



# NEWS

## Virginia Guitar Educators Rock!



Dear Guitar Gurus,

The VGDA is off to a great start, which was evident at the VMEA Professional Development conference in November. There were six guitar sessions, several lobby concerts, the ukulele flash mob and the 2022 All-Virginia Guitar Ensemble. It was so inspiring to watch the magic unfold. The VGDA and VMEA are more than just about conference though. In this issue we celebrate Black History and share opportunities to engage and support guitar education in our Commonwealth and beyond!

*Kathy Robinson  
running a sectional for  
the 2022 All-Virginia  
Guitar Ensemble  
Photo: Art Pittman*

## Meet Taiwo Adegoke

*Composer/Arranger and a True Inspiration!*

February is Black History Month in the United States. While Taiwo Adegoke is not from the U.S. he is certainly making history and is featured here...



Taiwo Adegoke is a classical guitarist, composer, teacher and arranger of African folk music from Nigeria. He was born in 1992 in the city of Oshogbo. A large body of his work has consisted of research in the field of ethnomusicology, to record and maintain the tribal music in the region of West Africa. He is from the Yorùbá tribe of Nigeria. He has also emphasized composing and arranging this folk music for the classical guitar. His works for guitar include solo, duo, and ensembles as well as chamber music for guitar and other

instruments. His works have been performed in concerts in Nigeria, U.S., Germany, Slovenia, Japan and others.

He is the founder and chairman of the Chocolate Africa Classical Guitar Society of Nigeria, the first classical guitar society in Nigeria and West Africa, a non-profit organization with the vision of reviving ethnic music and bringing classical guitar music to life in Africa through education, arrangement and performance of African folk songs and compositions.

Taiwo's music is primarily self-published. If you are interested in his catalogue and purchasing his music, simply e-mail him at: [adegoketaiwo135@gmail.com](mailto:adegoketaiwo135@gmail.com)

Here's a video of one of Taiwo's pieces performed by the Glendale Community College Guitar Ensemble conducted by Chuck Hulihan: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hvVNpjH-I44>



Top to Bottom: Hart Wells, Matt Trkula and Dr. Matt Dunlap run sectionals for the 2022 AVGE.

**APRO CLASSIC MUSIC**  
[for Classical Guitar Ensembles]

SHEET MUSIC OF AFRICAN FOLK SONGS AND LULLABIES FOR THE CLASSICAL GUITAR ENSEMBLES  
AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE  
LIST OF WORKS:

<p><b>ORIGINAL COMPOSITIONS:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. ILA OORUN NI ILE ADULAWO (SUNRISE IN AFRICA)</li> <li>2. HIGHLIFE AFRIKA.</li> <li>3. OJA LAYE (LIFE IS A MARKET PLACE)</li> <li>4. MARCH OF THE PALM-WINE TAPPERS.</li> <li>5. A SAD AND HAPPY GOODBYE.</li> <li>6. IROLE (EVENING)</li> <li>7. AFRICAN PALMWINE MUSIC SUITE: PALMWINE AT SUNSET 1-4 MOVEMENTS</li> <li>8. IN MY LITTLE AFRICAN FAIRY GARDEN SUITE (1-3 MOVEMENTS) For Violoncello and Classical Guitar Ensembles.</li> </ol>	<p><b>ARRANGEMENTS:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9. ORIN IBEJI (SONG FOR TWIN CHILDREN) Folk lullaby from Yorùbá tribe of Nigeria.</li> <li>10. ISE OLUWA KÒ LÈ BÀJE (GOD'S WORKS CAN'T BE DESTROYED) Folk song from Yorùbá tribe of Nigeria.</li> <li>11. KI LÈ Ò LÈ SE ? (WHAT CAN YOU NOT DO?) Folk song from Yorùbá tribe of Nigeria. Arranged for Violoncello and Classical Guitar Ensembles</li> <li>12. ONYE MERE NWA NEBA KWA ? (WHO MADE MY BABY CRY ?) Folk lullaby from Igbo tribe of Nigeria.</li> <li>13. EBE OMASIRI GI (AS IT PLEASES YOU) Folk song from Igbo tribe of Nigeria.</li> </ol>
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**AFRICAN MUSIC FOR THE CLASSICAL GUITAR**

**ORIGINAL WORKS**

- 01 Mo Sono Ninu Eto Mi (Lost In My Thoughts)
- 02 Nigbati Iya Mi Ba Rinin (When My Mother Laughs)
- 03 Alé kúná (Night Of Comfort)
- 04 Omjé Ipinjá (Tears For The Departed)
- 05 Igbayinji Mi Lára Ni Ima (My Quest For Knowledge)
- 06 Ila Oorun Ni Ila Adulawo (Sunrise In Africa)
- 07 Ie Ara Eni Lori Oke Olumo (Reflections On Olumo Rock)
- 08 Igbádún Iyan (Pounded Yam Fantasy)
- 09 Birthday Romance For My Love
- 10 Taja (Crown)
- 11 Ninú Aná Mi (In My Yesterday)
- 12 Iá Awon Olushogba (Dance Of The Gardeners)
- 13 Ise Alafaa Ijo Wa (Supplications Of Our Priest)
- 14 Oja Irole Ni Ila Adulawo (Evening Market At Oshodi)
- 15 Ododo hana Ti Oso Agemo (Lily - The Flower of July)
- 16 Nocturne of the Broken Heart

**ARRANGEMENTS FOR GUITAR**  
Folk songs from Western Nigeria

- 17 Omo To Ma Iya Ro loju (Woe To The Child That Disobeys the Mother)
- 18 Orin Ibeji (Song For Twins)
- 19 Ope Lo Ye O (Thanks Be To You)

Folk songs from Eastern Nigeria

- 20 Akwukwo Na Tu Uto (Learning Is Sweet)

Folk songs from Southern Nigeria

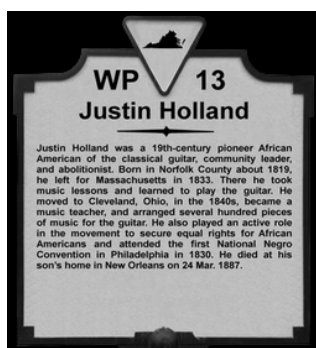
- 21 Dance of the Ijaw Fishermen
- 22 Ibiako (Do A Good Thing)

## Justin Holland (1819 - 1887) Guitar Works and Arrangements

### ***A Must Have Recording!!!***

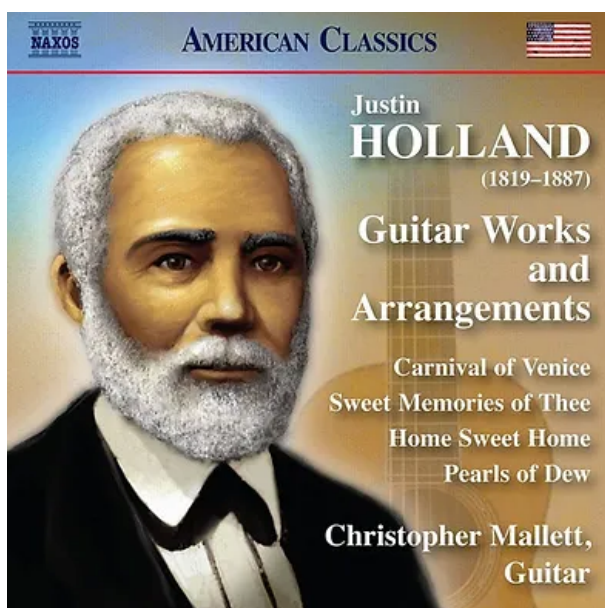
Naxos Records is releasing an album of music by Justin Holland (1819 - 1887). The recording artist is Christopher Mallett. This recording will be available on February 10, but can be pre-ordered currently on Spotify, Apple Music, Deezer and Amazon.com.

If you are not familiar with Justin Holland, he was born in Virginia. He even has an historical marker in Norfolk County. It reads...



*Justin Holland was a 19th-century pioneer African American of the classical guitar, community leader, and abolitionist. Born in Norfolk County about 1819, he left for Massachusetts in 1833. There he took music lessons and learned to play the guitar. He moved to Cleveland, Ohio, in the 1840s, became a music teacher, and arranged several hundred pieces of music for the guitar. He also played an active role in the movement to secure equal rights for African Americans and attended the first National Negro Convention in Philadelphia in 1830. He died at his son's home in New Orleans on 24 Mar. 1887.*

Several of Justin Holland's publications are available online from the Library of Congress at this link:  
<https://www.loc.gov/search/?in=&q=Justin+Holland&new=true>



For more information about this recording, go to:  
<https://www.christophermallett.com/justin-holland>

## Honoring Jerry Snyder - Shhh... it's a secret

*A letter from Bill Swick*

Dear Guitar Educators,

*I have been asked to contact as many guitar educators as possible for a very specific request. Well known guitarist and author Jerry Snyder will be honored by his community on March 4. I have been asked to present Jerry with a notebook of well wishes and letters of appreciation from as many guitar educators as possible in the little time there is between now and then.*

*This is all being done in secret, so please do not contact Jerry. Instead, please deal directly with me for all communications.*

*In 1968, Jerry started a guitar program at Piedmont High School in San Jose, CA. His program was so popular, that the following year, Snyder helped start guitar programs in twelve more schools in the San Jose area. Jerry was doing this at a time when there was literally no support or published materials for secondary guitar programs. Jerry started writing materials and made it much easier for future guitar teachers with his Jerry Snyder's Guitar School, Method Books 1 and 2 which have been in print for over twenty-five years.*

*In addition to Jerry's foresight into guitar education in the schools, in 1973, he was also one of the founding fathers for the Guitar Foundation of America which was originally sponsored by the American String Teachers Association.*

*Since retiring from public school teaching, Jerry started the South Bay Guitar Festival which is held annually in San Jose. The guitar community in the area has decided to honor Jerry by changing the name of the festival to the Jerry Snyder Guitar Festival. (This is the part that Jerry knows nothing about, and we would like to keep quiet.)*

*Many of you know Jerry personally. Some of you may not know Jerry at all. If you are directly involved in teaching guitar in public school, there are at least 7 (or less) degrees of separation between you and Jerry Snyder.*

*I am contacting you for two reasons. 1) I would like for you to write a brief letter to Jerry, and 2) Would like you to contact others in your state or community that you know and request they do the same.*

*Your letter may be one or more paragraphs congratulating Jerry on his recognition for his contributions to guitar education. If you have a letter head, please put your letter on that, create a PDF, and send it to me at [Bill@BillSwick.com](mailto:Bill@BillSwick.com). If you do not have a letterhead, send your response as an email to the same address. I will collect them and put them in a notebook to be presented to Jerry on March 4. I would like to see letters from educators from as many states as possible and of course from as many guitar educators as possible.*

*I have also created and attached another letter for your convenience to send to guitar teachers in your state and circle with the hopes of expanding the number of responses.*

*Thank you in advance for recognizing one of our true pioneers in guitar education.*

Very best,

Bill Swick



Dr. Sean Beavers presents: *How do you teach a guitar class?*

Photo: Art Pittman



Dr. Jackie Secoy presents: *Approaches to Using Ukulele with Elementary and Middle School General Music Classes.*

Photo: Art Pittman



Ready for the Ukulele Flash Mob!

Photo: Art Pittman



Matt Trykula presents: *How Do I Know What to Teach These Kids? A Survey of Classroom Guitar Methods*

Photo: Art Pittman

## Drink Coffee and Support the VGDA!

The VGDA has partnered with Acoustic Coffee in a fundraising campaign to support VGDA events statewide. If you like great coffee and you'd like to support us in supporting guitar educators and students, please consider a subscription to Acoustic Coffee!

Just go <https://www.acoustic.coffee/> , place your order in the cart and select the **Virginia Guitar Directors Association** as the charity that you wish to support! VGDA will receive \$1 for every bag purchased.

Enjoy great coffee & help support  
this amazing program



Select this code when you sign up  
and make your purchase to  
help this great program!

Virginia Guitar Director's Association

[www.acoustic.coffee](http://www.acoustic.coffee)



**Raise \$1.00 for every bag sold online.**

Acoustic Coffee Company will donate \$1.00 for every bag sold online to the Virginia Guitar Director's Association using the code above. Create a subscription and we'll donate a dollar per bag (of any coffee) for the life of your subscription!



Coffee that empowers the makers of music™



## The 2023 VMEA Professional Development Conference will be from November 16 - 18.

*Here are a few dates to watch for...*

**February** - Hotel Registration is open at the Richmond Hilton and Marriott

**February - April 28:** Session Proposal Window window will be open on the VMEA Website soon. If you are interested in presenting a session at the conference, please do not hesitate to submit your proposal! If you know of a wonderful presenter for guitar education, please encourage them to submit.

**March 1 - April 28:** Performance Application window will be open. It would be nice to have some guitar ensembles perform!

Watch the VMEA website for details as they are posted!

<https://www.vmea.com/copy-of-vmea-conference>



Council for  
Guitar Education

## Opportunities for Students and Teachers

**February 22 at 8 pm (EST) - NAfME Council for Guitar Education Town Hall:** Members of the NAfME Council for Guitar Education Executive Committee will be on hand to answer your questions related to guitar performance, technique and everything else related to guitar! Come join us and connect with fellow music educators from around the U.S. The Guitar Council looks forward to your participation. Click here to register: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/8121222222>

**April 28 - 29 - Radford University International Guitar Festival:** High School, Secondary School and Middle school ensembles are invited to the RU International Guitar Festival to perform on stage and receive workshop/masterclasses and attend all concerts, and workshops **FREE!** Artists are: Jorge Caballero, Akerman/Teixeira Duo, Maharajah Flamenco Trio, Mesut Ozgen. FREE Registration through email to: [rstrent@radford.edu](mailto:rstrent@radford.edu). Reply by 5:00PM, February 28<sup>th</sup>.

**June 19 - 24 - The Bridge: GFA's Teen Academy.** The Bridge is an immersive camp experience for guitarists ages 11–18 that takes place during the annual GFA convention, where young musicians can perform, learn, and socialize with their peers and with world famous GFA artists. For more information, click here: <https://www.guitarfoundation.org/page/TheBridge2023>

**Summer 2023 - Teach Guitar Workshops.** If you find yourself assigned to teach guitar and you don't know where to start, this is for you! Multiple locations across the US. For more information, click here: <https://www.guitaredunet.org/>

**August 1 - 3 -ACGS Teacher Training.** With tracks for non-guitarist music educators, guitarists new to classroom education, and experienced guitar instructors seeking fresh ideas and networking opportunities, this 16-hour three day training session in Austin TX may be for you! For more information, click here: <https://www.austinclassicalguitar.org/teacher-training/>

# AFRICA

By Toto  
Arr. by Alan Hirsh

Over the last three years the Virtual Guitar Orchestra (VGO) has produced some amazing videos showcasing All-State and Honors Guitar Ensembles across the country as part of its MEA project. These video projects (supported by the Augustine Foundation) played an important role during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic and continue to serve as an advocacy tool for music education.

Virginia students were able to participate in our first Regional Guitar Ensemble, our 2021 All-Virginia Guitar Ensemble and the 2020 and 2021 NAFME National Honors Guitar Ensembles. The VGO is now producing Regional Ensemble videos. Participating states include Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, South Carolina and Virginia. Students do not have to have been in an All-State, Regional or District event in order to participate. This is open to all who are interested.

All the information & music that you and your students need is available at:  
<https://virtualguitarorchestra.com/vgo23/southeast>

VMEA 2021 North Regional Guitar Ensemble  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jN6wSLYj81Q>

2021 All-Virginia Guitar Ensemble  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BikE8oqR0ik>



## Southeast Regional VGO

Application Deadline: **May 31**

2020 NAFME All-National Honor Guitar Ensemble  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5FcGepnw0CA>

Made possible by

2021 NAFME All-National Honor Guitar Ensemble  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gl4U6rCi1Po>

