



# The FINGERSTYLE GUITARIST

Vol 3 No 4 Page 1 Oct. 1999

A publication of the  
Georgia Fingerstyle Guitar Association

## Happy Second Birthday

This issue of the *Fingerstyle Guitarist* marks the second anniversary of **GFGA**. It has been a fast, rewarding and wonderful two years. We have grown from no members to 180 strong.

Again, we have participated in the club room at CAAS and for the first time held a meeting at the **GA Music Hall of Fame**. We have discovered new talent and held more great meetings.

Big things are in the works for the coming year. Look for more educational activities at our meetings and more special guests.

As we enter our third year of activities, expect to see the beginnings of a long range plan to spread the work load among our members. The various tasks needed to continue **GFGA** have pretty well been defined. We will now try to find capable volunteers who are willing to help keep **GFGA** alive and well.

A big thank you to all who have helped get **GFGA** this far and thank you to all the pickers and listeners who have made the first two years so exceptional.

Happy Second Birthday!



### Makin' Harmony in Macon by Maxine Cummins

When **GFGA** teamed up with the **Georgia Music Hall of Fame (GMHF)** the result was predictable. A day of great music and music appreciation was inevitable. The facility, which is located in **Macon, GA**, was opened in September of 1996, just a little more than a year before **GFGA** held its first meeting in Kennesaw, GA (November of 1997). However, the first **GMHF** performer inductee, **Ray Charles**, dates back to 1979.



**Pick This!**  
Richard Vogh & Gary Cochran  
at the GA Music Hall of Fame

Since then 19 others, including fingerstyle greats **Jerry Reed** and **Chet Atkins** have been inducted into the GMHF ...Reed in

1987 and Atkins in 1995. While the GMHF recognizes the famous Georgians who have made remarkable contributions to the music industry, it also represents all the history of music in Georgia as well as current musical events, influences and performers. And through the soon to be opened "**The Music Factory**", with its interactive and instructional activities for children, GMHF will help assure Georgia's musical future.

GFGA was welcomed to the GMHF

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### Dues Renewal

Please check the address label on this newsletter. To the right of your name is the date your membership in **GFGA** expires. Included in this issue of the newsletter is a membership form for your use. Don't miss the exciting newsletters and meetings we are planning for next year.

**Next GFGA Meeting**  
**Sat. Nov. 6th**  
at  
**The Kennesaw, GA**  
**Senior Center**

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*Makin' - continued from page 1...*

by Visitors Services Manager, **Marty Willett**. More than 100 people visited the Macon Room where GFGAers signed up for Open Mic and entertained for four hours on Saturday afternoon. Mr. Willett expressed an interest in having each player become a part of the archives of GMHF and the entire afternoon's performance was recorded toward that end. The audience enjoyed hearing music by **James Childers, Jerry Braswell, Greg Butler, Julian Smith, Robert Anderson, Wesley Crider, Gene and Ken Smith, and Charlie Rolader and Ed and Maxine Cummins**. Local guitarist and song writer, **Roosevelt Brown**, also performed some of his original songs.

Door prizes included tapes and CDs that were donated by **Funky Junk Entertainment, James Childers, Jerry Braswell and Maxine Cummins**. A GFGA cap was also given to one lucky winner. The day was a great success by any measure. GFGA can look forward to a continuing relationship. In fact, the second meeting at GMHF has already been scheduled for July 29, 2000.

**The Georgia Music Hall of Fame** is located at 200 M.L. King, Jr. Blvd and is open to the public. A fee is charged to tour the museum which houses hundreds of pieces of Georgia's musical memorabilia. Check out their Internet web site at [www.gamusichall.com](http://www.gamusichall.com).

**Inside the Georgia Music Hall of Fame:**

**"Tune Town"** - Is a 12,000 square foot exhibit hall designed like a small Georgia town. Visitors stroll through the winding streets, stopping in the various venues to find instruments, significant career and personal items, performance costumes, memorabilia, and of course, music. Twenty CD listening stations are found throughout Tune Town and venues feature informative audio landscapes, oral histories and videos.

**Zell Miller Center for Georgia Music Studies** - Was named for the Georgia governor who led the effort to found the Hall of Fame. It houses the museum's library and archives which support research and educational activities. r

## CAAS '99

The 15th meeting of the **Chet Atkins Appreciation Society** was held in Nashville, TN at the Music City Sheraton Hotel July 7-10. And, yes, Chet was there!

Once again, everyone experienced four of the most wonderful days of music, jam sessions and renewing of friendships known to man.

As in the past, there were multiple events going on at the same time. Performances in the main ball room were going on at the same time as seminars in two other rooms, performances in the Belmont Room (the "club" room) as well as jam sessions occurring at any instant. New this year were additional scheduled performances in the "F" ball room. As has always been the case, everyone had great difficulty deciding what to do.

The convention also featured many vendors. There were several guitar manufacturers in one room and vendors of guitars, music books and guitar related items in another. **Gibson Guitars** showed off their new **ES-446** model guitar. It looks like a Les Paul but is built like an ES-335. It should be a real winner. Three GFGA members took delivery of their new guitars from the **Sands Guitar** display. GFGA members **Craig Dobbins** and **Steve Ledford** had vendor tables in the lobby. **John Knowles** also had a table in the lobby promoting his *Fingerstyle Guitar Quarterly*. **Sonny Thomas**, master luthier, was on hand to answer questions and do set ups and minor repairs.

The picking started even before the official start of the convention. GFGA member **Bud Lynville** was seen performing in the Belmont room early Wednesday morning. Four clubs shared the Belmont Room which quickly became a buzzing center of activity for pickers and listeners. GFGA shared the room with **The Thumb and Fingerstyle Guitar Association** of Chattanooga, TN, the **Kentucky Thumb Pickers Club** and the **Fingerstyle Guitar Association of Ohio**. A sign up board was available for those wishing to perform and it was quickly filled every day. Many of the main stage guitarists also performed in the Belmont

Room. The popularity of the club room continues to grow.

**Bill Spann** was again on hand to host the main stage performances. (I think he spends the entire year digging up jokes for this event.)

The opening performer on the main stage on Wednesday was **Tom Boyer** followed by his friend **Mike Nelson**. These two fine players along with their friend, and GFGA member, **Richard Alcoy**, who also performed on the main stage, are giving California a good name. The Wednesday evening session was opened by **Michael O'Dorn**, a CAAS mainstay. Michael also joined GFGA this year. (Welcome to the club Michael!) Also returning to the main stage was GFGA member **Bob Saxton**. Bob once again brought his friend **Bobbe Seymour** to play fingerstyle steel guitar. Bob also invited **Maxine Cummins** to join him on stage to sing a couple of songs from her recent CD. A new performer to CAAS on Wednesday evening was **Marylise Florid**. Marylise, from France, performed a delightful classical program and practiced her English on us. We certainly hope she will return next year.

On Thursday we were entertained by some new guitarists; **Andrea Benzoni, Tim Farrell, Tom Doyle and Franco Morone** and GFGA's own **Julian Smith** made his main stage debut. Performers from previous years were there also such as **Bill Piburn, Richard Kiser and Wayne Henderson**. The Thursday evening session saw standing room performances by **The Richard Smith Trio, Pat Kirtley, Guy Van Duser, Nokie Edwards and Edgar Cruze**. While the scheduled program ended around 11:00pm, jamming continued in the Belmont room and elsewhere until the wee hours of the morning.

The Friday performances featured the Kentucky players **Eddie Pennington, Steve Rector** with his uncle **Royce Morgan** and **Tommy Flint**. **Kenny Gill** brought his instant band and once again gave a wonderful smooth and tasty performance. The day session was ended by another outstanding set by tiny bomb-

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**CAAS 1999 - Continued from page 2...**  
shell **Muriel Anderson**. Muriel also performed in the Belmont Room.

**Steven King** opened the evening session with his "impossible" picking. He is a delightful personality as well as an incredible player. He was followed by **John Knowles** with his dry humor and clean nylon string guitar work. Then came "Mr. Dynamo", **Doyle Dykes**. After Doyle knocked us out, **Phil Emmanuel**, Tommy's brother, showed us what "flat picking" means. This Australian lad sounds like a sped up Les Paul record. Whew!. The evening was concluded with another entertaining performance by **Jim, Morning** and **John Nichols** and the "The New String Dusters". (Was that **Mark Pritcher** I saw on the stage with his mandolin?)

On Saturday we were entertained by **GFGA** members **Julian Smith** and **Craig Dobbins** as well as many other fine players. The final performers for the day session were **Buster B. Jones** and **Thom Bresh**. It's a good thing there was a three hour break before the Saturday night concert.

The Saturday night concert was jam packed with 1100+ in attendance. Surprise "introducer" **Jerry Reed**, only five weeks out of open heart surgery, introduced the guest of honor "Mr Guitar" himself, **Chet Atkins**. Chet was joined on stage by his long time friend **Paul Yandell** as well as **Tommy Emmanuel**. After playing a couple of songs Chet sat back and was entertained by some special guests. The first was "Guitar Boogie" **Arthur Smith** playing, (what else?), "Guitar Boogie". After Arthur's performance, **Tommy Emmanuel** was announced as the recipient of the "C.G.P." award. He is only the third guitarist so designated. It was apparent he was surprised and moved by this presentation. The next performer was **Doyle Dykes** who brought on his surprise guest **Duane Eddie**. They played "Sweet Dreams", "Trambone" and "I Saw the Light". After a short break, the "Tommy Emmanuel and Friends" concert began. Tommy played several of his own compositions and other familiar songs. He was joined by Morning Nichols  
*Continued on page 5...*

## Steve Wariner *Out of this world!*

In August, we found him at MARS promoting his new CD, "Two Teardrops", and his new single, "I'm Already Taken". While Steve is an excellent vocalist and song writer ( and a bonified card carrying member of GFGA), he does not forget his roots as a guitarist. He played a tribute to Chet that included familiar favorites like "Windy and Warm" and "Copper kettle". Like the rest of us, Steve acknowledges that Chet is the best

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## ...Steve acknowledges that Chet is the best

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He was warmly received by a crowd of more than 100 happy fans among whom we noticed a number GFGAers...**Aubrey** and **Faye New**, **Janice Catron**, **Jim Martin**, **Ron Reynolds**, **James** and **Shirley Childers**, and **Ed** and **Maxine Cummins**.

Saturday night Steve shared the bill at Lanierland with **T. Graham Brown** and thrilled an audience of about 1500 which again included a number of **GFGA** members. r

## New CD from Jerry Braswell by Ed Cummins

Are you sick and tired of the stuff that Nashville has been putting out lately? Do you long for the good old country music of yesterday? Thanks to GFGA member **Jerry Braswell** relief is here.

Jerry, who we usually only see playing bass with **James Childers**, also has a wonderful voice for singing good old country songs. He puts his silky smooth sound to good use on "Country Classics".

The CD has ten songs on it. Some of the most memorable are Jerry's renditions of old favorites such as "A Way to Survive", "A Legend in My Time", "A Satisfied Mind" and "She Thinks I Still Care".

Jerry has assembled a top notch group of musician's to back him up. **Chris Payne** - guitar, bass and steel guitar, **Richard Putnam** - keyboard, **David Johnson** - fiddle, and **Alan Kerr** - drums.

Jerry has traveled and performed on the road with many outstanding country artists and his music reflects the many hours he has dedicated to his craft.



### Georgia Fingerstyle Guitar Association

P.O. Box 666052  
Marietta, GA 30066

## 2000 Meeting Schedule

Sat. Feb. 5

Sat. May 6

CAAS July 12 - 15

Sat. July 29 – Macon, GA  
Ga Music Hall of Fame

Sat. Oct. 28



## "Home of the Legends Contest - 1999"

**Alonzo Pennington**, son of **Eddie Pennington** and native son of Kentucky, swept the competition at the Home of the Legends event in Powderly, Kentucky. Alonzo, who has entered the competition for the last few years and placed second in 1998, was awarded first place in both the thumb picking contest and the open style contest. Alonzo demonstrated his skill and versatility by playing "**All By Myself**", "**Ike Everly Rag**", and "**Saturday Night Shuffle**" in the first round of thumb picking competition. In the second round he played "**Daughter of the Whirling Dervish**", "**Borsalino**", and "**Dance of the Goldenrod**" locking in first place over the other nine contestants.

In the open style competition each of the ten contestants played three selections. Alonzo chose "**Lonesome Fiddle Blues**", "**Tears in Heaven**" and "**I Know a Little**" again demonstrating the scope of his talent and earning first place.

Other winners in the thumb picking contest were: 2nd place - **Robert Anderson**, 3rd place - **Waymon Vickery**, 4th place - **Scott Taylor**, and 5th place went to **Tim Bowers** who was also voted the "**Favorite of the Fans**". Also competing were **Frans Banen**, **Nelson Trout**, **Ken Smith**, **Gene Smith** and **Hubert Glass**. The judges for this event were **Tommy Owens**, **Maurice Jones**, **Julian Smith** and **Randy Yates**.

The other winners in the open style competition were: 2nd place - **Kyle Reeder**, 3rd place - **Billy Sigers**, 4th place - **Robert Anderson**, and 5th place - **Scott Taylor**. Also competing in this event were **Dan Granstaff**, **Nelson Trout**, **Iran Ford**, **Ben Martin**, and **Waymon Vickery**. The judges for

this event were **John Knowles**, **Pat Kirtley**, **Sonny Thomas** and **Bill Huff**.

Between contests, the crowd was entertained by **Pat Kirtley** and **John Knowles** as well as **Julian Smith**. Julian performed his new composition "**Paradise Park**" which drew a resounding round of applause.

Congratulations to Alonzo and to all the winners! And to all those who competed and to those who had the very difficult job of judging..."Thanks for a job well done"! It was a day filled with fun and good music!

## PARADISE PARK

Paradise Park in Powderly, Kentucky, was the site of the Home of the Legends event on Saturday, August 28th. The park is just under development and when finished will represent the typical coal mining community of Kentucky. It will include a school, a general store, a church and other buildings appropriate to the time. The focal point of the park will be the house in which **Merle Travis** was born. This little three room house was donated by the **Rust** family on whose property it stood and will be the museum housing Travis memorabilia and other items of interest relating to Kentucky's musical heritage. The house has been placed and restored by volunteers from the community.

After a short speech by **Rodney Kirtley**, who is a driving force in the creation of the park, the ribbon was cut by **Pat Travis Eatherly**, daughter of Merle Travis, and by Mr. Rust who had donated the house. Pat expressed her pleasure with this salute to her dad and donated albums that he had done concerning the life of coal miners in Kentucky. Her sister also donated items of clothing that had been worn by their father. These will be on display in the museum.

**Tuck Raisor** donated a thumb pick that had been given to him by Merle Travis to be displayed in the museum. Any item donated is on loan and can be returned to the owner upon request. The crowd of more than 100 were invited to visit the museum through the day and enjoy viewing the items on display.

## SATURDAY NIGHT

The Saturday night concert was held at the ball field in Central City rather than downtown as it has been in the past. It was a beautiful night and the crowd was pleased with entertainment provided by **Tommy Owens** and **Maurice Jones**, **Julian Smith**, **John Knowles**, **Eddie** and **Alonzo Pennington**, **Classical Country Connection**, **Lardo and Burly** and concluded by **Randall Hylton**. The master of ceremonies duties for the entire weekend were executed perfectly by **Bobby Anderson**. He stepped in for **Lightnin' Chance** who was recovering from recent surgery.

## KENTUCKY HOSPITALITY

The whole weekend is a wonderful demonstration of Kentucky hospitality. Starting with the Friday night jam session on the court house lawn in Greenville where they served homemade ice-cream and continuing Saturday afternoon with the lovely buffet meal set by the ladies at the Drakesboro school, the goodwill of the community is almost a tangible thing. The wrap up event was on Sunday when the crowd moved to Pennington's Camp near Crofton for "**Goat Roping #5**". Musicians from all over joined in the jam that ran from 10:00am to about 6:00pm. It was another day of sitting in the shade and enjoying the music.

## ALL IN ALL

...it was a great weekend of music, fellowship and fun. A tip of the ole **GFGA** hat to the folks who work hard to make this event a success. r



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## "The Jerry Reed Collection"

### A review of Craig Dobbins' new book

Craig has done it again. Here is the right book at the right time.

How many of us have worked our way through a **Jerry Reed** tune using Craig's previous book "*The Guitar Style of Jerry Reed*"? How does he do it? Most of us listen to Jerry's playing in astonishment, wondering how he does that stuff. Craig has not only figured it out and does a great job of playing Jerry's music, but has transcribed it for the rest of us mere mortals.

This is a large, economy size book of music and tablature. It not only contains all of the instrumentals from Jerry's new album "*Pickin*", but it also includes note-for-note transcriptions of five classic Reed instrumentals. These include: "*Baby's Coming Home*", "*Blues Land*", "*Hellacious*", "*Honkin*", "*Lottie*", "*My Gypsy Heart*", "*My Priscilla*", "*Reed's Rag*", "*Sassy*", and "*The Claw*" (original 1967 version).

The note-for-note transcriptions are in standard music notation plus tablature. They include fingerings, performance notes and chord diagrams. The book also includes a Jerry Reed discography and Jim Ohlschmidt's interview with Jerry Reed published in *Acoustic Guitar Magazine*.

This is a "must have" book for any guitarist who wishes to play or just understand Jerry Reed's music. It is a limited edition, available only from the world headquarters of **Acoustic Guitar Workshop**.

To order "*The Jerry Reed Collection*" send \$23.95 (\$19.95 plus \$4 postage and handling) to Craig Dobbins' ACOUSTIC GUITAR WORKSHOP, P.O. Box 8075, Gadsden, AL 35902, USA.

Alabama residents please include 8% sales tax. Foreign orders: US\$26.95. Payable in US funds/drawn on US bank or international money order (payable to US Bank). r

## MUSICFEST '99 by Maxine Cummins

**Sonny Thomas** called it **MUSICFEST 99** and held it in the **Guitar Solutions** auditorium and in the field just behind the Guitar Solutions building in Jasper, TN. It ran from Saturday through Monday. The Saturday events on the outside stage included a performance by the **Jim Wood Band** as well as other professional groups throughout the afternoon. The evening was wrapped up with a performance by **Billy Joe Royal**.

But the big doin's for fingerstyle lovers was in the auditorium where beginning at 10:00 o'clock in the morning and continuing until after 6:00 o'clock that evening, guitars prevailed. The line up of performers reads like a Who's Who in fingerstyle players including winners of the Home of the Legends contests in Kentucky, the Tribute to Merle Travis contests in Arkansas, and the fingerstyle contests at Winfield, Kansas.

The Master of Ceremonies for the day

was **Jerome Arnold**, himself a championship guitarist, and just look at the line-up he had the pleasure of introducing. **Jerry Don Haynes**, **Kelly Simms**, **Billy and Gary Denham**, **Charles Chambers**, **Tuck Raisor**, **Waymon Vickery**, **Paul Mosley**, **Tommy Owens** and **Maurice Jones**, **Steve Rector**, who was joined on stage by **Mark Pritcher** on fiddle and **Jerome Arnold** on guitar, **Paul Yandell**, **James Childers**, accompanied by **Jerry Braswell** and **Jim Wood**, **Julian Smith**, **George Dixon**, playing accordion, **Robert Anderson**, and **Bobby Denton** were all delivering hot licks on a very hot day.

The outdoor events continued on Sunday with headliner **Jim & Jesse** and on Monday with headliners **Leroy VanDyke**, **Jack Greene**, **Billy Walker**, **Jett Williams**, **Rex Allen Jr.**, and **Jeannie Seely** closing out the evening and the three day event.

The name, **MUSICFEST 99**, makes one hope there will be a **MUSICFEST 2000**. What a great way to spend the Labor Day weekend. r

## GFGA at GMHF



**Marty Willett**, Visitor Services Manager, welcomes **Ed Cummins** and the **Georgia Fingerstyle Guitar Association** to the **Georgia Music Hall of Fame** in **Macon, GA**. Story on page 1...

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**Membership Expires !**



## Next Meeting - Sat. Nov. 6

at

The Kennesaw, GA Senior Center