

## 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 or have taught at VCU and at other universities, including Norfolk State University, the College of William and Mary, 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), Leo Kottke (finger-style), and Tony Rice (bluegrass).

The **Jesús Silva Merit Scholarship** provides financial assistance to outstanding undergraduate guitar majors. Contact John Patykula at [jtpatyku@vcu.edu](mailto:jtpatyku@vcu.edu) for additional information on how to support.

The **VCU Friends of Music Scholarship Fund** continues to assist many of our VCU Music students with necessary scholarship funds making it possible for them to pursue their education. To contribute to this fund online, please go to: [support.vcu.edu/give/Arts](https://support.vcu.edu/give/Arts) - scroll to "Friends of Music." For additional information on how to support VCU Music, please email [music@vcu.edu](mailto:music@vcu.edu) or call 804-827-4541. Your support is valuable and appreciated!

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## **2021-2022 VCU Guitar Series Alumni Concert**

**John Bullard, classical banjo**  
*with*  
**Markus Compton, piano**

4:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 27, 2022

Sonia Vlahcevic Concert Hall  
922 Park Avenue  
Richmond, VA 23284

## *Program*

**Banjo Solos** – to be announced from stage

**Partita No. 5 in E Minor**      **Georg Philipp Telemann (1681-1767)**

**Andante**

**Vivace**

**Presto**

**Vivace**

**Siciliana**

**Vivace**

**Presto**

from **Sonata in G minor, BWV 1030b**      **J.S. Bach (1685-1750)**

**Siciliano**

**Presto**

**Concerto in D minor**      **Alessandro Marcello (1673-1747)**

**Andante e spiccato**

**Adagio**

**Presto**

### *About the artists:*

Over the course of his performing and recording career, **John Bullard** has invited audiences to share in a transformative revelation: to experience the artistic marriage of banjo and classical music. “Absolutely enchanting,” writes critic Graham Rickson of the UK-based *The Arts Desk*. “A musical education and experience that broke genre barriers,” noted Morgan Morrison, program director for the performance space The Barns of Rose Hill.

As a classically trained musician and the first graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University’s Department of Music to earn a degree in performance with the banjo, John Bullard has established a critically praised performing and recording career dedicated to exploring the artistic marriage of banjo and classical music. Bullard understands that accepting the banjo—a “folk” instrument with a complex pedigree—into the classical fold is a challenging proposition for traditionalists; the guitar once had to navigate a

similar journey to mainstream acceptance. But through three album-length recordings, live performance, and workshops, Bullard continues to introduce the classical banjo to a growing audience worldwide.

Bullard’s concert repertoire includes solo, duet, and quartet performances of works from Bach, Vivaldi, Handel and others of the Baroque Period, along with later-period pieces by Schumann and others. More recently, Bullard has begun featuring new work by contemporary American composers, including a Caprice in D minor in the Romantic style, from composer Frank Mullen, and a set of 24 Preludes for Solo Banjo, commissioned from Adam Larrabee. In addition, Bullard is now working on a new collaboration with the genre-fusing composer Joshua Stamper.

More information, including recent videos of Bullard in performance, can be found at [JohnBullard.com](http://JohnBullard.com)

**Markus Compton** is no stranger to the music scene in metropolitan Washington, D.C., Richmond and the Williamsburg areas. He graduated *summa cum laude* and holds degrees in Music Education and Keyboard Collaboration from George Mason University. He is also a Fulbright scholar having studied German Lieder and French Melodie at the Musickverein in Vienna, Austria.

Currently, Mr. Compton is the Artistic Director for the Richmond Choral Society and serves as Director of Music and Pianist at Hebron Presbyterian Church, in Manakin-Sabot, Virginia. He oversees the Sanctuary and Youth choirs, as well as the ‘Music in the Countryside’ recital series. Mr. Compton also serves on the staff at Collegiate School where he teaches private piano.

Mr. Compton also served as Assistant Conductor and Pianist for the Fairfax Choral Society and Pianist for the National Men’s Chorus. He also worked as a staff accompanist, vocal coach and lecturer at George Mason University. Mr. Compton has assisted such distinguished conductors as Anton Armstrong, Thomas Beveridge, Jerry Blackstone, Kevin Fenton, Joseph Martin, Don Neuen, Doreen Rao and Andre Thomas. He has performed at the National Gallery of Art, Carnegie Hall, the White House and in a collaborative recital with Peter Schikele (PDQ Bach).