

**Fredericksburg Music Club, Inc. Presents Christopher McGuire and the Allegro Jazz Trio  
In Concert October 15, 2017**

**Christopher McGuire and the Allegro Jazz Trio - Biography**  
Guitar, Piano and Double Bass

**Christopher McGuire**, Classical Guitarist

American guitarist **Christopher McGuire** commands the many expressive qualities of the guitar with what one critic called "unselfconscious intensity." His engaging performance style invites people of all ages to feel they are taking part, not just taking a seat. Audiences and critics on five continents fulfill the prediction by **Andrés Segovia** that *"...he will be appreciated and applauded everywhere."* In his 1981 letter of recommendation, Segovia also said he is *"...an artist, sensitive, with perfect technique."* His direct influences are as varied as they come, ranging from private lessons with Maestro Segovia to jam sessions with **Stevie Ray Vaughn**.\* Has performed with some of the great musicians of our time, including Charlie Byrd, Carlos Barbosa-Lima, Bucky Pizzarelli, Howard Alden, Roland Dyens, Carlos Bonell, Karin Schaupp, Robert Guthrie, Van Cliburn Gold Medalist José Feghali and violinist Swang Lin. In October of 2005 Chris shared the stage with the legendary Van Cliburn in a tribute concert for Fort Worth philanthropist Roz Rosenthal. He is currently Artistic Director of the Fort Worth Classic Guitar Society (FWCGS) and the Allegro Guitar Society of Dallas (AGSD).

McGuire has performed hundreds of solo concerts in the United States, Mexico, Japan, Venezuela, Germany, Spain and the Canary Islands. He has played his guitar for presidents of the United States of America and Mexico, three former governors of Texas and members of the Spanish Royal Family. A great lover of chamber music, he has been a guest artist with orchestras and chamber ensembles and also composes for his eclectic music group, D'Accord. In 2007 he was featured on stage at the **Bass Performance Hall** performing his own music as well as solo works by Weiss, Villa-Lobos and Tarrega in the world premiere of "Fables of Loneliness" with the **Bruce Wood Dance Company**. He has performed more than 1500 informal performances in schools and other community venues in cities throughout North America, Spain, Venezuela and Japan. In addition to numerous television and radio appearances he was the subject of a half-hour program on **Radio Shanghai of China** with an audience in thirteen Asian countries of more than one billion listeners. NBC's "Today Show" featured Chris in a story about his work with civil rights groups in his hometown, Farmers Branch, Texas.

In 1985 he won First Prize in the **Dallas Chamber Orchestra Concerto Competition** and has judged the **Guitar Foundation of America** (GFA) International Competitions in Quebec City, Canada, St. Louis, Missouri, San Antonio, Texas and Montréal, Canada. In 2006 he served on the jury of the 14th International Guitar Competition at **Fundación Alirio Díaz** in Carora, Venezuela, where he also performed a lecture/concert on classical & jazz crossover at the home of Maestro Díaz. Four years earlier he presented a similar class at **Encuentro Antonio Lauro** in Santa Ana, Venezuela. He has been invited to present numerous masterclasses and lecture demonstrations at prestigious universities such as **Arizona State University**, the **Juilliard School** in New York, **Alaska Pacific University** and at the **GFA**.

He has studied with or performed in master classes for several of the world's foremost guitarists including **Andrés Segovia**, **Oscar Ghiglia**, **Pepe Romero**, **Robert Guthrie** and **José Tomás**. He received full scholarships to **Southern Methodist University** on the recommendation of Robert Guthrie and to the **Aspen Music Festival** on the recommendation of Oscar Ghiglia. In the summers of 1980-82 he had both classes and private lessons with the great Spanish composer **Federico Moreno-Torroba**. Blues master **Stevie Ray Vaughn**, a regular in the McGuire family music room in the early 1970s, taught Chris to play the blues in weekly jam sessions.

Chris taught for 25 years at several colleges and universities including the **University of Dallas** and **North Lake College**. He now devotes most of his time performing, conducting the artistic activities of the FWCGS and the AGSD and spending time with his family.

## Notable quotes:

*"I have several times heard the young guitarist Christopher McGuire and consider him an artist; sensitive, with perfect technique... I am sure he will be appreciated and applauded everywhere."* -**Andrés Segovia, Madrid, Spain 1981**

*"With my music, I completely trust his artistic sensibilities."*  
**Federico Moreno-Torroba, Madrid, Spain, 1980**

## Selected Reviews:

*"¡Magnífico!"* **Radio Nacional de España**

*"His beautiful playing was full of life and colour."*  
**Gendai Guitar Magazine, Tokyo, Japan**

Fascinating guitar sounds – *"A guitar is not only a guitar. In the hands of Chris McGuire it is what otherwise only a group of cooperating musicians can achieve: a body of sound. A guitar performance that fascinated all the listeners."*

(About the duo of Wiedemann and McGuire)

*Then the big surprise: the Deggendorf-born guitarist Augustin Wiedemann enters the stage, enthusiastically welcomed by the fans, and it begins – a music making of two masters. Two magicians on the strings unite for one performance!"* (**Helmut Gärtner, Passauer Neue Presse, March 26, 2007**)

*"He does indeed succeed in doing it all alone, he and his guitar... where one stops the other takes over in a continuous flow of melodious sounds."* **Fort Worth Star Telegram**

*"The music was at once delicate, yet forceful and sophisticated... the rich tone and sparkling interpretation he gave to the music showed his empathy with the spirit of the music. McGuire seemed at one with his instrument and the music he chose to play."*  
**Anchorage Daily News**

*"McGuire is a pro when it comes to turning young people into appreciative listeners of classical guitar."*

**Dallas Times Herald**

## At the Bass Hall with the Bruce Wood Dance Company:

*"Choreographer Bruce Wood added another piece to his impressive canon Monday night with the premiere of Fables of Loneliness, a ballet inspired by and including readings of the poetry of Chilean Pablo Neruda. Although the poems were the most obvious feature of Fables of Loneliness, the piece rested on a foundation of hypnotically gentle guitar music drawn from Villa-Lobos, Vivaldi and others, exquisitely performed by virtuoso Christopher McGuire."*

**Wayne Lee Gay, Fort Worth Star-Telegram**

## From March/April 2005 U.S. Tour for "Live on Stage"

### CLASSICAL GUITARIST SHINES

*In March, Auburn Community Concerts Association presented another spectacular concert. Classical guitarist Christopher McGuire, student of Segovia, Romero, Tomás, and Torroba, played classical compositions by Carcassi, Villa-Lobos, Sor, Tedesco, Ponce, his mentor Federico Moreno-Torroba, and others. But most importantly, he performed the most exquisite interpretation I have ever heard of the*

lovely "Recuerdos de la Alhambra" by Francisco Tarrega. It would bring tears to the eyes of classical guitar music lovers anywhere.

To entertain us further, Mr. McGuire played more modern pieces – an "Oh! Susanna" such as you have never before heard, two pieces he wrote himself, and "Vincent" by McLean and arranged by John Knowles. This intriguing and beautifully played piece has been popularized by Josh Groban.

A heart-felt standing ovation was touchingly received by McGuire, who seemed a bit surprised by it, but certainly should not have been.

**Ronald D. Greenwood, Perspectives Arts Magazine**

Christopher McGuire's guitar sang with beauty, emotion, and power; our full-house audience was mesmerized for two full hours, and still we wanted more.

**Diane Hess, President: Josephine County Community Concert Association**

"As President of the Pendleton Concert Association, I have the good fortune to meet and get to know many of the artists we invite to perform. Christopher McGuire not only delighted our audience with his skill, repertoire and presence, he also gave us the opportunity to experience his unassuming charm and delightful sense of humor. We look forward to his return when we can once again welcome his artistic mastery and personal warmth."

**Arthur J. (Art) Hill, President, Pendleton Concert Association, Pendleton, Oregon**

#### **WORLD GUITAR TRIO:**

(Three tracks featuring the WGT will appear on Carlos Barbosa-Lima's newest CD on the **ZOHO** label. Release date: February of 2009.)

**Fort Worth Star-Telegram – Review Excerpts**

"It may be a small pond, but this still one whale of a fish. The World Guitar Trio – Brazilian Carlos Barbosa-Lima, Australian Karin Schaupp and Christopher McGuire of Fort Worth – made its debut at PepsiCo Recital Hall on the Texas Christian University Campus Thursday night. For classical guitar fans, this assemblage of talent on a single stage creates the same sort of excitement that the joining of the Three Tenors did for opera fans.

These guitarists are among the most accomplished and lauded in their field. Few guitarists can spin out a fluid, rolling melodic line as well as Barbosa-Lima. Schaupp is gifted with an incredibly precise technique and jaw-dropping speed and agility. McGuire is a player of great delicacy and unerring control.

They were just as impressive as their reputations led the audience to expect. We will see whether our city can stand the pressure of being the center of the universe for both classical piano and classical guitar."

**Punch Shaw, Fort Worth Star-Telegram**

#### **AWARDS:**

First Prize: Dallas Chamber Orchestra Concerto Competition

Named one of the "Most Influential Leaders in the Arts" in Tarrant County by the Fort Worth Business Press

The Fort Worth Classic Guitar Society won the FW Weekly Music Award, "Best Classical Music" three times in 1998, 1999 and 2002 under Chris' artistic direction.

#### **RECORDINGS:**

**Festival of Four Guitars, Ron Meyer Recordings**

## **Christopher McGuire: Jazz Ensemble/Solo-Classical, Acoustic Plus Records**

Mosaic, Includes tracks with Bucky Pizzarelli and Howard Alden, Acoustic Plus Records

The World Guitar Trio is featured in three tracks on Carlos Barbosa-Lima's newest CD released by Zoho Records, February 2009.

### **Quote from Chris:**

*\*SRV was a member of the Southern Distributor, my brother Patrick's rock band, from May of 1969 through the summer of 1971. Stevie replaced the band's original lead guitarist, Jim Cullum. It's not mentioned in most of Stevie's biographies because he downplayed his involvement with a cover band, which is considered "selling out" to a lot of blues purists. (Rumor has it his departure may have been hastened by a brief romance between Stevie and the bass player's girlfriend.) The situation is further confused by the fact that he was a member of two or three other bands during the same period. I jammed with one of them at an outdoor concert and Stevie sat in with my blues band Sunshine at Fritz Park in Irving, Texas.*

*We have a receipt for the band's first payment to Stevie dated May 31, 1969. I know his last gig with them was in the summer of 1971 because I joined Patrick's band immediately after he left. I'd learned all the tunes by playing along during rehearsals on my Epiphone acoustic guitar. I was 15 years old. I never say I replaced Stevie."*

Source: <http://christophermcguire.com/about-chris/>

## **Evan Jacobs, Piano**

Evan Jacobs is a pianist, synthesist, vocalist and recording artist based in the Dallas - Fort Worth area. He is in high demand for recording sessions due to his genre-spanning flexibility and comfort in many styles of music. A graduate of the prestigious University of North Texas, Evan also fronts the Austin-based band Tacks, the Boy Disaster and has played with The Polyphonic Spree and Midlake. More recently, he has been involved in the musical development of younger musicians and continues to write and record his own songs for future releases.

## **Mike Luzecky, Double Bass**

Mike graduated from the University of North Texas with a Bachelor of Music, Jazz/Jazz Studies degree in 2012. He has performed with numerous groups in the area and one band who he performs with, The Southpaw Preachers, has been nominated in the Best Jazz Act category for the Dallas Observer Music Awards 2016. Members have even participated in the Grammy Award-winning One O' Clock Lab Band and played with names including Josh Groban, "Blue" Lou Marini, Mario Cruz, the Count Basie Big Band and Cuban Jazz trumpet legend Arturo Sandoval.