



I. David Leisner

Breathing and the Guitar

Since we are not singers or wind players, guitarists rarely think much about breathing while playing the guitar. But in fact, how one breathes affects all aspects of playing, from technical ease to phrasing to eliminating unwanted tension in the body. This presentation will cover how to breathe correctly and then how to apply this knowledge in different ways to practicing and performing.

David Leisner's career began auspiciously with top prizes in both the 1975 Toronto and 1981 Geneva International Guitar Competitions. His recent seasons have taken him around the US, including his solo debut with the Atlanta Symphony, a major tour of Australia and New Zealand, and debuts and reappearances in China, Japan, the Philippines, Germany, Hungary, Switzerland, Austria, Denmark, Sweden, Ireland, the UK, Italy, Czech Republic, Greece, Puerto Rico and Mexico. An innovative three-concert series at Weill Recital Hall in Carnegie Hall included the first all-Bach guitar recital in New York's history. He is currently Artistic Director of Guitar Plus, a New York series devoted to chamber music with the guitar.

A featured recording artist for Azica Records, Leisner has released nine highly acclaimed CDs. He is also a highly respected composer noted for the emotional and dramatic power of his music. Recordings of his works are available on the Sony Classical, ABC, Dorian, Azica, Cedille, Centaur, Town Hall, Signum, Acoustic Music, Athena and Barking Dogs labels. His compositions are mostly published by Merion Music/Theodore Presser Co., as well as AMP/G, Schirmer, Doberman-Yppan and Columbia Music.

David Leisner has been a member of the guitar faculty at the Manhattan School of Music since 1993. He taught at the New England Conservatory from 1980 to 2003. Primarily self-taught as both guitarist and composer, he briefly studied guitar with John Duarte, David Starobin and Angelo Gilardino and composition with Richard Winslow, Virgil Thomson, Charles Turner and David Del Tredici. His book, *Playing with Ease: A Healthy Approach to Guitar Technique*, published by Oxford University Press, has received extraordinary acclaim.

II. Open Mic

Benjamin Prud'homme

Prelude from Prelude, Fugue and Allegro, BWV 998
Andante from Violin Sonata No. 2, BWV 1003

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

William Simcoe & Elisabeth Williams

Al Peregrino

Jose Luis Merlin (b. 1952)