

Liberty University School *of* Music

presents

Liberty University Guitar Ensemble Concert

Dr. Michael Brennan, *director*

April 19, 2026

Thomas Road Baptist Church

Pate Chapel

3:00 PM

Liberty University Guitar Ensemble Concert

Dr. Michael Brennan, *director*

Program

- Only King Forever Furtick, Brown, Brock, Joye
arr. Keith Cooper
- Vocalise*, Op 34 No. 14 Sergei Rachmaninov
(1873-1943)
arr. Glenn Caluda
- Ava Knight, *soprano*
Liberty University Guitar Ensemble
- Danza Del Viento Jaime Córdoba
(b. 1946)
- Gibson Cobe, Owen O'Connor, Ryan Simmons, Junior Bigme
- Slow Snow Guy Bergeron
(b. 1964)
- Benjamin May, Andrew Mitten, Danny Scherer
- Boomerang Thierry Tisserand
(b. 1956)
- Dylan Simmons, John Cooney
- Morenita Spanish folk song
arr. Eythor Thorlaksson
- Fox Thomason, Max Pierre-Pierre, Kellon Lincoln
- Escapades celtiques *arr. Laurent Méneret*
- I. Both Sides of the Tweed
- II. Pride of Petravore
- III. A Londonderry Air
- Brooke Young, Myles Park, Jansen Jarnigan, Elizabeth Roller
- Indicatif...Under 18 Luc Lévesque
(b. 1953)
- Hayden Chapman, Coleman Stafford, Danny Scherer, Luke Hostetler, Benjamin May
- Concerto No. 4 in F minor, Op. 8, RV 297, "Winter" Antonio Vivaldi
(1675-1741)
arr. Jeremy Sparks
- I. Allegro non molto
- II. Largo
- III. Allegro
- Dylan Simmons, John Cooney, Isaiah Wallendorf, Jacob Herbig
- Homeward Bound March John Philip Sousa
(1854-1932)
arr. Benjamin May

Soy de Aragón
from *El Divo*

Fernando Díaz Giles
(1887-1960)
arr. Andrew Forrest

Liberty University Guitar Ensemble

- PROGRAM NOTES -

Only King Forever

Written by Mack Brock, Chris Brown, Steven Furtick, Wade Joye, the song, "Only King Forever" was No. 5 on the Worship Leader's Top 20 Songs of 2014 list. Elevation Worship is a contemporary worship music band from Elevation Church in Charlotte, North Carolina. The band leads worship in weekend church services, as well as performing concerts and tours around the United States. They have previously toured with other contemporary Christian bands including Hillsong Worship, Lauren Daigle, Bethel Music, Passion, and others. This arrangement for 5 guitars was done by Dr. Keith Cooper. The chorus says, "You are the only King forever. Almighty God we lift You higher."

Vocalise

Sergei Rachmaninov was a Russian composer and pianist who was one of the last of the representatives of romanticism. He was known for his virtuosity at the piano and was considered one of the greatest players in the world. He wrote 4 piano concertos and Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini which is for piano and orchestra. He also composed 24 preludes; one in each key, 3 symphonies as well as 3 symphonic poems. Symphonic poems are one-movement orchestral works that are usually connected to a poem, a work of art, or a novel in which the composer attempts to musically evoke the imagery of the subject. Vocalise was the last song of a set of fourteen called 14 Songs or 14 Romances, op. 34 and was written in 1915. It was dedicated to Russian soprano Antonina Nezhdanova.

Danza Del Viento

Colombian composer and guitarist Jaime Córdoba's earliest compositions date from when he was a teenager, writing music for guitar duo and trio. He studied classical guitar in Ecuador where he absorbed the South American folk music and rhythms. He went to France to further his compositional studies and won prizes in composition and counterpoint. Danza del Viento or dance of the wind is rich with evocative harmonies and poignant melodies.

Slow Snow

Canadian composer Guy Bergeron earned a music degree from the Conservatoire de musique of Quebec in 1990. A student of both jazz and classical guitar, Bergeron has written music for solo guitar as well as music for guitar ensemble. Slow Snow has an ethereal quality with its haunting melody, use of colorful chord extensions, dissonances, and campanellas. A campanella is a technique where the guitarist plays a line that moves in a stepwise fashion but instead of playing on consecutive notes, you utilize open strings thus giving it the quality of a harp.

Boomerang

Thierry Tisserand studied at the Conservatoire National de région de Lille, where he obtained a Gold Medal in classical guitar. During that time an interest for jazz, harmony, and arrangement, which he studied at the C.I.M. in Paris under of Pierre Cullaz. As a concertising guitarist, he played with many different groups, from jazz quintet to guitar quartet, when he is not accompanying singers. In the last few years, he has dedicated more time to writing for the classical guitar, composing many pieces for all levels, in the form of duos, trios, quartets. Currently, he teaches guitar in many schools of Lille and the surrounding area. Boomerang is a blues influenced piece with pleasant melodies and syncopated rhythms.

Morenita

This Spanish folk song has the characteristic Spanish melodic idioms as well as the use of the hemiola or the idea of 3 against 2. The lyrics of the song are, "They both sing with their hearts, they help the Sun shine cleanly. Run, brunette, alone, each one in her place. The two sing with their hearts, they ask Pacha Mamita for forgiveness."

- PROGRAM NOTES -

Escapades celtiques

Composer Laurent Méneret arranged these three traditional Irish melodies for guitar quartet. “Both Sides of the Tweed” was written by James Hogg who lived from 1770-1835 and contains a characteristic Irish folk melody. “The Pride of Petravore” was written by William Percy Français (1854-1924) is also known as Eileen Og or Young Eileen. “Londonderry Air” is an Irish folk tune that dates from the mid-nineteenth century. In 1910, new lyrics were written and the song became “Danny Boy.”

Indicatif...Under 18

The translation of this title is simply; indicative...under 18, which is vague at best. The piece is written for four guitars and a contrabasse, which in this case is a fifth guitar. The fifth part opens with rumba rhythm. This rhythm is in 4/4 time but is divided into 3 + 3 + 2. The third guitar part creates an ostinato or continuous rhythm pattern while guitars one and two play a melody harmonized a third apart. The composer, Luc Lévesque has written numerous works for multiple guitars.

Concerto No. 4 in F minor, Op. 8, RV 297, "Winter"

Winter is the fourth concerto in Vivaldi's famous work called *the Four Seasons*. Each concerto is written in three movements; fast – slow – fast and is accompanied by sonnets. Winter's sonnets are as follows.

Movement 1

*To tremble from cold in the icy snow,
In the harsh breath of a horrid wind;
To run, stamping one's feet every moment,
Our teeth chattering in the extreme cold*

Movement 2

*Before the fire to pass peaceful,
Contented days while the rain outside pours down.*

Movement 3

*We tread the icy path slowly and cautiously,
for fear of tripping and falling.
Then turn abruptly, slip, crash on the ground and,
rising, hasten on across the ice lest it cracks up.
We feel the chill north winds course through the home
despite the locked and bolted doors...
this is winter, which nonetheless
brings its own delights.*

Homeward Bound March

John Philip Sousa was known for his many marches and was dubbed “King of the Marches.” He also wrote operettas, songs, and other works including *Stars and Stripes Forever*. Homeward Bound March contains all of the excitement and bravado you would expect from a Sousa March. This work was arranged for five guitars and a solo part toward the end by ensemble member, Benjamin May.

Soy de Aragón

This song comes from the 1942 zarzuela, *Il Divo* by Spanish composer Fernando Díaz Giles. A zarzuela is a Spanish lyric-dramatic genre that alternates between spoken and sung scenes, the latter incorporating operatic and popular songs, as well as dance. The translation of *Soy de Aragón* is I am from *Aragón* and is an aria and is quintessentially Spanish.

- DIRECTOR -



Dr. Michael Brennan was born in Chicago, Illinois and was raised in Southern California. He started playing the guitar at the age of seventeen. He earned a Bachelor of Music and Master of Music from California State University at Fullerton in Classical Guitar Performance, studying with David Grimes. Additionally, he received a Doctor of Music from Northwestern University, where he studied with Anne Waller.

Dr. Brennan has given solo and collaborative guitar performances all over the United States. He has made two solo guitar recordings of his hymn arrangements; One Desire and He Makes All Things Beautiful. A new recording of Christmas music called Love's Pure Light is set for release later this year. He contributed articles for The Popular Encyclopedia of Church History and is a regular contributor to Soundboard guitar journal.

Before coming to Liberty University, Dr. Brennan was a faculty member at Mt. San Antonio Community College (Walnut, CA), Huntington College (Huntington, IN), Judson College (Elgin, IL), and Benedictine University (Lisle, IL).

Dr. Brennan is a member of the Guitar Foundation of America. Dr. Brennan is a full professor and serves as Coordinator of Guitar Studies.

- LIBERTY UNIVERSITY GUITAR ENSEMBLE -

Andrew Mitten
Benjamin May
Brooke Young
Coleman Stafford
Danny Scherer
Dylan Simmons
Elizabeth Roller

Fox Thomason
Gibson Cobe
Hayden Chapman
Isaiah Wallendorf
Jacob Herbig
Jansen Jarnigan
John Cooney

Junior Bigme
Kellon Lincoln
Luke Hostetler
Max Pierre-Pierre
Myles Park
Owen O'Connor
Ryan Simmons

- PERSONNEL -

Ava Knight is a Soprano completing her B.M. in Vocal Performance at Liberty University. In 2023, Ava was invited to join Opera Lucca's Summer program as a Young Artist in Lucca, Italy. She has spent the past two Summers with the Adirondack Performing Arts Festival in upstate New York as a multi-genre vocalist. Ava is currently a Young Artist at Opera Roanoke, where she has been a soloist in concerts, masterclasses, and other educational engagements. At Liberty, she has performed the roles of Prince Orlofsky in Die Fledermaus, Donna Elvira in Don Giovanni, and both Queen of the Night and Second Lady in Die Zauberflöte. She has additionally appeared as a soloist with multiple School of Music ensembles. Ava enjoys singing in the Lynchburg area, having experience performing with Opera on the James and various local churches.



Liberty University School of Music Upcoming Events

*Wind Symphony	Center for Music and the Worship Arts, Concert Hall Mon, April 20, 7:30 PM
*Songwriter Cafe	LaHaye Event Space Green Hall Tue, April 21, 7:30 PM
Afro-Cuban Ensemble & Percussion Quartet	Center for Music and the Worship Arts, Concert Hall Fri, April 24, 7:30 PM
*Commercial Music Showcase	Center for Music and the Worship Arts, Concert Hall Tue, April 28, 7:30 PM
Honors Recital <i>Reception to follow</i>	Center for Music and the Worship Arts, Concert Hall Wed, April 29, 5:30 PM
String Chamber Ensembles	Center for Music and the Worship Arts, Macel Falwell Recital Hall (M305) Sun, May 3, 7:00 PM
I Love America: A Celebration of America's 250 th Anniversary <i>LU Symphony Orchestra & Choirs</i>	Center for Music and the Worship Arts, Concert Hall Tues, May 5, 7:30 PM

**Ticketed Event. Tickets can be purchased at www.liberty.edu/tickets.*

**We would like to thank the
Liberty University Administration for
their faithful support of the School of Music.**

Dr. Dondi Costin, President
Dr. Scott Hicks, Provost and Chief Academic Officer
Dr. Stephen Müller, Dean, School of Music
The School of Music Administration, Faculty, and Staff

LIBERTY
UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL *of* MUSIC