

## ABOUT OUR CONTRIBUTORS

**Alice Artzt**, whom *Guitar International Magazine* has called “America’s best player,” has been acclaimed by critics in Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia, and the Americas for her performances as a soloist, in concertos with orchestra, and in chamber music groups. She studied guitar with Julian Bream, Ida Presti, and Alexandre Lagoya, and composition with Darius Milhaud at Aspen, Colorado, and at Columbia University, where she received a degree in musicology. Alice has made 13 solo recordings, has written two books on guitar technique as well as numerous articles on music, and has several instructional videos on YouTube.

**Katharyn Benessa** recently completed the requirements for a Doctor of Arts from the University of Northern Colorado with her dissertation “Secular Song of the Spanish Renaissance: Portrayals of Moors and Christians during the Reign of Isabel and Fernando, the Reconquest, and the First Morisco Rebellion.” Her reward was a trip to England to pick up a vihuela and a French baroque guitar built by Alexander Batov. Her article is dedicated to her friend and mentor, Douglas Alton Smith.

In a career spanning 30 years and five countries, Cincinnati-born jazz guitarist and educator **Greg Chako** has led an entrepreneurial life in the music business, much of which occurred while he lived and worked throughout the Far East, most notably in Singapore. He has released 10 CDs, four videos, and been the subject of a documentary, *An American Cat in the Lion City*. His recordings feature syncopated rhythms, soulful melodies, hard-swinging jazz, and exotic percussion.

After 30 years as cofounder and lead developer of law office software for Abacus Data Systems, Inc., **Brian Hays** stays busy playing music, using Sibelius to engrave friends’ arrangements for publication, and supporting dystonia research. He welcomes contact and can be reached at [bhays@abacuslaw.com](mailto:bhays@abacuslaw.com).

**Douglas James** is professor of guitar at Appalachian State University, where he teaches classical guitar and directs the Appalachian GuitarFest and Competition. With a performing career spanning almost four decades, he frequently concertizes as a soloist and in ensemble with the Rucco-James Duo (19th-century guitars) and Corde Cantanti (theorbo). He has served on the board of trustees and chaired the advisory board of the Guitar Foundation of America.

**Elanor O'Brien** left her native Brooklyn, New York, in search of the good life, and found it at Persephone Farm, near Lebanon, Oregon. Elanor and her partner Jeff Falen raise 14 acres of certified organic vegetables, including the grand broccolis to which Pat O'Brien often referred. Persephone Farm hopes to help create a more sustainable agriculture through attention to soil health, renewable energy, and training future farmers ([www.persephonefarmoregon.com](http://www.persephonefarmoregon.com)).

**Jason Priset** holds degrees from the State University of New York at Fredonia (BM) and Stony Brook University (MM, DMA). He is a regular performer on lutes and guitars in the United States and abroad, and is currently on the faculty at Montclair State University and the Amherst Early Music Festival. Jason also is director of the Lute Society of America's Summer Festival.

**Daniel Rindler** is a Guild-certified Feldenkrais practitioner based in Brooklyn, New York, who studied lute, theorbo, and baroque guitar with Pat O'Brien for nearly a decade. Studying with Pat prepared him to go on to complete a degree in early music performance practice at Indiana University, Bloomington. Dan sees musicians and performing artists in his private Feldenkrais practice, and also teaches Feldenkrais method at the Yale University Norfolk Chamber Music Festival.

Holder of a Premier Prix in guitar performance from the Conservatoire National in Nice, France, and a PhD in English literature from York University, **Jack Silver** has written several books and many articles on various musical and literary subjects. He is project leader of the DOREMI record company's "Segovia and His Contemporaries" series, and is currently writing a biography of the Brazilian singer-guitarist Olga Prager Coelho.