

Info on Guitar Orchestras: Past and Present

The American Guitar Society Orchestra (1924 – 1932)

Vahdah Olcott Bickford, conductor



This guitar orchestra met weekly under the leadership of Vahdah Olcott Bickford. The list of members in this 1924 photo of the orchestra were wisely recorded for

posterity. However, in the doctoral dissertation by Kathy Zaval on AGS and VOB, she helps by pointing out that the harp-guitarist's name was somehow left out of this hand written record. So to correct the record, his name was E.H. Philbrook.

Per Kathy Zaval's dissertation, the following is an example of what this AGS Guitar Orchestra would have played in a concert setting.

Concert Date	Concert Location		
11/19/1927	West Hall, Beaux Arts Building, 1709 West Eight St, corner of Beacon, Los Angeles, CA	<p>All pieces performed were written by Leonard de Call.</p> <p>Trio, op. 26 (Andante, Menuett, Adagio, Rondo)</p> <p>Sonata, op. 74, for guitar and piano</p> <p>Serenade, op. 75 (Andante, Menuetto, Adagio, Rondo) trio for violin, viola and guitar</p> <p>Sonata, op. 44, No. 1 (Allegro, Adagio, Rondo), guitar duet</p> <p>Variations, op. 62, guitar duet</p> <p>Serenade, op. 3 (Adagio, Allegro, Andante, Menuetto, Allegro, Rondo) for string quartet and Guitar</p>	<p>Chamber Music recital with guitar presenting the works of Leonard de Call. The American Guitar Society Ensemble played in this concert. It was formed by eleven guitars and a mando-bass player: Zarh Myron Bickford, Vahdah Olcott Bickford (Director), Leslie N. Booher, Victor K. Bouch, Virginia De Santos, J. A. Larralde, Lee B. Milbank, Gustave Podneck, Amelia A. Poehler, Nancy Yerkes, Martha F. Booher (mando-bass).</p>

The American Guitar Society Orchestra (2012 – 2016)

Robert G. Mayeur, conductor



AGS Guitar Orchestra August 3, 2013

The program for this August concert follows below. The names of players in this photo are listed in the program below.

Robert G. Mayeur - Conductor of the AGS Commemorative Guitar Orchestra

Robert G. Mayeur has been an active devotee of music and the guitar since his early teens. Born in Houston, Texas, his early performances began with country and western and jazz. He received his B.A. at the University of Texas at Denton and his M.A. at the University of California at Los Angeles. His jazz studies included sessions with Marge Krumbaker, Tal Farlowe, and Jimmy Wyble, and he studied classical guitar with Fredrick Noad, Dr. Ron Purcell, and William Kanengiser. Composition studies were with Boris Kremenliev, Lukas Foss and Roy Harris. His commercial and jazz performance and arranging spanned 35 years in the Los Angeles area and included a composition for Stan Kenton's LA Neophonic Orchestra.

Robert's teaching from 1970 through 2008 has been principally at Santa Monica College and Los Angeles Valley College. He has received worldwide recognition for his transcription, arranging, and composition of music for Guitar ensembles as a major component of his teaching method.

In addition to his teaching assignments, he organized the first Guitar Foundation of America yearly international competition winner's tour, and managed the tour for 16 years. Many of the winners of this tour now hold guitar faculty positions at some of the leading colleges and universities in the world. Many guitar societies were established and college and university guitar departments developed worldwide through Bob's efforts on behalf of this tour.

The AGS Commemorative Guitar Orchestra

Mark Achuff	Angie Hougen	Jose Perez
Robert Aylott	Chris Hundley	Ray Perez
Khandan Barkeshli	Anthony Luu	Wil Schimmeyer
Paula Bluestone	Earl Maize	Mike Schmidt
Michael Camp	Kelvin McKay-Hill	Erik Schnautz
JC DeLuna	Juan Mindoro	John Stoessel
Bryan Fasola	Kim Nakae	Atticus Travis-Mckittrick
Lyle Glazer	Melissa Nazarian	Alan Zak
Anthony Gloria	Gregory Newton	Jim Zumberge

PROGRAM

Bryan Fasola and Donovan Butez *perform*
Los Angeles: Donovan Butez
The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

JC DeLuna *performs*
Novedad Hovanes J. Jihanyan
Reverie Nocturne Op.19 Giulio Regondi

David Grimes & Gregory Newton *perform*
Duetto in G Silivus Leopold Weiss
Duos d'Amerique Latine (5 movements) Roque Carbajo

15 minute INTERMISSION

The AGS Guitar Orchestra, Conducted by Robert G. Mayeur

Menuetto Leonard Von Call

Strauss Waltz Medley Johann Strauss
Arrangement by Robert G. Mayeur

Sonata in C Major Domenico Scarlatti
Arrangement by Robert G. Mayeur

LA Samba Robert G. Mayeur
Bass Guitar - Anthony Gloria
Bossa Nova Rhythm Guitar - Mike Schmidt

The Los Angeles Valley College Guitar Orchestra

The Los Angeles Valley College Guitar Orchestra is a part of the LAVC Guitar Ensemble class in the LAVC Music Dept. The LAVC Guitar Ensemble class meets on Monday evenings from 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM to rehearse on the campus of Los Angeles Valley College in Valley Glen, California.

The LAVC Guitar Ensemble consists of students, dedicated community members, alumni, and colleagues who enjoy classical guitar music of all kinds, and who wish to play and perform on the classical guitar in a group setting. The LAVC Guitar Ensemble also welcomes enthusiastic community volunteers who greatly help and assist with concert production and rehearsals.

The LAVC Guitar Orchestra was founded in 1979 by renowned Professor Robert G. Mayeur (1932 - 2021), and subsequently was directed by Dr. Kate Lewis and Dr. Gregory Newton. It is currently directed by Dr. Jordan Charnofsky. The LAVC Guitar Orchestra presents one concert in May (Spring semester) and one concert in November (Fall semester) annually on the campus of Los Angeles Valley College, in the Music Dept.

Students interested in participating are welcome and encouraged to enroll early in the class to reserve a spot during August (or earlier) for the Fall semester, or in January (or earlier) for the Spring semester: **MUSIC 771 - Guitar Ensemble**

Community members are also very welcome to enroll in the following class section, which allows multiple repeat enrollments: **OLD ADL 771CE - Community Guitar Ensemble**

Please see the [LAVC Music Dept. website](https://lavc.edu/Music-Department/Ensembles.aspx) for more info on enrollment.
<https://lavc.edu/Music-Department/Ensembles.aspx>

For more information, or to subscribe to our LAVC Guitar Program email list, please email [Dr. Jordan Charnofsky](mailto:Dr.Jordan.Charnofsky@lavc.edu) at CharnoJ@lavc.edu or [Dr. Gregory Newton](mailto:Dr.Gregory.Newton@lavc.edu) at NewtonGP@lavc.edu

Recent LAVC "Virtual Guitar Ensemble" videos:

1. [Tango Argentino \(LAVC Guitar Ensemble\)](https://youtu.be/Ysl3NiTaDkc)
<https://youtu.be/Ysl3NiTaDkc>
2. [Hewlett by Turlough O'Carolan \(LAVC Guitar Ensemble\)](https://youtu.be/bRRBHTUnGYg)
<https://youtu.be/bRRBHTUnGYg>
3. [Taconeoado, Mexican Folk Dance \(LAVC Guitar Ensemble\)](#)

<https://youtu.be/ij6R2pzfb7w>

4. [Air on the G String by J. S. Bach \(LAVC Guitar Ensemble\)](https://youtu.be/-f5nYILwx7E)

<https://youtu.be/-f5nYILwx7E>

5. [Let It Be \(LAVC Guitar Ensemble\)](https://youtu.be/MvPT9r65wXg)

<https://youtu.be/MvPT9r65wXg>

Please plan to join us as a classical guitar participant, as a community volunteer, or as a supportive audience member at our next concert! We hope to see you soon!



LAVC Guitar Orchestra 2017, Gregory Newton, conductor.

The Orange County Guitar Orchestra

David Grimes, conductor

The Orange County Guitar Orchestra was founded in 2012 by former members of the renowned Fullerton Guitar Orchestra, who wanted to continue their guitar orchestra experience at a fully professional level. Under the direction of David Grimes, the Orchestra has already developed a reputation of unique and colorful repertoire. The founding members are: Music director/conductor; David Grimes and First committee; Amy Hite, Nick Montalvo, and Shintaro Yana

The mission of the OCGO is to establish a new national standard for the professional-level performing guitar orchestra, and to inspire and perform new repertoire of guitar orchestra music. The ultimate goal of the OCGO is to create an appreciation for and expand the audience base of classical guitar music.

Members are selected via auditions. The OCGO performs at guitar society meetings, colleges, schools, and library venues.

To learn more please visit: www.ocgo.org

