

MUSICAL PRAYER

MARK HILLIARD WILSON

St. James Cathedral Guitarist

Ancestral Bells

Roger Hudson
b. 1961

Composer and guitarist Roger Hudson is also a teacher of classical, jazz, and popular guitar styles who has been on the teaching staff of Georgia State University, Agnes Scott College, La Grange College, Austin Peay State University, Middle Tennessee State University, The Mid-America Guitar Camp, and The National Guitar Workshop.

Sí Bheag, Sí Mhór

Turlough O'Carolan
1670–1738
arr. Mark H. Wilson and Keith Murray

Turlough O'Carolan was a blind harpist, composer, and singer who is considered by many to be Ireland's national composer. *Sí Mór* (Sheemore) and *Sí Beag* (Sheebeg) are the names of two small hills in south County Leitrim, said to be ancient burial sites.

Lady Mary Montagu's Reel
Lord Dalkeith's Reel

Ignatius Sancho
1729–1780

Ignatius Sancho was born on a slave ship en route from West Africa to the Caribbean. His parents died on the trip. When he was two, he was taken to Greenwich, England and became the slave of three maiden sisters. It was the Duke of Montagu that introduced Ignatius to music and the written word. However the three maiden sisters cut short any education. At the age of 20, Sancho was able to leave the three sisters and asked to be employed by the Duchess of Montagu; the Duke had just passed away. He became her butler. He eventually left with an annual pension roughly equivalent to \$2,500 in today's dollars. He ran through this money quickly, in the company of playwrights, actors, and musicians and returned to the Montagu estate to ask the new Duke for employment. He rose through the ranks to become the *gentleman's gentleman*, one of the highest positions in the house. In 1758 Sancho married Anne Osborne, a woman of West Indian descent, and they had 7 children. In 1768 the Duke had the famous painter Thomas Gainsborough do a portrait of Sancho; there is some speculation it was a gift to Sancho. Eventually Sancho was able to purchase property and opened a grocery. Due to his owning property, he was one of the 3% of the general population able to cast a vote at the time. He published 4 volumes of music and wrote extensively, with some of his writings addressing abolitionism. He died in 1780 surrounded by his family. (Notes from <https://www.museumofrichmond.com/wp-content/uploads/Ignatius-Sancho-Teachers-Resource.pdf>).

Ausencias (“*The Absent*”)
Oblivion

Astor Piazzolla
1921–1992

Argentinian composer Astor Piazzolla's *Ausencias* was in the soundtrack for the 1985 Argentine-French film *Tangos, el exilio de Gardel* (“*Tangos, the Exile of Gardel*”) directed by Fernando Solanas, which looks at the lives of Argentinian exiles in Paris. *Oblivion*, one of Piazzolla's best-known tangos, was also written for a film: Marco Bellocchio's *Enrico IV*.

The Reluctant Bride

Ralph Towner
b. 1940

Ralph Towner was born in Chehalis, Washington and studied at the University of Oregon and the Vienna Academy of Music before joining the Paul Winter Consort in the late 1960s. Since 1970, he has become known worldwide as a performer and composer in the jazz world, and has written works for orchestra, numerous film scores, and incidental music for an Oregon Shakespeare Festival production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. He was honored by Apollo astronauts, who brought a cassette tape of his music to the moon and officially named two moon craters after two of his compositions. We discovered that Towner originally composed *The Reluctant Bride* as a commission for an unnamed Shakespeare play, which somewhat explains the unusual title, but were unable to find further information.

Eventide

Madame Sidney Pratten (Catharina Josepha Pratten)
1821–1895

German composer Catharina Pratten was a guitar virtuoso, composer, and teacher, the daughter of guitarist and music teacher Ferdinand Pelzer. In 1854, she married the English flautist Robert Sidney Pratten, and published her music under the name Madame Sidney Pratten. *Eventide* was published in a collection called “Impromptu: Songs without words and sketches,” dedicated to her friend and pupil Dr. John Lindsay Leckie.

Partita No. 16 in E minor

Giuseppe Antonio Brescianello
c.1690–1758

Entrée
Minuet
Siciliana
Gigue

Violinist and composer Giuseppe Antonio Brescianello, born in Bologna, was appointed violinist in the court orchestra of Maximilian II Emanuel in Munich, in 1715. He remained in Germany for the rest of his life under the on-and-off employ of the Württemberg court in Stuttgart.

Masanga

Jean-Bosco Mwenda
1930–1990

The Congolese guitarist Jean-Bosco Mwenda, also known as also known as Mwenda wa Bayeke, pioneered Congolese fingerstyle acoustic guitar music in the 1950s, and greatly influenced early Central and East African guitarists. *Masanga* and its complex and imaginative guitar techniques became popular worldwide after English ethnomusicologist Hugh Tracey recorded Mwenda and his music in 1952.

La Catedral
Preludio saudade

Agustín Barrios Mangoré
1885–1944

“Preludio saudade” is the first movement of the three-movement work for guitar *La Catedral* by Paraguayan composer and guitarist Agustín Barrios Mangoré (born Agustín Pío Barrios, he added Mangoré to his name around 1930). This movement was not a part of his original version of *La Catedral*, composed in 1921 with the subtitle “Distico Sacro” (“Sacred Couplet”). “Preludio saudade” was added to the work after he wrote it in Havana, Cuba in 1938. “Saudade” is a Portuguese term for a nostalgic and melancholic longing for something that has passed or cannot be obtained.

MARK HILLIARD WILSON brings joy and technical finesse to the listener while integrating music from diverse backgrounds and different ages with a compelling story and a wry sense of humor. Performing regularly at festivals and concert series, Wilson has distinguished himself as a unique voice with programs that feature his own transcriptions of both the well known and the obscure. Wilson’s compositions for the guitar have been appearing on stages throughout the Northwest US and Canada for over 15 years. He works in is the relatively unexplored genre of an ensemble of multiple guitars as the conductor, composer, arranger, and music director to the Guitar Orchestra of Seattle. Wilson has taught at Whatcom Community College and Bellevue College.

Wilson's CD *El Sueno del Camino* is the product of a series of concerts he played along the Camino de Santiago de Compostela in northern Spain. Wilson has been busy promoting his latest CD, a Guitar Orchestra recording that features compositions for 10 guitars, inspired by the pilgrimage to Spain as well as pilgrimages closer to home: Chuckanut Drive and the Edmund Pettis Bridge. Since the start of 2019 he has produced concerts for the Guitar Orchestra of Seattle in fun and unusual venues for the classical guitar, such as the restored bar “The Rendezvous” in The Jewelbox Theater (built in 1932 as a movie theater); the experimental cafe theater Cafe Nordo; and the former Elliot Bay Book Company location in Pioneer Square. Solo engagements have taken him to numerous living rooms and gardens across Seattle through the organization Groupmuse. The summer of 2019, Wilson was engaged in 10 concerts over an 8-week spread, where he played solo concerts, a concerto written for him and the Octava orchestra, and a series of concerts in Portland with the soprano Jessica Israels and baritone Erik Hundtoft. Shortly after this, Wilson was the guest guitarist with the Sun Valley Symphony.

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