jeremy Hook
Frank Hsu
Jack Henry McAllister
Seamus McDaniel
Robert Rosenbrook
Andrew Stevenson
Ryan Stubbs

The VCU Guitar Ensemble has been a part of the Richmond music scene since 1982. Consisting of 13 classical guitarists, this unique ensemble’s repertoire ranges from Bach to the Beatles, from Renaissance to contemporary music. In addition, this group frequently premieres new compositions and commissioned works by established arrangers and composers. The ensemble has been featured on several National Public Radio stations and on local television arts segments. The VCU Guitar Ensemble has performed at the 2008 Experiencing Villa-Lobos International Festival at VCU, and on the 2009 and 2010 VCU Flamenco Festivals. For the past eight years, the ensemble has been the featured group at the Chesterfield All-County Guitar Ensemble Festival.

John Bullard has attracted international attention for his work in developing and transcribing classical repertoire for the five-string banjo. His critically acclaimed CD releases include John Bullard - The Classical Banjo on the Dargason label and Bach on the Banjo on Albany Records. In 2005, he became the first classical banjoist to graduate from Virginia Commonwealth University’s Department of Music with a Bachelor of Music degree in Performance. Graduating magna cum laude, John was inducted into Pi Kappa Lambda, the prestigious national music honor society. Music from John’s recordings has been included in several feature films such as the DreamWorks animated film The Rise of the Guardians and the award winning The Edge of Heaven. John’s classical banjo playing was highlighted in the June 2005 issue of Vintage Guitar Magazine. He has published two books with Mel Bay Publications, Bach for the Banjo and Scales and Arpeggios for Classical Banjo. John is also included in Mel Bay Publication’s popular book and CD collection Banjo 2000 featuring works by the world’s finest banjoists. John’s virtuosic playing was the focus of a cover story and interview in the May 1993 issue of The Banjo Newsletter. John was on the faculty of the world-renowned Tennessee Banjo Institute along with such luminaries as Pete Seeger, Bela Fleck and Tony Trischka. He has performed throughout the United States and has been featured on numerous radio and television programs. His most recent CD, Classical Banjo: The Perfect Southern Art, has been praised “as exceptionally brilliant as it is masterful.”