



NEWS

VGDA Events Moving Forward!



Dear Guitar Gurus,

It is so exciting to see our VGDA events in action. March witnessed the first High School District Guitar Ensemble and Assessments in District 16. April will see Middle School District Assessments and Ensemble in District 16 and High School Assessments in Districts 1 and 3. Districts 10, 11 and 12 will finish the year with High School Assessments and Ensemble.

So far so good! Thank you to all the hosts, chairs and reps who are making things happen!

*Matthew Denman
rehearsing the District
16 Guitar Ensemble.*

VMEA Conference Session Proposals Deadline April 28

We were so fortunate to have such wonderful sessions at the 2022 VMEA Conference in Richmond. Let's keep that up! If you have something meaningful to share with your colleagues, submit a proposal to present a session. If you have seen a great guitar session at another event, consider reaching out to that presenter with submission information.



*Matthew Denman signs autographs for District 16
Guitar Ensemble Students.*

Be sure to read all the submission information on the VMEA website before starting your application. Here is the info you will need to have organized before filling out the form:
https://www.vmea.com/files/ugd/d1062c_808f8e167a7346d58c5d4c3eda4c45b4.pdf

When you are ready to fill out the application, go to this link:
<https://form.jotform.com/230366541713048>

VMEA Conference Performance Application Information

Do you have a Middle School, High School or College Guitar Ensemble? Consider applying to have your group perform at the conference. Here are all the detail:

https://www.vmea.com/files/ugd/d1062c_65da58d8979644a8b19e57eb444ba18a.pdf

VMEA Conference Info

All conference information, including session proposals and performance applications can be found at: <https://www.vmea.com/vmeaconference2023>

Participate in Guitar Education Research Get a \$100 Amazon Gift Card!

A Letter from Christopher Mercado

Hello, my name is Christopher Mercado, and I am a doctoral student at National University. I am conducting a research study to examine the instructional experiences of high school guitar teachers who received little or no guitar education from their university degree program. I also seek to understand how these teachers believe their instructional experiences have been impacted by their minimal training.

I am recruiting individuals who meet all these criteria:

1. Hold a current teaching license in Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Delaware, Pennsylvania, or DC.
2. Currently teaching in a public high school in the above states/DC.
3. Currently teaching at least one beginning-level guitar class.
4. A holder of an undergraduate degree from a university music education program.
5. Received three or fewer credits in university courses that were primarily dedicated to teaching them how to teach guitar in a classroom setting.
 - Any credits from classes that were not directly focused on guitar but that may have had applicable skills to classroom guitar instruction do not count toward the three or fewer credits criteria.
 - Supplemental guitar lessons as a part of the university program do not count toward the three or fewer credits criteria.

If you decide to participate in this study, you will be asked to do the following activities:

1. Complete an in-person or virtual one-hour interview at a mutually agreed upon time.
2. Teach one lesson while observed in-person.
3. Share at least one class document with me to view.
4. Complete a follow-up discussion to verify that all interview and observation findings are represented accurately in the research.

During these activities, you will be asked questions about:

- The training you received in college related specifically to teaching classroom guitar.
- Your perceptions on how your preparation impacted your experiences teaching classroom guitar.
- The curriculum and resources you use to teach guitar in your classroom.
- The processes you use to prepare, execute, and reflect on your lessons.
- Growth you have experienced as a teacher over your time teaching guitar.

Participants in this study will receive a \$100 Amazon gift card via email after the follow-up discussions.

If you are interested in participating in this study, please contact me at c.mercado6571@o365.ncu.edu

Thank you!
Christopher Mercado
National University

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



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 opened 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>

Opportunities for Students and Teachers

April 28 - 29 - Radford University International Guitar Festival

Masterclasses and concerts: Jorge Caballero, Maharajah Flamenco Trio, Akerman/Teixeira Guitar Duo, Mesut Ozgen.

- Guitar Ensembles Showcase (final opportunity for Guitar ensembles to perform and receive a state-of-the-art recording)
- Vendor/ Luthier Fair

ADMISSION: ALL EVENTS FREE

Contact: Dr. Robert Trent, Director of Guitar Studies – rstrent@radford.edu

Weblink: <https://www.radford.edu/content/cvpa/home/music/about-the-department/festivals/international-guitar.html>

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>

