

By Thomas Heck

In early May, 2015, there was a biennial gathering of guitar history enthusiasts and scholars at the town of Hemmenhofen, Germany, on Lake Constance (a.k.a. the Bodensee). At this editor's suggestion, one of the sessions was a round table with the title, "Old and New Sources and Horizons for Historical Research on the Guitar." It was designed to stimulate audience participation and certainly succeeded. Brief papers were offered by three scholars in attendance: myself, Erik Stenstadvold, and Gerhard Penn. What follows is a summary of the handout I prepared for that session. It identifies eight points of progress, each of which can be considered good news for those who work in the field of guitar history. Finally, there is a new streaming-video lecture series from England, produced in 2014–15, that will delight all who love the guitar.

1. **Access to European newspapers is getting much better.** As Erik Stenstadvold points out in his "Note on Newspaper Research" at the conclusion of his article on Fernando Sor (above, p. 23): A great number of British newspapers and periodicals are searchable through the **British Newspaper Archive** <www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk> under the auspices of the British Library (*Examiner*, *Morning Chronicle*, *Morning Post*) and the **Hathi Trust Digital Library** <www.hathitrust.org> (*London Literary Gazette*, *London Magazine*, *New Monthly Magazine and Literary Journal*). The French sources [can be] accessed via **Gallica** <gallica.bnf.fr>, the digital department of the Bibliothèque nationale de France, with the exception of *Le Miroir des spectacles* (July-Dec. 1822) and *Journal de Paris*, which have not yet been digitized, but can be examined through microfilms at the Bibliothèque nationale in Paris.

2. **Music periodical indexing has never been better**, but some important research databases still remain restricted to participating libraries. Especially gratifying is how quickly **RILM**, the *Répertoire International de Littérature Musicale* <www.rilm.org> cites online the contents of a specialized Italian guitar magazine like *il Fronimo* virtually as soon as it is received, even if it postpones adding the abstract until later. Most research libraries provide their users with access to **RILM**, **RIPM**, and the *Music Index* through a contract with EBSCOhost.

RIPM, the *Retrospective Index to Music Periodicals* <www.ripm.org>, currently offers exhaustive indexes to 223 older music periodicals (1760–1966). Together **RIPM** and **RILM** provide access to 255 years of music periodical literature and are designed to complement each other chronologically.

3. **Many academic and research libraries are already publishing their own "electronic journals,"** in addition to purchasing journals (electronic and printed) from scholarly publishers. See the Wikipedia

article, "Library publishing," <www.en.wikipedia/wiki/Library_publishing>. Scholarly monographs, dissertations, and conference proceedings are also being included in this publishing stream. A search (20 Apr. 2015) of just the keyword descriptor-phrase "full text online" at the Univ. of Texas library produced 23,683 results. The Ohio State Univ. Library's response to the same search was 45,931. The difference is probably attributable to the latter's membership in OhioLINK.

4. **Media-rich dissertations and theses** are now routinely being hosted and published online by the libraries of the institutions granting the degrees. Witness Martin Vishnick's "Survey of Extended Techniques on the Classical Six-String Guitar with Appended Studies in New Morphological Notation" (Doctoral thesis, City University London, 2014) <openaccess.city.ac.uk/4164/>. It can be downloaded in five zipped archives—two PDFs for Vols. 1 & 2, two folders of audio files (tracks 1–56 and 57–109), and a video of Vishnick's examples 1–10.

Kenneth Hartdegen's 1,000+-page dissertation on Sor (2011) is likewise freely available online: "Fernando Sor's Theory of Harmony Applied to the Guitar: History, Bibliography and Context" (Ph.D. Thesis, Music, Univ. of Auckland, NZ, 2011) xvii, 1008 p. ill. (some col.), music, facsim. It is delivered via three PDFs at <researchspace.auckland.ac.nz/handle/2292/11142>.

5. The online *Catalogo Numerico Ricordi* now makes freely available documentation and dates for all Ricordi editions published from 1808 to 1870 <www.ricordicompany.com/en/catalog>. Robert Coldwell writes that as of December 2014 he has added entries for the [541] named Ricordi guitar works to his Digital Guitar Archive Search.

6. The **Digital Guitar Archive** search of Mr. Coldwell <digitalguitararchive.com> now provides references to 5,472 cataloged items in the **Gitarristische Sammlung Fritz Walter u. Gabriele Wiedemann**, Munich, Bavarian State Library.

7. **Hofmeister XIX** <www.hofmeister.rhul.ac.uk/2008/index.html> is an on-line, searchable version of the Hofmeister *Monatsberichte* for the years 1829–1900. Having some 330,000 records of music publications, it is the most extensive resource for establishing what was published where and when during that period—a time when publication dates rarely appeared on editions of sheet music. Records are linked to facsimile images of the actual pages of the *Monatsberichte* at the Österreichische Nationalbibliothek website.

8. The complete *Soundboard* is now indexed and selectively abstracted, in a timely manner, in *The Music Index* online. There were 4,337 *Soundboard* item entries as of April 2015, covering the magazine from its beginnings to Vol. 40 no. 3 (Jan. 2015).

No full-text searching of *Soundboard* is available through the *Music Index*. For that purpose, the GFA sells a keyword-searchable DVD-ROM. While serviceable and a great improvement over what was previously available, this machine-generated DVD-ROM has its limitations due to inevitably incorrect OCR—optical character recognition, especially in the early typescript issues. Exhaustive and detailed indexing with 100% reliable keyword searching is currently being developed by Jan de Kloe: his *Soundboard Index* database, to be sold online, is coming soon. Contact Jan at <jan.de.kloe@telenet.be> for more information.

Men, Women, and Guitars in Romantic England

Finally, for those interested in media as it relates to the guitar's cultural history, there is a new streaming video series to recommend—and it's free! Professor Christopher Page, founder of the Consortium for Guitar Research at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, has produced six fascinating lectures with live musical illustrations, entitled "Men, Women, and Guitars in Romantic England." They are among the latest in a centuries-long tradition at Gresham College (founded 1597) of providing free public lectures to the masses—initially within the City of London, but now, through the miracle of streaming video, available worldwide. These lectures, all superb, should be an enduring and valuable resource for the study and teaching of guitar history and literature everywhere. <http://www.gresham.ac.uk/men-women-and-guitars-in-romantic-england>




INDIANA UNIVERSITY JACOBS SCHOOL OF MUSIC



“... one of the finest guitar programs in the world ...”

- Guitar International.com



Ernesto Bitetti
Professor of Music;
Chair



Petar Jankovic
Lecturer in Music

Degrees include

Bachelor of Music, Bachelor of Music Education, Bachelor of Science and an Outside Field, Master of Music, Doctor of Music, Performer Diploma, and Artist Diploma.

2016 AUDITION DATES

Jan. 15 & 16 | Feb. 5 & 6 | Mar. 4 & 5
Application deadline is Dec. 1, 2015.

Notable alumni include

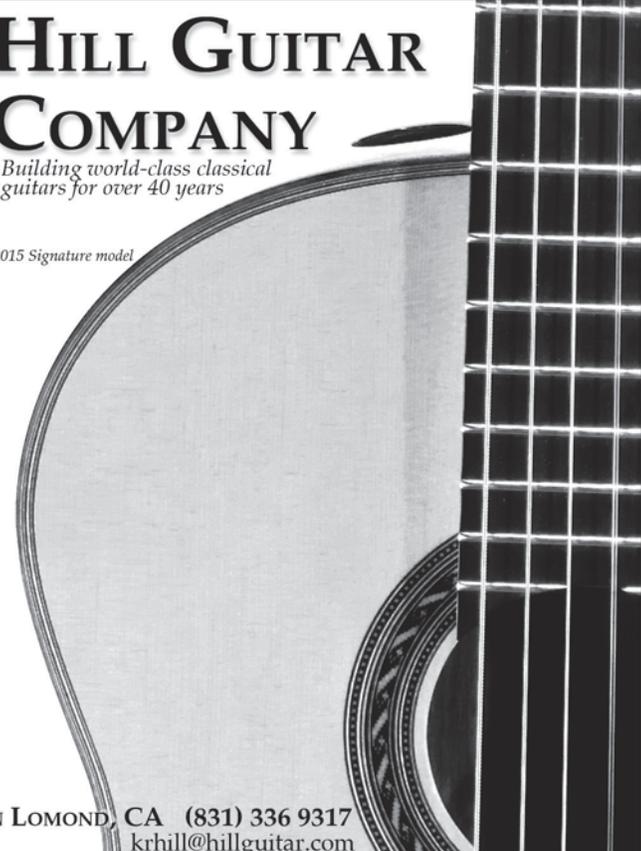
Denis Azabagic, Daniel Bolshoy, Nicholas Ciraldo, Nemanja Ostojic, Julio Ribeiro, Alan Thomas, Aleksandr Tsiboulski.

music.indiana.edu

HILL GUITAR COMPANY

Building world-class classical guitars for over 40 years

2015 Signature model



BEN LOMOND, CA (831) 336 9317
krhill@hillguitar.com