



The FINGERSTYLE GUITARIST

A publication of the Georgia Fingerstyle Guitar Association

Spring 1998 Meeting by Ed Cummins

I had considered not starting this newsletter with another article on the most recent meeting but after mentioning it to several members, I got a resounding "NO". Apparently, folks like to read about the meetings even if they were there. I guess it's fun to remember how much fun we had.

While attendance was down a little from the preceding meeting, we still had over 80 people there. I think there were a lot of conflicting events.

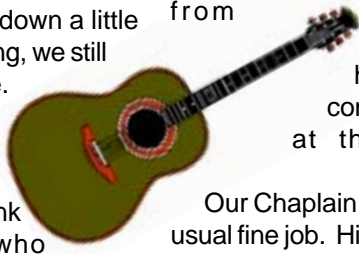
First, I would like to thank all of the members who pitched in and helped at the meeting. Thanks to **Maxine Cochran, Janet Jerkins** and **Katherine Cason** for taking care of KP duty all day. What would we do without **Ron Reynolds** to handle the sound system and set up for each musician? Thanks Ron for a super job. Once again, **Johnny Carlton** did fine job as master of ceremonies and **Maxine Cummins** and **Robin Smith** handled the front desk.

New Member **Steve Ledford** of **Funky Junk Records**, set up a display of guitar records. Everyone enjoyed looking and some enjoyed buying. We look forward to Steve bringing more of his collection of interesting guitar music to future meetings.

Our friends from the Chattanooga club helped kick off the meeting this time. **David Helms** was the opening

act, followed by **Billy and Gary Denham**. Billy also brought tablature to the song "Now and Then There's a Fools Such as I to give to the members. That was really nice of Billy!

GFGA member **Wayne Veal** from **Garden City, GA** demonstrated considerable fingerstyle ability playing his hand made (by Wayne) solid body guitar. It was a beautiful instrument to see and hear. It is a long way from Garden City to Kennesaw but we hope Wayne will come and play for us at the next meeting.



Our Chaplain, **Greg Butler**, did his usual fine job. His playing style is very clean and very exact. You can tell he spends a lot of time perfecting each song. I hope Greg will bring his sons who are musicians.

Member **David Adams** played for us the first time. Nice job David! We are looking forward to hearing you again at future meetings.

Once again **Carla Ulbrich** entertained us with with two performances. Carla played her nylon string "**Godin**" for the first set. She borrowed a steel string acoustic guitar and sang some of her original songs for the second set. This time she was joined by **Johnny Carlton**. We sure are glad Carla is a **GFGA** member and performs at our meetings. I wonder why there aren't more girls playing guitar? Maybe Carla can tell us.

Johnny Carlton brought his trio

again. Johnny showed us how to "fake" your way through a request. The audience always enjoys the trio's music.

Carla brought first time visitor **Ray Chesna** who played a delightful set. Ray plays a more modern fingerstyle music on a beautiful archtop guitar. We hope he comes back often !

Member **Son Bui** ,AKA David Atkins, once again entertained us with his nylon string classical guitar. Son has perfected his unique and easy listening style. His "**David Atkins**" tapes were available for sale.

New member **Bud Moore** played two entertaining sets for us. Bud performs "**Humorous Inspirational**" music. We certainly were humorously inspired! Bud has been playing guitar in the Atlanta area longer than he cares to admit. We are delighted to have Bud as a member and can hardly wait until the next meeting to see what he will play and sing for us.

Our "**Smith Brothers**", **Gene** and **Ken** played another great thumb pick-

ing set. These boys have been playing together for a long time and how. Nice work guys, keep up the Spring 1997 Meeting.....1

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good work. Gene and Ken were joined by **Ed and Maxine Cummins** for some of Maxine's vocals.

One of the highlights of the day was a set played by **Nelson Trout** and **Wallace Davis**. Besides being great music, this personifies what **GFGA** is all about. Here was a young fellow and one of Georgia's senior guitar players swapping choruses like they had been playing together forever. I hope we hear more from this duo. They were joined by **Reggie McIntosh** on spoons.

Speaking of youngsters, once again charter member **Taylor Eason** played for us. Taylor plays his Taylor with a lot of youth and vigor. He is a talented guitarist and keeps us "old folks" on our toes. Nice work, Taylor!

While I am on the subject of youngsters, I would like to mention that **Daniel Vogh** joined his father **Richard** on the main stage for a nice set. Daniel is the youngest player yet on the main stage. I suspect it won't be long before he will be playing his own set. Keep up the good work!

New member **Clyde Kendrick** came over from the Birmingham, AL area to play for us. Clyde is an exceptional finger picker and must know a thousand songs. What a repertoire! We look forward to seeing and hearing Clyde at future meetings.

We were delighted to have **Eddie Rubin**, a well known Atlanta guitarist join us at this meeting. Eddie played a wonderful set. Eddie is a former fingerstyle guitar contest winner of the "**Walnut Valley Festival**" in Winfield, KS. Thanks for coming Eddie.

Julian Smith once again wowed the crowd with his impeccable playing. Julian is a perfectionist and has spent a lot of time getting his touch

and tone just right. When Julian plays, the auditorium gets very quiet. **Gary Cochran** joined Julian on stage with some tasty rhythm and fill in work. A very nice duo.

And last, but not least, founder **Charlie Rolader** played for us. You have to push and pull to get Charlie up on the stage, but it is always worth the trouble. Charlie is another one of those pickers who knows a thousand songs. He always has a great tune to play. Thanks for helping out Charlie.

All in all it was another great meeting. Thanks to everyone who attended and to everyone who performed. I hope I didn't leave anyone out. I apologize if I did.

See 'ya at the "pick-nic"!



Nashville Number Charts #4

by Johnny Carlton

A Time Study

Music must be played to a constant meter referred to as counting time. The time a musical composition is played to is determined by the time signature placed at the beginning of a piece of music. This is designated by a symbol that looks like a fraction (i.e. 2/4, 3/4, 4/4). There are several time signatures. However, we will cover the two most commonly used ones which are three-four (3/4) and four-four (4/4).

Four-four time is sometimes indicated with a large "C" meaning common time. Musical compositions written in common or four-four time receive four counts in each bar or measure. Three-four time, sometimes referred to as waltz time, receives only three counts in each bar.

Example A, illustrated below, is eight bars long and each bar receives four counts.

Example A. 1 4 1 5 1 4 (1 5) 1

Bar seven in EX. A is referred to as a split bar. A split bar is when more than one chord occupies a bar. The 1 and the 5 chord both receive two counts each totaling up to four counts. A split bar is indicated by using a parenthesis. Sometimes a bar may have three or more chords, and this is indicated by placing dots under chords that receive one count only (see Example B.)

Example B. 1 4 (1 5) 1

In bar three of Example B the 1 chord receives two counts and the 5 and 4 chords receive one count each.

Below is the progression to a Merle Travis song called "**Cannon Ball Rag**". In bar thirteen each chord receives one count. In bar fourteen the

2 and 5 receive one count each and the 1 receives two. The key for "Cannon Ball Rag" is G.

||: 6 2 5 1 6 2 5 1 5 1 5 1
(4 4# 5 6) (2 5 1) :||

Classical guitarist Francisco Tarregga (1852-1909) sometimes practiced the guitar with this left hand only. The reason for this odd approach to study time was to leave his right hand free to smoke cigars.

The Peavey Museum

by Ed Cummins

If you are traveling to or through the state of Mississippi on Interstate 20, you should take time to stop and see the **Peavey Museum and Visitors' Center**.

If you stop at the Mississippi Visitors' Center, just after crossing the the state line, you will find a brochure on the Peavey Museum. You will probably need this brochure to find the museum as there are no signs on the interstate highway.

Traveling West on I-20 you will encounter the intersection of Highway 45 just before you get to Meridian, MS. Take this highway North about three miles to the Marion/Russell Exit. Take a right on Lindley Road and watch for the Peavey Visitors' Center on the right.

The Visitors' Center is in a restored brick building that was part of a U.S. Dept. of Agriculture experiment station.

The museum has a series of interesting displays chronicling

Hartley Peavey's growth from making one guitar amplifier at a time in the early 1960's to becoming one of the foremost musical equipment manufacturers in the world.

One display is Hartley's original electronics work bench. Another is the first delivery van owned by the Peavey company. The van was restored to new condition by Hartley's late wife **Melia**. In fact, Melia was responsible for creating the whole museum and visitors' center.

There is a large display depicting the visit of **President George Bush** to the Peavey facilities in 1991. One of the items in this display is an exact replica of the Peavey Guitar made expressly for and presented to President Bush. The guitar is labeled "**The Chief**".

The guitar is labeled "The Chief" ...

I tried to figure out some way to bring it back to James Childers.

On the lower level of the museum is a 15 minute video presentation on the life of Hartley and Melia Peavey. Also on the lower level is a large area with many Peavey instruments and amplifiers where you can sit down and do some jamming.

Peavey has made a significant impact on the music world. They are highly thought of as an employer with many employee benefits. They have been a major contributor to the economy of both Meridian and Mississippi as a whole.

This was a fun visit and it only takes about 30 minutes out of your trip.

We regret to report that Melia Peavey passed away the week before we visited the museum. She will be greatly missed by the Peavey company and Mississippi.



Thumbology

by Johnny Carlton

Kennedy Jones was born August 1, 1900 on a farm in Muhlenberg County, Kentucky. He was the tenth of thirteen children of **Alice DeArmond** and **Charles Peyton Jones**. Although Charles did not play, Alice DeArmond played several instruments very well.

Kennedy Jones claims to be the first guitarist to play with a thumbpick. Kennedy says at the age of eighteen he wore a blister on his thumb playing for a square dance. The next day he went to the music store and bought a box of thumbpicks, which at that time were used either for banjo or Hawaiian guitar.

Kennedy Jones claims to be the first guitarist to play with a thumbpick...

Jones composed the thumbpickers anthem "**Cannon Ball Rag**", but credit for the tune went to **Merle Travis** when he recorded it in the 1940's. Kennedy was an accomplished fiddler and was offered a job in Merle Travis' band, **The Drifting Pioneers**, but declined the offer.

Kennedy Jones was married to **Irene Hicks**, a talented pianist in her own right, and they played together early in his career.

In 1939 Kennedy Jones migrated to Chicago, and played in several bands, one of which included his two sons, **Donald** and **Kennedy Jr.** Kennedy Sr. performed in many clubs throughout the Chicago area and was a very popular musician throughout "Chi Town".

In the 1950's Jones relocated to Cincinnati where daughter **Farre Lee** (also an accomplished guitarist/singer), played and sang on radio station WLW, and also recorded locally.

Three people tremendously influenced by Kennedy Jones were **Mose Rager, Ike Everly and Merle Travis**. These disciples of "**Jonesey**", as he was affectionately known by his friends, have influenced countless guitarists and continue to influence more new players every day.

The patriarch of thumbstyle guitar passed away on September 6, 1990 at the age of 90 and was buried at Bridgetown cemetery in Cincinnati, Ohio. Who would have ever thought that one guitar player, looking for relief for his sore thumb, would start a picking revolution.

Until next time, **STAY TUNED!!!**

Call for Articles

We are always looking for new and interesting articles to publish in the "**Fingerstyle Guitarist**".

I know there are some really good stories waiting to be told.

Tell us about how you got interested in playing guitar, particularly fingerstyle. Tell us about your first guitar or your favorite guitar. Tell us about interesting guitar players you have known. Interview a picker and write a "**Picker Profile**".

We are averaging between 10-12 articles per issue. Putting out four newsletters a year will take almost 50 articles per year.

Our members are telling us how much they enjoy reading the newsletter and we enjoy providing it. Put on your writing hat and help make it even better.

Member News

by Ed Cummins

We snoop around, ask questions and once in a while get email from our members about what they are up to. We would like to share what you are doing with the rest of **GFGA**, so drop us a line or call **Ed Cummins at 770-345-1467**.

David Staples has been a busy guy lately. In May he entered the guitar playing contest at a bluegrass festival in Williston, TN and won first place. He played "Cheek to Cheek" and "Bluebelle". They thought he was playing some new bluegrass hits. He conned a couple of fellows he had been jamming with into playing with him and formed an instant bluegrass trio. David was also seen on stage

with **Bob Saxton** in Mtn. View, AR at the "**Tribute to Merle Travis**" weekend at the **Ozark Folk Center**. During that weekend, he also was seen several times jamming down at the Courthouse Square.

Ed and Maxine Cummins also traveled to Mtn View, AR for the "Tribute to Merle Travis". They too were seen playing around the Court House Square. Ed and Maxine accompanied "**Moon Mullins**" to the Jordan, AR Baptist Church where Maxine joined Moon and **Theda Shirley** in providing some special music for the evening service.

In May, **James Childers** performed with the **Georgia Mountain Fair** staff band at the **Rhododendron Festival**. James has been performing at the Georgia Mountain Fair for over 40 years. (Maybe I shouldn't have told that part).

Carla Ulbrich has really been busy. She has been so busy, in fact, that I thought about writing a whole column just for her.

I won't try to list all of the places Carla has or will be playing, but I would like to mention some highlights.

In April, Carla was chosen as a finalist in the songwriting contest at **Merlefest** in North Carolina. She finished second in the "country" category performing "**What If Your Girlfriend Was Gone**". Carla said second place was better than first place because the first place prize was a guitar and the second place prize was money. She said she already had five guitars, so she liked the money better.



In May, Carla performed several times in the Atlanta area. There is a rumor going around that she was seen playing the tuba.

Also in May, Carla competed in the fingerstyle guitar competition at the **Gamble Rogers Folk Festival** in Florida and won second place. **Thom Bresh** was a judge.

Carla took first place in the open category of the **MidAtlantic Songwriting Contest**. The Grand Prize and overall 2nd and 3rd place will be announced June 21 at the **Iota Club** in Arlington, VA. Carla will be performing her winning song at this event.

Finally (I told you she was a busy girl), Carla will be teaching at the **National Guitar Workshop** in California in late July. Whew, take a rest!

Bob Saxton recently accompanied **Pat Kirtley** on a trip to Germany. We will have to tell you more in another issue of the newsletter.

In May, **Charlie Rolader** performed at an **American Cancer Society** benefit in Washington, D.C. commemorating the 100th anniversary of the birth of **George Gershwin**. The event was sponsored by **Booze, Allan and**

Hamilton, a Washington consulting firm.

As this newsletter goes to press, **Julian Smith, Ed and Maxine Cummins, Gary Cochran** and **James Childers** are scheduled to perform July 1-2 in the amphitheater at **Vogel State Park**.

Tell us what are the rest of you folks are up to!

New Guitar Music

Bob Saxton has two new tapes available. One is "**Old Kentucky Guitar**". Bob plays all acoustic guitar on this one. He is backed up on rhythm guitar by **Eddie Pennington**. The other tape is "**For His Glory**". This is some of Bob's best work. We will have a review of these tapes in a future newsletter. Tapes are \$10 plus \$2 shipping and handling and are available from:

Bobby Anderson
That Muhlenberg Sound
Box 132
Beechmont, KY 42323

For Sale

Do you have a guitar or musical equipment to sell?

Tell us about it and we will put it in the newsletter.

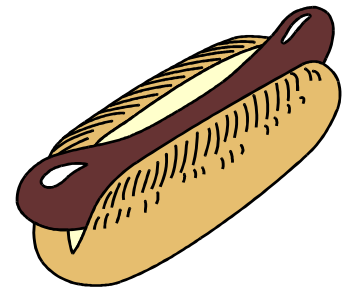
We will also post your sale item on the GFGA website.

July "Pick-nic"

Don't forget the GFGA "Pick-nic". **July 11 at 10:00am**. The "Pick-nic" will be held at the **Methodist Camp Ground** on Hiway 120 East of the "Big Chicken" in Marietta.

You are responsible for your food and drink (no adult beverages, please!).

Also, it would be advisable to bring a yard canopy or umbrella to get out of either the sun or the rain (heaven forbid!).



This is a family event. There is a playground and plenty of room to run and play.

Speaking of playing, I am sure there will be plenty of one-on-one jamming so you can steal some licks! The main stage will be under the arbor.

We are asking for a \$5 donation per car to help pay for the use of the campground.

Come help make this "occasional" event a fun time.

The Harmony Guitar Company was started in Chicago in 1892 by William Shultz, a German immigrant.

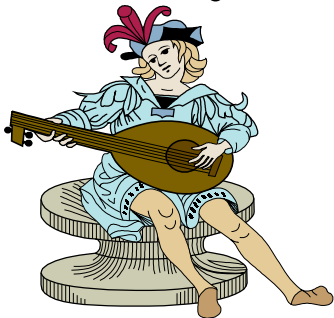
Recording Review by Johnny Carlton

"Three Centuries of Music for the Classical Guitar" by John Huston

"Three Centuries of Music for the Classical Guitar" by John Huston is a recent CD release worthy of the highest accolades. The superb quality of this recording is evident in the very first notes of the opening track.

Compositions by **Bach, Ponce, Villa Lobos, Giuliani, Albeniz Koshkin and Torroba** are included in this splendid collection.

Tonal colorations ranging from soft flesh tones to brassy nail sounds, the near absence of extraneous string noises, and flawless technique make this an exceptional recording indeed.



Of special interest are **Sevilla** by Albeniz, **Preludio** by Ponce and **Choros No. 1** by Villa Lobos. Each piece is given pin point classical precision by John Huston.

"Three Centuries of Music for the Classical Guitar" is a must for any aficionado of the classical guitar, and we look forward to future releases by John Huston.

John studied guitar performance under **John Sutherland** at **Georgia State University** and re-

ceived his Master of Music degree in 1996. He has placed high in several national classical guitar competitions, and has performed in master classes with **Christopher Parkening, Manuel Burreuco, Eduardo Fernandez, and Eliot Fish**.

John has performed several times with "**The Piedmont Guitar Quartet**" for **GFGA** meetings and we anxiously await his next visit.

Merle Travis was the first artist ever, to appear on stage with a solid body guitar.

CAAS '98

This is our last chance to remind you about the Chet Atkins Appreciation Society Convention for 1998. It takes place at the Music City Seraton Hotel in Nashville, TN July 29 - August 1.

This meeting is considered one of the GFGA meetings for the year so you really should be there. So far, we have heard from a large number of members who plan to attend.

GFGA will be represented this year in the Belmont room. We will have a table with GFGA information and some members may choose to perform there.

There will be performances in the main ballroom all day and in the evening. There will also be seminars during the day and a special concert on Saturday night.

Don't miss the biggest fingerstyle guitar event of the year. A registration form appears on the next page.

Meeting Schedule

The next **regular** meeting of the **Georgia Fingerstyle Guitar Association** will be on Saturday, **November 7**. (the CAAS Convention is considered a **virtual** meeting). The meeting will once again be held in the lower level of the Kennesaw, GA City Hall.

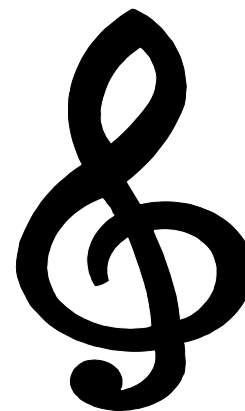
We have requested and tentatively been granted three meeting dates for **1999**. The reason for the "**tentative**" is that if the Parks and Recreation Authority of the City of Kennesaw decides to use the meeting facility on any of the dates we have requested, they will have priority. However, they have promised that if they have to preempt one of our meetings, we will be given priority consideration for an alternate date. The dates are:

Feb. 6, 1999

May 8, 1999

Nov 6, 1999

Get your 1999 calendars out now and start making plans to come to all of the meetings.



14th Annual CAAS Convention

Registration Form

JULY 29 - AUGUST 1, 1998

Sheraton Music City Hotel, Nashville, Tennessee

Member Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

We will open the convention at 10am on Wednesday, July 29. If your registration is postmarked prior to the advance registration deadline date (June 15) the amount is \$95. After that date, for mail-in reservations, the registration fee is \$105. The fee covers the member (registrant), immediate family (spouse, children living at home, parents), or a partner who is your "significant other". Members *may not* arbitrarily pair up just to avoid registration fees for one of the two. Every attendee is welcome at the Saturday night closing concert, but to insure optimum use of the limited seating, there is a separate \$10 charge for each person including the registrant. Seating for Saturday evening is limited to the first 1100 attendees registered. There will be projection TV screens for optimum viewing. There will be one door prize ticket per registrant group.

REGISTRANTS MUST BE CURRENT CAAS MEMBERS. ALL ATTENDEES MUST WEAR NAME TAGS AT ALL EVENTS. LIST THE NAMES OF THE PEOPLE IN YOUR PARTY FOR NAME TAGS, BEGINNING WITH YOURS. The blanks below are for the member's name, followed by other family members:

REGISTRATION FEE IS \$105 AFTER JUNE 15, 1998
Please send your payment and this form(or a copy of this form) to:

CAAS 1998 CONVENTION REGISTRATION	
REGISTRATION AMOUNT (\$95 / \$105 after Jun 15)	\$
FRIDAY & SATURDAY ONLY (\$85)	\$
SATURDAY CONCERT TICKETS (NUMBER OF ATTENDEES x \$10)	\$
DUES RENEWAL (IF APPLICABLE --\$15)	\$
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED:	\$

CAAS / Registration
3716 Timberlake Road
Knoxville, TN 37920

Phone (423)577-2828 Fax (423)687-2065
e-mail GMPJR1@aol.com

We will send you a confirmation card if we receive your letter by July 10!

Thanks and see you at the convention!

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<p>W.E. Cloer Signs - Banners Marietta, GA 770-971-5341</p>	<p>GoodWood Luthiers Custom Guitars & Repairs Woodstock, GA 770-475-9838</p>	<p>Fingerstyle Music P.O. Box 16775 Chattanooga, TN 37416</p>
<p>Accoustic Guitar Work- shop P.O.Box 8075 Gadsden, AL 35902</p>	<p>Pinnacle Advertising Specialties Conyers, GA 770-761-8999</p>	<p>Funky Junk Chet Atkins Records 698 Airline Rd McDonough, GA 30252 770-898-8366</p>
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The **Fingerstyle Guitarist** is published four times a year by

The Georgia Fingerstyle Guitar
 Association
 PO Box 666052
 Marietta, GA 30066

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