

Photos by Megan Wyeth Interviews documented by Anthony Glise

Includes CD Recording of Select Instruments

Surreal Photos and Interviews with Guitars from the Last 200 Years



collection of surreal photos and interviews with guitars by famed US-born photographer Megan Wyeth and classical guitarist, composer & author, Anthony Glise.

The guitars speak – and speak clearly to anyone who takes the time to listen and you may not know it – yet – but you're not that different from them

— because in the words of the guitar Antonella,

"... after all you, me, and the rest of us...? ...we're only human."





Portraits by Megan Wyeth Interviews documented by Anthony Glise

Surreal Portraits and Interviews with Guitars from the Last 200 Years



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Dedicated to our families and friends...

SOME FLESH AND BONE, SOME WOOD AND GLUE.

— Megan & Anthony —

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Foreword -

I love the idea of "reincarnated voices" of the instruments talking to us "in the now." Very uplifting, ancient and justified. *Beautiful* pictures by the madam! You have my blessings for your book. It's a gem!

Ian Akkerman **Dutch Rock Guitar Legend** Former lead guitarist with "Focus"

After reading this unexpectedly unique book, I realized I was able to add my human words to the language I was reading as "Guitar."

Before this book existed, I thought guitars were only "gently weeping." But after reading it, I decided to listen in a different way to each note my guitar "said." And it appears Anthony is definitely correct: my guitar speaks. In a weird mix of French and "Guitar" but she definitely speaks! And I'm honored to be her current "person."

This book is not only a wonderful source of information about old and precious instruments, but a true piece of art.

Bravo to Anthony for his unusual and clever contribution to classical guitar literature and to the talented photographer, Megan Wyeth, for her photography!

Roland Dyens Classical Guitarist and Composer, Professor. Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Paris - France

What a beautiful book, and what a beautiful idea for a book! As musicians, we expect our favorite instruments to "speak" to us, but sometimes we have to listen more carefully to truly hear all that they can tell us.

The "old-timers," especially, often have extraordinary personal histories of travel, purpose, performance, and sometimes neglect and rebirth.

Frank Koonce

Professor of Music, Arizona State University

> We enjoyed the originality of your approach to the book and the photos are beautiful. We wish you lots of success! Best wishes. David and María Russell

It strikes a chord... **Classical Guitarist & Recording Artist**

Ioel Cohen Music Director Emeritus. The Boston Camerata

A touching book.

or several.

This is an unusual yet captivating read. I love the photography and the interesting text. However, what really intrigued me was the extremely creative use of type. A pleasure to peruse!

> William Bau Chairman of the Board, Mel Bay Publications

What a delightful suite of surprises! Thank you both for giving voice, vision, and character to these lovely instruments.

Thomas Heck, Ph.D. Founding Member, **Guitar Foundation of America**

This is a delicate, beautiful and original book in which guitars are really the protagonists, and they not only give us their sound, but also their feelings and thoughts.

Amalia Ramírez de Galarreta Owner, Ramírez Guitar Company – Madrid, Spain

I enjoyed Mr. Glise's playful personification of these instruments by these great guitar luthiers, particularly since I myself do not attach any personification to my instruments. It is a light-hearted and fun read, and the photographs by Ms. Wyeth are really great.

Iason Vieaux

Classical Guitarist Faculty, Curtis Institute of Music, **Cleveland Institute of Music** Youngest 1st Prize Winner, GFA Competition (1992)

> I have been privileged to hear these guitars in person and in the hands of Maestro Glise, they truly have stories to tell — just listen?

> > Tom Ransom Recording Producer, CEO, Ransomed Productions. Ltd.

As musicians, we never own the instruments we play, we are merely their caretakers over our lifespan. In their wonderfully surprising new book, I Speak, Megan and Anthony have documented not only how their beloved instruments have matured during their "watch," but how these instruments have in turn transformed them as musicians and artists.

One can only hope that the future caretakers of our instruments will be as observant and considerate.

Ben Verdery Classical Guitarist & Recording Artist, Chair, Guitar Department, Yale University

"Anthony and Megan have created a charming book about the outward shapes and inner lives of guitars. Beautifully photographed, artfully designed, and sensitively written, this book uses exquisite images and imaginative monologues (really, brief prose poems) to grasp the unique personality of each instrument.

Some of the guitars here are brash, some are meditative, and one has been so traumatized, she is all but mute. Yet each piece, each instrument, offers us a distinct perspective on music, history, experience. It's a pleasure to see and to listen to them all."

Glenn Kurtz, author of "Practicing: A Musician's Return to Music"

Encounters of a highly original kind, Anthony brings us the historical, emotional and humoristic sides of his faithful companions. Meagan's pictures artistically reveal "les coins cachés" of each instrument! Listen, admire and enjoy!

Ken Sugita Concert Violinist-French National Orchestra-Lille

PREFACE —

Far from the ubiquitous documentaries of guitars, the gallery exhibition and book, *I Speak* is about some of my dearest friends; the experiences, quirks, joys and sorrows of their lives:

- the rage at watching Napoléon's attack of Vienna,
- -the fear of being left in a 19th-Century barbershop,
- *—the quiet joy of being a mother,*
- -the nervous excitement of playing in Carnegie Hall,
- -and the terrified disgust at the Nazi rampage through the city streets during "Kristalnacht."

After long discussions with the guitars, Megan's photos captured these personalities.

Some of them (particularly the females) were *quite* insistent on only allowing photos that showed their best features: erotic curves, sensual complexions or flowing neck lines, while some (mostly the males) were adamant on touting their battle scars and bravura.

My interviews with them became very personal and surprisingly confidential *exposés* that can only happen when a guitar feels comfortable enough to let down the defenses and speak openly

...(a trait that is irrationally threatening to many of us!).

Some of the instruments were quietly reserved - waiting patiently for (*as they call us*) "their Person" to have them repaired so they can sing again.

Others are active concert or recording artists whose pride, confidence and ego were all but impossible to contain!

They speak

- and speak clearly to anyone who has the patience to listen carefully as Megan and I have done
- as perhaps we should all do with each other -

because, as the guitar "Antonella" gently reminds us in her interview,



Anthony Glise Sainghin-en-Mélantois, France Winter, 2012

Megan Wyeth —

- studied with Ansel Adams (from age 18 19)
- additional studies with Arnold Newman
- workshops including Sante Fe Photographic Workshops, Society for Contemporary Photography, Kansas City Art Institute
- arts outreach and educational programs
- solo exhibits throughout the US
- 4 featured books of photography
- mediums including alternative processes, polaroid transfer & diverse subject matter
- contributor to numerous books, publications and exhibitions

further details at www.MeganWyeth.com



Biographies — full bios on page 80



- Anthony Glise • over 60 books and musical editions

 over 60 books and musical editions
 only American guitarist to win 1st Prize, International Toscanini Competition (Italy)
 concerts at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Vienna International Center, Nouveau Siècle (French National Orchestra) et al
 recordings for Dorian Recordings, Young Recording Artists (US), AME (France) and HEM (Hungary)
 30-year veteran duo partner with violinist, Ken Sugita, French National Orchestra-Lille (THE SUGITA/GLISE DUO)
 heads guitar program at the University of Missouri-Columbia (US)

further details at www.AnthonyGlise.com

Portraits & Interviews

Gottlieb Fischer Named "Michael" (born ca. 1802) Vienna, Austria

I Remember Praying

that I would find my Person and you know, honest prayers *are* answered...

•••BUT IT'S THE SMELL OF WALNUTS I REMEMBER MOST.

Back in my day, they'd crush the walnut husks, boil them down and the barber would spread the thick mixture over men's hair to hide the gray.

> You might laugh at that *NOW*, but it's no stranger than some of the things **YOU** people do today:

```
facelifts...?
```

```
hair implants...?
```

Come now... I'm sorry, but I would have thought that the prid¢ and ¢30 of you people might have settled just a *little* through the years,

BUT I SUPPOSE WE ALL WANT TO MAKE OURSELVES MORE ATTRACTIVE, no?

And my **piercing**? It's really no worse than getting a pierced ear, you know? **Not a big deal.** *A lot of us had them back then.*

They would make a hole in our head stock

our head stock at the top so they could hang us by a ribbon from a hook set deeply in a wall...

WHICH I MUST ADMIT, WAS QUITE PRACTICAL!

Some of us were hung in *cafés,* some in bars... some of us - LIKE ME -

were hung on the walls of a **BARBERSHOP** *- just left there -*



 hanging - until a customer, tired of waiting to have his face scraped with a nearly sharp razor,
 would look up and notice.



I REMEMBER WHEN IT FIRST HAPPENED TO ME.

My Person took me straight to his barbershop and hung me with my back against the cold wall

> where I stayed for two days.

Alone. – Quiet – I wasn't MADE to be quiet, you know?



AND a little frightened

just hanging there by the ribbon.

Then it happened.



A **fat** man he was - with gray hair (and honestly, so *little* hair that I wondered why he was in a barbershop!)

but he must have been tired of waiting for his shave or maybe he was waiting to have his hair colored dark brown with the rich walnut oil.

I REALLY DON'T RECALL.

He kept looking at me during a rant about the price of eggs. Finally - slowly -

the conversation lagged — and he stood up.

He walked toward me and plucked me from the wall.

He had such a friendly smile!

He sat with me, held me close and strummed a few chords. *Nothing profound, you know?*

Just some Alpine folk song,

but it felt so good to *Sing* and I could *tell* he had played before and even as simple as his song was, *everyone* in the barbershop stopped

for a momentsilence...

They <u>listened</u>. He let me sing — and everyone *smiled*. back on the wall

Then he carefully hung me

They turned LOUD again; talking, laughing - waiting -

for their turn to be shaved, or clipped, or have their gray hair colored so that their

gírlfríends, WIVES/ OR *WVES*/

might think them more

attractive.

Funny...

I wonder if any of them realized that ALL they needed to do

. was to hold me – SINS with me...

and it would have made them

just as attractive to their women...?



Isn't it strange?

When we sing, we are *all*

-every one of us-

more beautiful!

And wasn't it St. Augustine who said, "he who sings, prays twice"?

So there you have it... it's no wonder my prayers were answered. They were HONEST prayers — AND I sing.

But all that aside...



••••IT'S THE SMELL OF THE WALNUTS THAT I REMEMBER MOST.

Anonymous Named "Constance" (born ca. 1814) Vienna, Austria [?]

Many of you think of us as *women* and, like me,

many of us *are* female.

It's not *vanity*, I suppose it's the *shape* the long slender neck AND graceful figure –

but of course without the need of a **BRA** or those **"CONTROL-TOP PANTY-HOSE"**

that so many of you think are necessary to keep your fleshy bumps contained.

No —

Our *figure* is just part of who we are, and <u>we</u> ACCEPT it

...which perhaps is something you might learn from us, eh?

I **can** be a little testy sometimes -

maybe that goes with my gender.



— BUT I <u>really</u> don't care —

If you don't treat me right, I simply won't react the way you expect - OR WANT -

but if you hold me gently, caress me, tease me (вит NOT TOO MUCH), I'll let you coax ANY sound out of me that I have to give.

Giving is why we were ALL made, you know?

I'M NOT SO DIFFERENT FROM YOU.

You love,

AND GIVE THE WORLD

children

who eventually leave you to start that cycle all over again.







that SOUND leaves me, takes on it's own life, and touches someone else.

You see ...?

we're not so different...

except, of course,

for that **ABSURDITY** of your undergarments!





GIOACHINO GIUSSANI NAMED "SIRIUS" (BORN 1996) Anghiari, Arezzo, Italy



My little brother was made only for concerts.

He's **LOUD** - most little brothers are, you know?

Blusterous —

and sometimes a little out of control.

Me?

I was made <u>only</u> for recording.

Of course I'm beautiful enough to catch your eye on stage,

but I'm a bit like a quiet, *exquísite* painting,





hung in the dark sacristy of an old church.

A painting that only the priest sees each Sunday as he slowly, meticulously, prepares for mass.

Almost no one has EVER seen me and frankly...

I DON'T CARE.

Stage lights blind me, I <u>don't</u> like crowds

— AND —

being tucked away in a flight case so some

<u>idiot</u> baggage handler doesn't destroy me on the way to the next concert,



I'm a bit introverted and I won't FORCE my ideas on anyone, but if you know how to talk with me, I'll give you *any* sound you want.

<u>ANY</u> SOUND.

With the *slightest* tip of the right hand I can give you a *totally* different color on *every* single note, in *every* single position,

WELL

claustrophob

and my volume is *perfectly* balanced for the most *Sensitive* microphone. MY PERSON'S PRODUCER *LOVES* ME FOR THAT!

My strings are set very low,

SO YOU CAN'T OVERPLAY ME LIKE YOU CAN WITH A CONCERT GUITAR.

You see?

I was made for Color and you'll *never* find me on stage, but you can hear me sing on recordings

and sometimes a radio or television show.



<u>*That's*</u> my rôle—and let me tell *YOU* something,

ising - and I do it well!

Anton Fischer [?] Named "Christoph" (born ca. 1820's) Vienna, Austria

- NATURALLY

I don't recall when I was born, any more than **YOU** remember that moment when you fell from grace —

thrust from your mum's tummy into a world of bright lights, cold hard air and a room full of impossibly fill strangers, POKING AND PRODDING to make sure your entrance onto this stage of life would be as safe as possible.

There's SO much I don't remember,



BUT I'D WAGER YOU'VE FORGOTTEN A LOT TOO, NO? My head, body and braces were carved *perfectly*. My sides and back are maple a bit unstable, but *beautiful!*

They were cut, shaved, steamed, bent and set with a spruce top so not a *seam* would show.

Absolutely perfect!

The fretting jarred me a little carefully pounding the strips of German silver into my fingerboard at just the right places so I would play in tune;

BUT OUR FRETTING IS PROBABLY NO DIFFERENT THAN YOU GETTING YOUR FIRST SHOT AT THE DOCTOR'S OFFICE.

> WE ALL SURVIVE THOSE LITTLE JABS OF LIFE, DON'T WE?



I remember the lacquer was **warm** when my Maker spread it over me;

that was my favorite! It was *comforting* - I suppose like the embryonic fluid washing over you during *your* birth

...which I bet you don't remember either.

ISN'T IT SAD THAT WE'VE FORGOTTEN ALL THAT ? ...THE "BIRTH ?" But those memories, ABANDONED ON UTERINE SHORES,

don't diminish the joy that the others must have felt to be in the room when we made our debut

> - and that merciful amnesia *certainly* doesn't negate the miracle of our existence!





AND WE'VE ALL FORGOTTEN.

Now, as I said, maple is *beautiful* but unstable; "...*the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak*," and all that.

Your blondes Sunburn easily, some of you have bad teeth and some of you need glasses.

WE'RE ALL PREDISPOSED

TO A FRAGILITY THRUST ON US BY AGE.

I have maple sides and back - with so many curls in the grain, and at every *CUFC*, the wood is weaker and has the potential to crack... and I did, _{BUT FACE IT}...

how do you think YOU'RE going to look in 200 years? LIKE YOU — I'll be fixed someday when my Person has the time and money.

I'll go through a rebirth.

Probably not as traumatic as the first one, but I'll remember it *all* next time,

just as surely as you'll remember your gentle passing

from this life,



to the next.
Hermann Hauser, Jr. Named "Wilhelm" (born 1971) Munich, Germany

THERE IS SO MUCH TALK ABOUT FOREIGNERS TODAY!

This group is welcome, this one isn't;

this one fits in, this one doesn't;

this one's a different color;

this one has a different religion, eats strange food AND

...this one doesn't speak English... fike 608 Soes...!

I SOMEHOW THINK THE ALMIGHTY CAN MANAGE DIFFERENT VERB CONJUGATIONS — ACCENTS —



and my heavy German dialect.

Quatsch... Nonsense...

Have you forgotten that Jesus himself was multi-lingual ? — Hebrew — Aramaic — even some Greek. He was probably quite dark, middle-eastern looking

AND...

Jesus didn't fit in.

Immigration versus integration?

That's absurd.

YOU want to know what a FOREIGNER is?

It's someone brave enough to leave everything they ever knew and loved.

> Someone who had the courage to leave a father and mother to try and find something different - better -

and *Yes,* I did it and *no,* I didn't "fit in."

It's easy to forget that countries are renewed by people who left, or

were kicked out of every other decent country on earth —— and it's easy to forget that



CONSERVATIVES WORSHIP DEAD RADICALS.

I have a light colored spruce top – VERY unpopular at the time!

I'm German (Spanish guitars were <u>much</u> more welcomed back then) **and** I didn't speak the language: cedar tops have a rich, dark tone color that most guitars spoke back then, but cedars can mask the subtly of a phrase. Spruces like me speak clearly - distinctly but with an accent.

Still, in my day, CEDARS were the "accepted" foreigners. The spruces, like me?

I might as well have been made out of plywood.

Yes, I'm PROUD of my heritage, but at the same time I'm PROUD of my *new* home. *Most* foreigners feel like that.

Your grandfather or great grandfather knew that, AND IF YOU'VE FORGOTTEN, I think it's a little sad.

Our past is part of who we all are. Our past is part of the glorious diversity that we bring to every new home that we claim as our own

...but Mench,

NOW AND THEN... I *do* miss a good dunkles Weizen Bavarian beer!



Kenny Hill Named "Jayden" (born 2009) Ben Lomond, USA

OK So what **NOW**? Let's get moving, OK? YEAH!



I think we should do a concert like - just CALL somebody! Now, ok? Really!

I MEAN NOW – I REALLY want to do a concert!

Hey - I wanna play in *Carnegie Hall*, OK? Let's **do** it, OK?

...and that scale let's get that *happenin'* Faster - just speed up - it's cool -

I can take it!

Just D0 it, ok? Come on! Yeah! YEAH!!!

Uh... arpeggios...??? Wanna do some arpeggios? Let's do some arpeggios !!! I love arpeggios! REALLY luv'em!

They $t_{i}^{*}c_{k}^{*}[e, ya know?]$



F-sharp! Man! Check - it - **OUT**! I *love* that note! Listen to my *F-sharp*!!!

Man, have I got a *killer* F-sharp or <u>WHAT ???</u>

Oh, OH... check THIS out! Check out my **E major chord !** You *ever* heard an E Major chord





Man, I am ON!!!!



BUMMER.

Franz Herzlieb, Sr. Named "Alma" (born ca. 1817) Graz, Austria

I<u>AM</u>a special one!

Of course we *all* feel like that. but you can tell how much an old lady like me was appreciated with one little glance at my fingerboard!

Some of us

sang with professionals and our frets wore evenly up and down the neck,

but not me!

My Person only knew a few chords

down in first position.



That's where I show *my* age.

You can see, where thousands of times, she would play a G chord, a D, or an A

(every once in a while she'd try that B minor chord... but bar chords ALWAYS gave her trouble!).

No... almost everything *we* sang was in first position - and my frets show that love - *but only there*.

Further up my neck, I'm just as *pristine* as the DAY I was born!



I'M LIKE AN OLD GRANDMOTHER WHOSE HANDS, through the years, HAVE STARTED TO SHOW THE INDISCRIMINATE SEVERITIES OF LIFE:

...the terror of watching a brother go off to war...

... OR JUST THE DAILY "...gott'a get dinner ready by 8 o'clock!"

Hands mercilessly show the age with you all, but forget the hands;

that same wrinkled old grandmother can have the blissful smile of a 5 year old:

- Joright - OYFUL ----

unscathed by the anger, fear, or just the tedious aspects of "living" that eventually wear us **ALL** down.

...rocking a fragile child with a fever that won't break



Some of my frets still glisten like new some are worn but deep inside, I Shine.

Lord... I shine! That, my dear, is what makes us all special. No? I hope you shine today. I <u>really</u> do!



Now, wouldn't that be nice?

Karl Höfner Named "Daniel" (born 1968) Bubenreuth, Germany

- My first Person thought that if he simply

bought that if he simply *bought* me, he could *play* me.

IF YOU PRACTICE NOTHING

IS WHAT YOU GET BACK... That happens to a lot of us...

-NOTHING

There's no **Magic Wand**, no **DEEP DARK SECRETS**, and I certainly can't play myself.

You can play only after you've earned the RIGHT to play and that right comes ONLY by work. I was orphaned a few months after my first Person took me home.

Shut away in my case

> in a closet until *that* got too full and I was cloistered on the back porch.

Over a year in the sun, rain, snow...

> You have a lot of time to think when you're all alone in the dark, BUT SOLITUDE can teach a host of virtues:

- you can rarely be proud when you're alone,

> -you can't argue with anyone when you're alone,

- you learn your own voice is not *nearly* as interesting as another's

and - BEING ALONE -IS <u>NOT</u> THE SAME AS BEING LONELY.

Eventually, even my tiny space on the porch was too much.

I was listed for sale and my new Person found me from that newspaper ad.

FRANKLY - I THINK HE BOUGHT ME OUT OF PITY -

but I've done the best I can for him since he took me home.

We sing all different styles a little classical, jazz, folk, rock... and he uses me when he composes.

You see...?

Patience is the salve of sorrow and Work, the tool of success.

I had *patience* my new Person *works* -

and

I'm home now — I **sing** now.

My finish cracked horribly from the elements in those early years, *but you know something...?* I hopestly don't *want*.

I honestly don't *want* to be refinished.



NOT ONE OF US is perfect and every one of our flaws is a reticent manifesto of how good life CAN be.



I love my imperfections...

EVERY crack in my finish is truly a hairline furrow in a secluded path that led me

to my <u>new</u> Person.

GIOACHINO GIUSSANI NAMED "ELDAMAR" (born 1998) Anghiari, Arezzo, Italy

Life... is a series of concert premieres.

That's all it is and my first was **MONUMENTAL.**



that everyone in the concert hall knew they were going to hear something *AMAZING*.

<u>Naturally</u>

I was a bit nervous, but I was old enough to know - and wise enough to trust -

that my Person **knew** what he was doing, and, I must say, we *were* well prepared.

We went out into the warmth of the stage lights with *such* confidence



A few pieces by Bach (I've always loved Bach!),

some Giuliani, Tárrega, and one of my Person's original pieces called *Dream Scenes;*

a <i>strange</i> piece, but fun!	 It was a good concert - <u>SOLID</u> - AND we've done so many since —

but somehow... each concert is a premiere.

ALL of us have those "premières" throughout life, you know?

They can be <u>LITTLE</u> things...

the summer's first lick of your favorite ice cream while you're standing barefoot on a burning sidewalk;

When you watch the winter's first delicate snowflake meander through the air and perch

intentionally

on the edge of a tiny petal of the last rose of the season.



when I sing a fast scale and every note dances out of me *flawlessly*.

> MORE INTENTIONALLY THAN YOU HUMANS WOULD <u>EVER</u> BELIEVE!

or the feeling I get

from a fresh new set of strings being carefully tuned up to pitch.

Or they can be <u>BIG</u> things...

your very first day of school

when you're so excited you can barely catch your breath.

The moment when you realize

that you've just met your **one true love,**

or holding the hand of that person,

who has been with you

— FOR WHAT SEEMS LIKE ETERNITY —

as they quietly drift from this life

and you hear that final breath

- the last one that they will ever take

- peacefully leaving their body.

It's just a series of premieres

...isn't it?

Each one is

new,

exciting,

and sometimes

a little terrifying, **but I think that's OK.**

It's just part of the plan.



Your Great Maker knew that

— just as my Maker did —

so you might as well accept it.



AND THE ADRENALINE STILL TEARING THROUGH YOUR SOUL.

Each concert begins

- ENDS -

AND YOU MOVE ON TO THE NEXT

with the applause still ringing in your ears

Ferdinand Hell Named "Maria" (born ca. 1810's) Vienna, Austria



— Ferdinand Hell

[NEAR MUTE — GENDER: FEMALE]

A note from Anthony:



Ferdinand Hell was a highly respected Viennese maker in the early 19th-Century.

> Only a handful of his children still survive.



This young lady was horribly abused through the years and has been so emotionally damaged that she can barely speak.





The *only* words I could gently coax from her were,

"...some of your People will understand."



How we treat others can have <u>such</u> a profound effect on their lives.

WE NEED TO REMEMBER THIS.

José Ramírez Named "Diego Manuel Aurelio" (born 2008) Madrid, Spain

Lineage?

Old families, old money, the sins of the father to the sins of the son...? Sorry to break it to you.

It DOESN'T work like that.

We all have a past that we inherit and we all have to overcome both the good and bad of that fabricated curse.

 $J_{osé} \ R^{\text{My Maker is the great grandson of old}}$

We've lived for centuries in MADRID and there's probably not a classical guitarist alive who hasn't played one of my brothers or sisters and *everyone* knows our family tree. I remember stories of the **proud** young man who wandered into our shop asking to "rent" a guitar for a concert he had *that evening*.

The builders in the shop laughed... "a stupid request!"

Still, after listening to the young man play, my Maker was so amazed that he simply *GAVE* him the guitar!

That was the first time young Andrés Segovia played a Ramírez in concert!



BUT SO many others have been touched by my family:

Parkening, Williams, Pierri, Ghiglia, Masters, Kanengiser, Tennant, Russell, Presti, Vidović, Muñoz, Bream, Leisner, Akkerman, Avers, York, Pujol, Vieaux, Llobet, Gallagher, Dyens, Verdery, Gillardino, Barrueco, THE Assads, THE Romeros - Pepe & the whole family...

As I SAID, THERE'S NOT A PLAYER ALIVE WHO DOESN'T know our lineage, but you ask what I have to say about me

— and my family...?

You know,

sometimes there's not a lot to say because we just never take the time to notice!

Let me ask you -

What was your grandfather's favorite joke?

What did your mother cook the first time she made a meal for your father?

When was the first time you saw

your sister cry? ...your brother laugh? ...what was the very first song that you ever sang?
You see?

There are some things, so little, yet \$0 important and personal that they quietly

- discreetly -

become part of who we are but we don't ever pay enough attention at that moment to *realize* it!



I'M NOT FANCY, but I have a solid,

"real" sound, with bracing and structure like the old ones in my family.

I'm *PART* of that family - *but is that all I am?*

Yes - I have "Lineage" BUT I AM <u>SO</u> MUCH MORE!

> Like you, I am <u>ME</u>...

responsible for my *own* Lineage — my *own* glories — <u>AND</u> my own sins.

Johann Georg Staufer Named "Antonella" (born ca. 1800) Vienna, Austria

I'M PROUD THAT I SURVIVED. NOT WITHOUT A FEW SCARS, but by Mercy or by Grace, I survived it all.

Yes, I know, Pride is one of the "Seven Deadly Sins"

(and trust me, born in a country as **Gatholic** as Austria, you <u>learn</u> **Church Dogma!**)

but it's a little hard to not be proud when you've seen

- AND SURVIVED - all that I have.

There are only SIX like me still alive.

I have a sister who lives with her Person in $N \in W \searrow O R K$,

a brother still in



and the rest of my siblings are in museums all over the world.



AND ME...?

My Person lives part time in the U.S. and part time in France, so I travel quite a bit and of course we still do concerts

and recordings ...

UNLIKE THE SAD MUTE ONES WHO LIVE ON MUSEUM WALLS.

My Maker was one of the best – AND HE <u>TRAINED</u> SOME OF THE BEST: Bücher, Reisinger, even a young Maker named Martin who took a ship to build guitars in the *new* country.

 $Y_{\text{OU KNOW... THAT COMPANY}}_{\text{IS STILL MAKING GUITARS!}}$

My goodness!

My Maker invented the stell that goes through our necks to keep them straight.

He invented raised fingerboards for a young Italian guitarist

named Luigi Legnani

(although I'm older so I don't have that kind of fingerboard)

- AND -

my Maker invented tuners with GEARS

SO MY PERSON WOULDN'T HAVE TO MUCK ABOUT WITH TUNING PEGS LIKE ON A VIOLIN.

My Maker was brilliant and he made hundreds of us... but so few survived! ...so few of us survived...

I was 9 years old when Napoléon attacked Vienna. *I was there.*



Let me tell you, **THAT** was a terrifying night!

van Beethoven? - HE LIVED DOWN THE STREET FROM MY MAKER'S SHOP -

Old Ludwig had *idolized* Napoléon, but when the "LITTLE CORPORAL" declared himself Emperor, van Beethoven was so **furious**, that he destroyed the front page of his *Third Symphony* manuscript trying to erase his dedication of that piece to Napoléon!

Quilt a character the old maestro was! a temper!

BUT A FEW YEARS LATER CAME THE ATTACK, AND Beethoven ended up hiding in his basement to avoid the French cannons battering our city walls!

I suppose he was right about Napoléon — a common mortal — a tyrant.

It was fairly calm for a while, but then came your World War I. My God.

YOU CAN'T IMAGINE THE CARNAGE... over 16 and a half million — DEAD. AND I SURVIVED IT.

I remember Kristalnacht,

"Crystal Night" — that horrible evening back in 1938 when the Nazis stormed through our neighborhood and broke out all the store-front windows, leaving behind the tiny, shattered pieces of glass strewn all over the ground.

 \ensuremath{I} remember those pristine shards at sunrise

🚿 like diamonds 🚿

quietly glistening in the morning light with such a *terrified* innocence

...an innocence that couldn't *possibly* foretell the horror that would soon rape our continent

AND OUR MORALITY.

And World War II —

when the Opera House down the street was so heavily bombed that you could see through the back wall,



past the stage and into the alley and over 60 million more — DEAD.



I survived that too,

and when my NeW Person found me on the wall of a shop in Vienna and took me to the United States, I survived that trip

even though the airline lost me for nearly a week!

I must say... my new Person was just about as furious as Beethoven!

Why did I survive and so many others didn't?

 $W_{AS IT} M_{ercy or} \\ Grace?$



I'll tell you what ${I}$ think:

Mercy is when you don't get something BAD that you <u>do</u> deserve.

Grace is when you get something GOOD *that you <u>don't</u> deserve.*

Think about that.

- It wasn't Mercy -

It was by Grace that I survived.

I didn't *deserve* it, I didn't *earn* it and I can't account for why *I* survived

and so many of my brothers and sisters didn't.

It was just a simple, astounding

act of Grace from the

Great Maker.

Recognizing that IN EACH OF OUR LIVES...

maybe *Grace* is what keeps us thankful,

NO?

It's what keeps us amazed at the *miracle* of life!

$R_{\text{EMEMBERING THAT}}$

...isn't it also Grace that keeps us *gentle*?

And Grace keeps us *KIND* – even if we all, somewhere deep inside,

- just occasionally -can't avoid a touch of
what I've <u>ALWAYS</u> believed
is a COMMON BOND between us:

A SINFUL PRIDE that the Great Maker gently forgives,

with a

knowing,

patient,

smile.

AFTER ALL -– You, Me,

AND THE REST OF US...?



...WE'RE ONLY HUMAN.

I Speak—CD Recording of Selected Guitars—Performed by Anthony Glise

TRACKS:		RUN TIME:
1)	Anonymous — <i>named "Constance"</i> (guitar born <i>ca</i> . 1814, Vienna, Austria [?]), performing: Mauro Giuliani (1781-1829) <i>Grande Ouverture, Op. 61</i>	9.34
2)	Gioachino Giussani — <i>named "Sirius"</i> (guitar born 1996, Anghiari, Arezzo, Italy), performing: Anthony Glise (b. 1956) <i>Theme and Variations on "Folias d'España," Op.</i> 15	7.06
3)	Kenny Hill — named "Jayden" (guitar born 2009, Ben Lomond, USA), performing: Anthony Glise (b. 1956) "Allegro" ("Woods' Run") from Prelude, Fugue & Allegro, "In the Eyes of the Wolf," Op. 31	3.59
4)	Franz Herzlieb, Sr. — <i>named "Alma"</i> (guitar born <i>ca</i> . 1817, Graz, Austria), performing: Fernando Sor (1778-1839) <i>Andante Largo, Op. 5, No. 5</i>	6.15
5-7)	Gioachino Giussani – named "Eldamar" (guitar born 1998, Anghiari, AZ, Italy), performing: Anthony Glise (b. 1956) Dream Scenes, Op. 9, A • Rundtanz des Heinzelmännchen (Round Dance of the Little People) • Dryaden (Dryads) • Berggeister Spiele (Mountain Spirit Games)	7.15
8-9)	José Ramírez — <i>named "Diego Manuel Aurelio"</i> (guitar born 2008, Madrid, Spain), performing: Francisco Tárrega (1852-1909) • <i>Lágrima</i> • <i>Capriccio Árabe</i>	7.06
10)	Hermann Hauser — <i>named "Wilhelm"</i> (guitar born 1971, Munich, Germany), performing: Francis Poulenc (1899-1963) <i>Sarabande, Op. 179</i> (1960)	2.46
11-13)	Johann Georg Staufer — named "Antonella" (guitar born ca. 1800, Vienna, Austria), performing: Anton Diabelli (1781-1858) Sonata in F Major Op. 29 • Allegro moderato • Andante sostenuto • Finale (Adagio, Presto)	17.44
	Total Ru	un Time: 61.25

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Production, Post-production & Mastering: Thomas Ransom, Ransomed Productions, Ltd., USA.

ABOUT THE CD — FROM ANTHONY...

WHEN I PLAY A GUITAR, I'm playing a guitar AND having a conversation with a dear friend, and if you happen to be around and eavesdrop when we're doing all that, it's usually called "A Concert."

AMJOIL who thinks playing a guitar is merely "playing a guitar" diminishes reality. How SAD for those who hear only the MUSIC! Anthonu

1) Anonymous — named "Constance" (guitar born ca. 1814, Vienna, Austria [?]), performing: Mauro Giuliani (1781-1829) Grande Ouverture, Op. 61

CONSTANCE HAD THIS TO SAY ABOUT PLAYING THE GRANDE OUVERTURE:

"I'VE ALWAYS LOVED THE Grande Ouverture! I remember when I first sang it in my Maker's shop (I think it might have been Giuliani himself who stopped by to try me out after I was born - I really don't recall). This piece has the power, depth and emotion that we respected so much back in old Vienna!"

2) Gioachino Giussani — named "Sirius" (guitar born 1996, Anghiari, Arezzo, Italy), performing: Anthony Glise (b. 1956) Theme and Variations on "Folias d'España," Op. 15

SIRIUS HAD THIS TO SAY ABOUT PLAYING MY THEME AND VARIATIONS ON "FOLIAS DE ESPAÑA":

"Anthony's Variations on "Folias de España" is one of hundreds composed on this theme since its emergence in the 15th-Century. Virtually every composer since has written a set of variations on this theme but Anthony's is unique in that it expands the harmonic, melodic and formal structure of the theme. Virtuosic, contemporary, beautiful, it has become one of his best known works for solo classical guitar."

3) Kenny Hill — named "Jayden" (guitar born 2009, Ben Lomond, USA), performing: Anthony Glise (b. 1956)

"Allegro" ("Woods' Run") from Prelude, Fugue & Allegro, "In the Eyes of the Wolf," Op. 31

IAYDEN HAD THIS TO SAY ABOUT PLAYING WOODS' RUN"

"I'm the youngest of all the guitars on this CD - a teenager in your human years - so it's an honor to be on this CD with all these famous old dudes! I like playing pieces with a LOT of energy! Eventually I'll be old enough to play some of these other pieces, but for now... MAN - it's just cool to PLAY (and I guess show off a little) and this piece is just perfect for me! PS - If you have a chance, please write Anthony and tell him you'd like to hear me play some Bach. He keeps saying I'm too young, but I'm pretty sure I can handle it!"

FROM ANTHONY: "Woods' Run" IS THE "ALLEGRO" from my Prelude, Fugue and Allegro (titled In The Eyes of the Wolf). To explain, several years ago I had the honor of holding an Artist-in-Residence at the Standing Rock Sioux Indian Reservation, the final resting place of murdered Lakota Sioux Holy Man, Sitting Bull and to integrate me into the community, the tribal council held a "Sweat Lodge" (purification rite) for me.

There are no drugs involved, but with the extreme heat and sensory deprivation, after several hours, participants sometimes begin to hallucinate and are visited by their "Animal Spirit." The spirit (which can be many different animals) will talk and advise you on different aspects of life and often visit you, unannounced throughout the rest of your life.

In the Eyes of the Wolf is about that conversation.

4) Franz Herzlieb, Sr. — named "Alma" (guitar born ca. 1817, Graz, Austria), performing: Fernando Sor (1778-1839) Andante Largo, Op. 5, No. 5

Alma said that she loves this piece because: "I just love it. It's sort of MY business why... now ISN't it?"

5-7) Gioachino Giussani — named "Eldamar" (guitar born 1998, Anghiari, AZ, Italy),

performing: Anthony Glise (b. 1956)

- Dream Scenes, Op. 9, A
 - Rundtanz des Heinzelmännchen (Round Dance of the Little People)
 - Druaden (Druads) • Berggeister Spiele (Mountain Spirit Games)

ELDAMAR HAD THIS TO SAY ABOUT PERFORMING MY DREAM SCENES:

"I am a PURE concert guitar, so I naturally have different reasons for what I like to play than some other guitars. I'm also Italian so (I suppose) I can be a little opinionated, but, vedete, non c'e' problema?! I don't *CARE! Dram Scenes* is a tremendous concert piece. It's perfectly composed, highly 'visual' and I enjoy programmatic pieces. If you don't - *you should*. What could be more fun than Anthony's brilliant musical representation of the different Austrian elves that he has met through the years? *Eh?*!

FROM ANTHONY: ELDAMAR HAS ALWAYS ENJOYED playing Dream Scenes ["Traum Szenen" in German], especially because he likes the story behind this piece. For that reason (just to keep him happy) I thought the background might be worth recounting.

I composed Dream Scenes around Johannesnacht (Midsummer's Night) in Vienna, 1995, inspired by a series of dreams that haunted me for over a week.

Each movement depicts different Austrian elves in their natural surroundings: the playful barbarism of the Rundtanz der Heinzelmännchen ("Round Dance of the Little People"), the graceful Dryaden ("Tree Spirits")* and the antics of Berggeister Spiele ("Mountain Spirit Games").

> *Here I mean specifically Birch and Willow tree spirits. Oak or Walnut spirits (at least those I have met) lack the grace conveyed in this movement.

8-9) José Ramírez — named "Diego Manuel Aurelio" (guitar born 2008, Madrid, Spain), performing: Francisco Tárrega (1852-1909) • Lágrima • Capriccio Árabe

DIEGO HAD THIS TO SAY ABOUT PLAYING TARREGA'S WORKS:

"I'm from one of the oldest families of guitar makers founded by José Ramírez in Madrid back in 1890. Tárrega has just as much lineage and lineage is a strange thing: we try our entire lives to break away from it in order to be "ourselves," yet it's lineage itself that unavoidably defines us. *love* these works (and, I must say, I sing them very well), but one of my greatest joys was to have *Señora Amelia Ramírez* (now, the director of our family guitar shop in Madrid) send us such a kind note from Madrid on the advent of our book. *LINEAGE*...! We should never forget from whence we descend! Honor is *everything* and we owe that honor to our forefathers who helped us ALL become who we are today!"

10) Hermann Hauser — named "Wilhelm" (guitar born 1971, Munich, Germany), performing: Francis Poulenc (1899-1963) Sarabande, Op. 179

WILHELM HAD THIS TO SAY ABOUT PLAYING THE SARABANDE:

"As an old German, it was a *pleasure* to play such an emotional French composition! Almost never recorded, Poulenc's Sarabande allowed me to show off the extreme timbres and articulation for which all Hauser guitars are famous."

11-13) Johann Georg Staufer — named "Antonella" (guitar born *ca*. 1800, Vienna, Austria), performing: Anton Diabelli (1781-1858) Sonata in F Major Op. 29 • Allegro moderato • Andante sostenuto • Finale (Adagio, Presto)

ANTONELLA HAD THIS TO SAY ABOUT PLAYING DIABELLI'S SONATA IN F MAJOR:

"Well now... Anthony and I have worked together for over 25 years but I have to say, playing Diabelli's Sonata in F was a special treat. You know, I was in Vienna when Diabelli wrote that piece! He lived a few streets over from my Maker's shop, which was just around the corner from where Beethoven lived and down the street from where old Mozert died. My goodness, that seems like a long time ago!

Oh - it was also just a few blocks from Café Frauenhuber, over on Himmelpfortgasse - they have been around since 1824 and they have the <u>BEST</u> Mohnschnitten (a little poppy seed cake) and - OH - it was just a few blocks from Café Hawelka (I always loved their coffee - if you go there, you HAVE to try their "Melange" - it's sort of like Italian cappuccino, but with chocolate sprinkled on top and a lot more foam - and be sure to get their Apple Strüdel - or those little sandwiches! You know Franz Kafka used to eat lunch there at Hawelka! Franz especially liked the finger sandwiches with thin sliced beef and fresh horseradish.

Anyway, I truly enjoyed playing on this CD and having my portrait taken by Megan (what a nice young lady!) and I'm sure you'll enjoy this CD, the book, I Speak and visiting the gallery exhibition of I Speak. All wonderful photos, music - and our interviews...? Well, we finally got a chance to talk, you know?! But now you remember, the next time you're in Vienna, you really *must* yisit Café Frauenhubner! You just tell them I sent you, OK?" Sincerely, Antonella

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ABOUT THE AUTHORS (FULL BIOS)

MEGAN WYETH studied with many photographers including Ansel Adams, Arnold Newman and Morley Baer. Her formal background includes photography study at the *Kansas City Art Institute*, and a degree in art history from the *University of Kansas*.

Blessed with a deep love of nature, Megan and her husband own a small farm in Missouri, teeming with regional wildlife (including a posse of wild turkeys), a grove of walnut trees and a tree house.

Megan has maintained an active studio, gallery exhibition, and publishing schedule for over 30 years. Her works are held in numerous private and public collections internationally.

An almost mystical approach to the subject matter gives her works an astounding sense of depth, motion and personality. In her own words,

"As we look through the lens, we see shapes, forms, light, value, and color—and we begin to arrange these elements; intuition takes over and that quiet, inner awareness, transforms into a picture."

"I think of this process as exploring, or 'opening doors,' as each subject presents itself. The photographer has the humble responsibility to document that fleeting, moment of honesty."





ANTHONY GLISE is a concert and recording artist, composer, and author. He lives part-time in France and part-time in the US. He currently holds a professorship as head of the first classical guitar program at the *University of Missouri-Columbia (USA)*. Anthony has previously held full-time teaching positions in Austria, Germany, France and Italy.

A composer and board member of the *French Film Commission*, he performs regularly with musicians of the *French National Orchestra-Lille*.

Anthony also is the only US-born classical guitarist to win First Prize at the *International Toscanini Competition* (Italy) and his concerts, CDs, books, and compositions have consistently received 5-star reviews world-wide. His past concert venues include *Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center* (US), *Vienna International Center* (Austria), *Nouveau Siècle* (of the French National Orchestra-Lille), *etc.*

He has earned nine diplomas from seven countries including study at *New England Conservatory* and *Harvard University* (US), *Accademia degli Studi "L'Ottocento"* (Italy), *Konservatorium der Stadt* (Vienna, Austria) and *Université Catholique* (France) as well as diplomas in French and German languages.

Anthony is also a licensed Emergency Medical Technician, a university fencing coach, and (*when life permits*) hides quietly on his 7 meter, cutter-rigged sailboat, christened *Gargoyle II*.

In Europe, Anthony lives (*on land*) in a tiny idyllic village in Northern France where, "... WE HAVE 600 PEOPLE, 900 COWS, 2 CAFÉS, AND THE NEWEST CHURCH IN THE AREA... BUILT IN 1568."