

# Steve Lin

Classical Guitarist

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steven.lin@aya.yale.edu  
[www.linguitar.com](http://www.linguitar.com)

## Biography

Steve Lin has concertized throughout the United States, Italy, Mexico, the Philippines, and Taiwan. He is acclaimed by *Classical Guitar Magazine* as “a confident player with a powerful sound, quick hands, and a solid musical memory” and praised by American guitar virtuoso Eliot Fisk as a performer who “plays with an innate and uncommon elegance”.

Steve was the first prize winner at the 2006 Boston GuitarFest Competition and the 2001 East Carolina University Guitar Competition. He has performed at Mérida Yucatán Guitar Festival, Yale Guitar Extravaganza, L'Accademia Musicale Chigiana, ChitarralImperia Festival, and Stetson Guitar Workshop.

A recording artist for VGo Recordings, Steve has released two albums. The first, *Eliot Fisk Series Vol. 1* (VG1013), is a joint effort with guitarist Joseph Williams II and La Bella Strings and was dubbed “innovative and exciting” by *Minor 7<sup>th</sup> Acoustic Guitar Music Reviews*. His second CD, *Imagen* (VG1015), features the Latin American compositions of Agustín Barrios and Antonio Lauro, which *Classical Guitar Magazine* called “brilliant” and “virtuosic”. A third CD is underway and will feature Asian and Asian-inspired music.

In addition to his work as a concert guitarist, Steve is regularly engaged in community and educational concerts. Beginning in 2005, he founded Boston Guitar Project, which organized over 20 performances annually, ranging from benefit concerts for disaster relief, music hours for nursing homes and hospitals, and fund raiser concerts for local non-profits throughout the Greater Boston Area. Now living in the San Francisco Bay Area, he continues his work through the South Bay Guitar Society and his own outreach initiative, reaching churches, libraries, and schools. In 2010 Steve was the recipient of a grant from *Yale AlumniVentures* to carry out in-class performances at public schools in the Bay Area.

In November 2009, Steve premiered *Journey into Desire* by Lei Liang; the commission was made possible by support from the Silicon Valley Community Foundation and the South Bay Guitar Society. *Journey into Desire* is based on the Chinese novel *Dreams from the Red Chamber* and it was given its Asian premier at the first Philippine International Guitar Festival in Manila in 2010. Steve has also commissioned works by Mu-Xuan Lin, David McMullin, Nomi Epstein, Joseph Johnson, Matthew McConnell, and Colin Stack.

In 2008, Steve was coached by composer Helmut Lachenmann in preparation for a performance of ‘...zwei Gefühle...’, *Musik mit Leonardo* with Stephen Drury and the Callithumpian Consort. He has performed with Boston Microtonal Society’s *NotaRiotous*, a chamber ensemble dedicated to promoting microtonal music. He has also appeared at New England Conservatory’s *Summer Institute for Contemporary Performance Practice* (SICPP) and on the *New Gallery Concert Series* of Boston.

At present, Steve is the guitar professor at San Jose State University. Steve is completing his doctorate from New England Conservatory under Eliot Fisk. He earned his M.M. at Yale School of Music and his B.M. at NEC. His primary teachers have included Oscar Ghiglia, Lorenzo Micheli, Wei-Ren Chuang, Ronald Purcell, and Ronald Borczon. During his free time he spends many hours in the kitchen and plays a lot of badminton and an occasional table tennis.

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## Biography (250 Words)

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Steve is regularly engaged in community and educational concerts. Beginning in 2005, he founded Boston Guitar Project, which organized over 20 performances annually throughout the Greater Boston Area. Now living in the San Francisco Bay Area, he continues his work through the South Bay Guitar Society.

Passionate about new music, Steve most notably performed with the Callithumpian Consort with Stephen Drury and Helmut Lachenmann. He has also commissioned and premiered works by David McMullin, Nomi Epstein, Joseph Johnson, Matthew McConnell, and Colin Stack.

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## Biography (150 Words)

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He founded Boston Guitar Project, which organized over 20 community performances annually throughout Greater Boston. Now living in the San Francisco Bay Area, he continues outreach and educational performances through South Bay Guitar Society.

At present, Steve is the guitar professor at San Jose State University. He earned his masters from Yale School of Music and is completing his doctorate from New England Conservatory under Eliot Fisk. During his free time he spends many hours in the kitchen and playing an occasional table tennis.

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Please visit [www.linguitar.com](http://www.linguitar.com) to view hi-resolution photos, hear sound samples, and to learn more about Steve Lin.

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## 簡介

知名年輕吉他演奏家林子文 Steve Lin 是目前國際之間廣受矚目的演奏家之一，曾於 2001 年獲得 East Carolina University Guitar Competition 第一名，並於 2006 年 Steve 榮獲 Boston GuitarFest 獨奏組第一名。近年來他廣受邀約，於世界各地舉辦獨奏會或是與室內樂合作演出，足跡遍及全美、台灣、墨西哥、義大利。Steve 於 2007 年加入 VGo Recordings 並於 5 月發行了第一張唱片 *Eliot Fisk Series Vol. I* (VG1013)，此張唱片中，他邀請了吉他演奏家 Joseph Williams II 及知名團體 La Bella Strings 一起合作錄製。同年 11 月 Steve 更以拉丁美洲作曲家 Agustín Barrios 及 Antonio Lauro 的作品為主錄製了第二張唱片 *Imagen* (VG1015)。Steve 的興趣廣泛，在閒暇之於喜歡烹飪以及玩桌球。

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## Concerts and Outreach (Partial List)

<b>2011</b>	May 14	South Bay Guitar Society Showcase Concert
	April 8	The Abbey Acoustic Guitar Showcase
	March 19	South Bay Guitar Society 7th Guitar Solo & Ensemble Festival
	March 16	Friends of Edenvale Library
	February 11	A House Café, Taipei, Taiwan
	February 1	Marcedo Fernan Hall, Cebu, Philippines
	January 26-30	Second Philippine International Guitar Festival
<b>2010</b>	October 6	Silicon Valley Community Foundation, CA
	October 3	Mountain View Center for Performing Arts, CA
	August 8	Theater on San Pedro Square, San Jose, CA
	August 7	Art in the Gardens, Fort Bragg, CA
	August 5	Old Town Coffee & Chocolates, Eureka, CA
	August 4	Westhaven Center for the Arts, Trinidad, CA
	August 3	Christ Episcopal Church, Eureka, CA
	August 1	Holy Family Church, Rohnert Park, CA
	May 28	Evergreen Valley High School, San Jose, CA
	May 25	Sunnyvale Public Library, CA
	April 15	San Jose State University, CA
	March 24	Mt. Pleasant High School, San Jose, CA
	March 13	Mid-Atlantic Guitar Ensemble Festival, Alexandria, VA
	February 26	Long Beach Guitar Society, Long Beach, CA
	February 24	Santa Teresa High School, San Jose, CA
	February 12	Monta Vista HS, Cupertino; Independence HS, San Jose
	January 28-31	First Philippine International Guitar Festival
	January 26	Marcedo Fernan Hall, Cebu, Philippines
<b>2009</b>	December 10	Morgan Hill Library, CA
	December 2	Salon de Hotel Rex with Ji-Young Yang, soprano
	November 18	San Jose Music Study Club
	September 25	Unison Arts, New Paltz, NY
	September 22	Evergreen College, San Jose, CA
	September 5	Tapestry Arts Festival, San Jose, CA
	July 9	San Jose City Rotunda
	June 21	Sharon Public Library, Sharon, MA
	June 14-20	Summer Inst. for Contemporary Performance Practice, Boston, MA.
	May 29	San Jose Public Library, Vineland Branch
	March 28	Mid-Atlantic Guitar Festival (Alexandria, VA)
	March 17	Notre Dame de Namur University, Belmont, CA
	March 5	Texas A&M University, College Station, TX
	February 16	San Agustine Church, Manila, Philippines
	February 14	Taipei Chinese Orchestra (Taipei, Taiwan)
	January 23	Silicon Valley Arts Coalition, San Jose, CA

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<b>2008</b>	December 31	First Night Boston (Boston, MA)
	December 12	First Church in Boston (Boston, MA)
	December 5	Roger Center for the Arts (Andover, MA)
	December 3	Gateway Community College (New Haven, CT)
	December 2	Olin Arts Center, Bates College (Lewiston, ME)
	October 23	Universidad Autónoma de Yucatán (Merida, Mexico)
	October 14	Gonzaga University (Spokane, WA)
	October 11	Seattle Classical Guitar Society (Seattle, WA)
	October 10	Northwest Guitar Society (Bellingham, WA)
	August 31	Tapestry Arts Festival (San Jose, CA)
	June 15-21	Summer Inst. for Contemporary Performance Practice (Boston, MA)
	June 10-15	Boston GuitarFest 2008 (Boston, MA)
	June 1	Masters of Tomorrow (Newport, RI)
	May 18	Coffee Gallery Backstage (Altadena, CA)
	May 15	De Anza College: Thursday Recital Series (Cupertino, CA)
	May 14	Santa Clara University: Music at Noon (Santa Clara, CA)
	May 10	VGo Recordings Concert Series (San Bruno, CA)
	May 2	Trinity Church (Boston, MA)
	April 22	New England Conservatory (Boston, MA)
	April 6	Ashland Public Library (Ashland, MA)
	March 25	King's Chapel (Boston, MA)
	March 20	Harvard Organ Society (Cambridge, MA)
	March 9	Taylor House Music Series (Jamaica Plain, MA)
	March 5	Callithumpian Consort (Boston, MA)
	February 17	Newton Free Library (Newton, MA)
	February 1	Salt Lake Guitar Society Concert Series (Salt Lake City, UT)
	January 29	Callithumpian Consort
	January 19	National Open University (Taichung, Taiwan)
<b>2007</b>	December 30	Taiwanese Guitar Society (Taipei, Taiwan)
	November 24	Chapel Meetinghouse Concert Series (Foxboro, MA)
	November 21	Universidad Autónoma de Yucatán
	November 16	St. Andrew's Performing Arts Series (Wellesley, MA)
	November 13	Olin Arts Center, Bate's College
	November 9	Third Life Studio (Somerville, MA)
	October 18	Massachusetts Institute of Tech. Chapel Concerts (Cambridge, MA)
	October 7	Kingston Congregational Church Concert Series (Kingston, RI)
	September 23	Harvard-Epworth United Methodist Church (Cambridge, MA)
	August 18	North Falmouth Congregational Church (N. Falmouth, MA)
	June 23	Summer Inst. For Contemporary Performance Practice
	June 5	Boston GuitarFest 2007 – New England Conservatory
	February 8	New Gallery Concert Series (Boston, MA)
<b>2006</b>	December 24	United Parish of Brookline (Brookline, MA)
	December 13	Grace Episcopal Church (Newton, MA)
	December 8	St. Andrew's Performing Arts Series

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	November 11	New England Conservatory Contemporary Ensemble
	June 11	Boston GuitarFest 2006 – New England Conservatory
	June 6	King's Chapel
	February 26	The Center for Arts Natick (Natick, MA)
<b>2005</b>	April 27	Sprague Hall, Yale University (New Haven, CT)
	February 2	Yale Center for British Art
<b>2004</b>	December 10	Sprague Hall, Yale University
	November 11	Yale Guitar Extravaganza
	April 14	Dwight Chapel, Yale University
<b>2003</b>	April 8	Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory
	April 4	St. Botolph Hall, New England Conservatory
<b>2002</b>	November 2	Concert Hall, Boston University (Boston, MA)
	June 20	ChitarralImperia Festival (Imperia, Italy)
	April 6	Grant Recital Hall, Brown University (Providence, RI)
<b>2001</b>	June 13	Stetson International Guitar Workshop (Deland, FL)

## Selected Workshop Topics

### *Musical Activism for Today's Musicians*

One of the many hats that young musicians today will be asked to wear is performing in the community and engaging in educational programs. Some think of it as a form of community service, while others do it to inspire a new generation of listeners. The ways to take part in community and educational work are as varied as their objectives. Through community and educational work, a musician can build relationships with local institutions, apply for grants, interact with audiences, broaden your network, and even develop a career path.

### *Better Know Your Fret Board – A More Mindful Way to Practice Technique*

A hands-on, guided technique session that will help guitar students become better acquainted with the fret board by combining theoretic rudiments with technical exercises. This implementation of concepts such as proper voice leading, modulation, and counterpoint with daily practice was developed by the American guitar virtuoso, Eliot Fisk, who dubbed it, "The Poetry of Technique"™. By being more mindful of the way we practice technique, we can also develop our aural skills, familiarity with the fret board, sight reading, and of course, technique.

### *Sight Reading for Guitarists*

There is a very strong correlation between the *quantity* of repertoire a guitarist has read and the *quality* of his/her sight reading abilities. Sight reading a skill that can be trained much in the way one can train at a sport. We will identify potential pieces that we can use to work towards gradually developing better sight reading. This workshop will help you set up a routine that you can incorporate into your daily practice.

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## Acclaim:

"Steve possesses a natural gift for the instrument and plays with an innate and uncommon elegance. I have delighted in his remarkable growth both musical and spiritual which auger so well for the continuation of the very significant contribution he has already begun to make to the development of our beloved instrument."

- **Eliot Fisk, guitar virtuoso**

"Lin is a very confident player with a powerful sound, quick hands, and a solid musical memory. His [performance of J.S. Bach's] *Prelude, Fugue, and Allegro* was rendered thoughtfully and capably. ... Lin finished with Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco's No. 18 *El Sueño de la Razon Produce Monstruos*, fully exploiting the timbres of his Stephan Connor guitar and using dynamics to great effect."

- **Mark Small, Classical Guitar Magazine**

"It is very rare to hear someone play with such sensitivity and use *pianissimo* so powerfully. Steve Lin's performance took my breath away."

- **Grisha Goryachev, flamenco virtuoso**

"Steven Lin's virtuosic technique, coupled with his impressive command of phrasing contrapuntal passages, makes his playing of Bach and Scarlatti a treat that any guitarist will appreciate. I'm amazed at his talent for quickly learning new repertoire and stoked to have him playing on one of my guitars!"

- **Stephan Connor, renowned luthier**

"A superb guitarist and a great musician!"

- **Rene Izquierdo, guitarist and professor  
University of Wisconsin Milwaukee**

"Folks, if you get a chance to hear Steve, make the trip. His is playing that is, overall, both quite virtuosic and musical/beautiful/dynamically expansive (great dynamic range), and Steve's ideas on when to gently milk things, and when to burn, were just what the music needed in the moment Tuesday evening; solid, intelligent interpretations on a well-balanced program! Plus his Connor kept up its end of the bargain, as well—just a great sounding, dynamic guitar."

- **Michael Milham, guitar professor  
Gonzaga University, Spokane WA**

"Steve Lin's performance demonstrated extraordinary talent."

- **Epoch Times (February 23, 2007)**

"On behalf of SAPAS, I take great pleasure in thanking you for your beautiful contribution in our Britten and Susa concerts. Your gift of superb artistry is greatly appreciated. I look forward to working with you again."

- **Patricia Griffin, Music Director  
St. Andrew's Episcopal, Wellesley MA**

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## CD Reviews

"Steve Lin's album [Imagen] presents a selection of these delightful works in performances which fully do [the works of Agustin Barrios] justice. Lin is virtuosic when needed, elegant as required, and romantic in the works which lend themselves to it."

- Albert Kunze, *Soundboard Magazine*

"[A] highly skilled and sensitive musician. The result is a thrilling musical journey that reaches ... climaxes. One of the most innovative and exciting discs I have ever reviewed."

- Timothy Smith, *Minor 7<sup>th</sup> Acoustic Guitar Music Reviews*

"Focusing upon the music of Venezuelan guitarist Antonio Lauro and Paraguayan guitarist Agustín Barrios Mangore, Steve Lin gives a somewhat different slant upon many of these, mostly very familiar classics of the guitar repertoire.

The music of Lauro was extremely fashionable at one time, then it seemed to drop a little out of favour, seldom appearing on recordings and the concert platform for years; perhaps now is the time for the music of this wonderful musician to make an appearance once again to see what the younger generation of players make of it. Steve Lin's presentation of some of these classic compositions from the pen of this Venezuelan master may help things on their way. He certainly knows how to get the best from these highly rhythmical and tunefully brilliant miniatures and it was a joy to hear these works played in this fashion.

Once John Williams had 'discovered' the glorious music of Barrios and presented a small sample of it to the guitar world in the form of a double LP (Long Playing vinyl record - there was a time I would not have had to explain those initials) then things never looked back for the music of this Paraguayan genius and he never seems to lose popularity. Lin gives brilliant renditions of this music; he plays with an instinctive intuition, his highly developed technique enabling him free rein with this highly virtuosic music.

The recording quality is good as is the presentation, although it would have been nice to have had a little more information about the player and the music.

"[Steve Lin] certainly knows how to get the best from [Lauro's] highly rhythmical and tunefully brilliant miniatures and it was a joy to hear these works played in this fashion. Lin gives brilliant renditions of [Barrios]; he plays with an instinctive intuition, his highly developed technique enabling him free rein with this highly virtuosic music."

- Steve Marsh, *Classical Guitar Magazine*

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## **Outreach Responses:**

"Thank you so very much for your second wonderful concert at the Brigham and Women's Hospital Kessler Library. It was great to have you back here again warming the hearts of our patients and family members awaiting surgery. Your music and talent continues to inspire many, and attendees are sure to remember your performance for years to come."

- **Cara Helfner, Chief Librarian and Program Manager**  
**Kessler Health Education Library, Brigham and Women's Hospital**

"Thank you for your donation to Conversation Pieces Gala Silent Auction at Brookline Arts Center's 2007 spring fundraiser. This wonderful event raised the visibility of the Brookline Arts Center's new sculpture garden, "Conversation Pieces." Last Saturday's gala was a great success. [It is] people like you who provide our community with the funds and energy necessary to maintain strong arts programs for Brookline and Metro Boston residents."

- **Susan L. Navarre, Executive Director**  
**Brookline Arts Center**

"Thank you for sharing your wonderful music with the TAS community and promoting classical guitar with such passion. What you are doing is really amazing and I am sure your efforts are making an impact this very moment. We are all very proud of our alumni. Who would have known that they would turn out to be such great guitarists, right?!"

- **Helen Chen, Associate Director of Alumni**  
**Taipei American School**

"Thanks so much for yesterday! You guys were fantastic. Everyone here really enjoyed the performance. One of my parishioners came by today to tell me that she loved it and that it helped her so much with her depression."

- **Timothy Crellin, Vicar**  
**St. Stephen's Episcopal Church (Boston)**

"I really enjoyed the concert yesterday, as did every person in the room. It was a haven in the middle of my very people-intensive day, and I felt blessed by God through your music."

- **Christopher Greco, Music Director**  
**Cambridge Vineyard Christian Fellowship**

"Thank you so much for playing at our event. You and your group did a wonderful job! We were so lucky to have met you!"

- **Jonelle Prill, Assistant Director**  
**Brookline Arts Center**

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## Audience Reviews:

"I had the pleasure of attending your guitar performance for the Social Science Club of Newton. Your technical skills were superb - it is always wonderful to listen to a musician who has mastered particularly demanding works, but especially so when he brings out, as you do, the underlying feeling of the piece. I also enjoyed the commentary which you offered to us; it made the experience more meaningful than it would otherwise have been. Thank you so much for sharing your gift with us."

- **Pete Funkhouser**

"Extraordinary technique! Played with passion! Connected with the audience! I wouldn't miss an opportunity to hear Steve again. The variety was pleasing, from Bach to Romantic waltzes. Great choices!"

- **Jean Kennedy**

"I enjoyed your performance very much. What I also appreciated was the background information you provided for us. It made the experience of listening and imagining all the more pleasurable."

- **Leah Fygetakis**

"Steve Lin is a very engaging young performer. He plays in an unusual position--right leg over left, guitar on right thigh. (I tried this last night and I couldn't keep the guitar still!) He is intensely expressive, more so than technically perfect. Not to say that the latter was a problem by any stretch, but given the choice, I'll go with the former any time. Hey, he can certainly play circles around me with his eyes closed--which he did much of the time, including his encore, Pujols' "El Abejorro."

He also introduced each piece, talking about where the composer was in his career, what was going on and what he might have been thinking, and how he (Lin) used this information shaped his own interpretation of the piece. It would be wonderful if more performers would do this."

- Oski 79 on [www.delcamp.net](http://www.delcamp.net)

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## **CD Reviews from Audiences:**

"Steven Lin and Joseph Williams may be on the young side as far as the long arc of musicianship goes, but don't be fooled folks- these guys are guitar MASTERS! If you love guitar music, or even just music, don't hesitate to pick up this CD (it's become permanent addition to this buyer's iPod). It's full of passionate, gorgeous guitar playing that covers the gamut of great guitar repertoire. Bravo to these sparkling virtuosos! The only thing better than listening to this CD is listening to these two amazing musicians play right front of you, and, thanks to Vincent Go's superb sound engineering, it's a very small margin of aesthetic difference."

**- Sean Frenette**

"I got this CD today with Steve Lin & Joseph Williams II. Wowee!! These guys are virtuosos galore! Steve Lin's passion, energy and majestic flair is reminiscent of Eliot Fisk. Joseph Williams II also proves to also be very inspired with his spirited Paganini variations . I loved it when these two geniuses played together on the final cut which was a song by Joseph Williams II. My teacher and I really enjoyed the Castelnuovo-Tedesco song that Steve Lin did! I am seriously thinking about learning that one now! It is gorgeous and quite moving! Incredible!!!! The Aguado and Bach are also AMAZING!!"

**- Reeve Martin**

"Steve Lin and Joseph Williams II are very talented musicians. I have had the pleasure of hearing them perform, and they play with virtuosity and great sensitivity. This CD captures the beauty of their playing. And to further enhance the pleasure of hearing them, the production values of the CD are excellent and there is a very intelligent choice in composers. I love listening to this CD, and I'm very picky about classical guitar CDs, as I am a classical guitarist myself."

**- Marilyn Goodrich**

"This is an incredible CD full of variety and intense musicality. Both of these guitarists are great performers and I hope to hear more CD's from them soon."

**- Abe Kenny**