

STEPHEN ARON

Classical Guitar

Full Biography

Described by the New York Times as "cultivated and musical," Stephen Aron has established himself at the center of the American classical guitar scene. His first solo CD, *Sketches*, features the first recordings of works by Ned Rorem and David Bernstein. Of this recording, the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* said it features "interpretations that sing with vibrant rhythm, subtle color and a feeling of intimacy." Mr. Aron's recording of Chopin Mazurkas on solo guitar (Clear Note Publications) has been described "as the most important contribution to the repertoire (by arrangement) in recent years...breathtaking" (*Guitar Review*).

An avid arranger, his work is published by Clear Note Publications, Tuscan Editions ("wonderful guitaristic arrangement," *American Music Teacher*) and Mel Bay Publications ("historic," *Guitart*). He recently released three new publications: a collection of Handel arias arranged for voice and guitar, the complete guitar works of Brazilian composer, Burle Marx, and an original composition, *Rockport Stomp*, all with Clear Note. A vigorous chamber music advocate, he performs regularly with JoNell Aron, a soprano with whom he has recorded two CD's. Of *Shine On Harvest Moon*, *Fanfare* magazine said it was "warmly recommended"; of *In My Heart*, *Soundboard* called it "one of the best discs to cross my desk."

Stephen Aron has adjudicated and produced numerous national and international competitions. A frequent guest at guitar festivals, he has appeared at such events as GFA Conventions, Stetson International Guitar Festivals, Portland Guitar Festivals, Great Lakes Festivals, Weathersfield Chamber Music Festival, Rantucci Guitar Festivals, Appalachian Guitar Festivals, Eastman Guitar Festivals, Ithaca College Winter Guitar Festival, Yale University Guitar Extravaganza, Piccolo Spoleto Festival, Tennessee Guitar Festival, National Summer Guitar Workshop, Alexandria Guitar Festival, Classical Minds Guitar Festival, and the ECU Summer Guitar Workshop. The Chairman of the Board of Directors of the GFA from 1991-93, Aron hosted and directed GFA Festivals in Akron in 1988 and in Oberlin in 2005.

In addition to his post as Professor of Music and Chairman of Guitar Studies at the University of Akron (since 1981), Stephen Aron is Teacher of Classical Guitar and founder of the classical guitar studies program at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music (since 1991).

STEPHEN ARON Classical Guitar

Brief Biography

Described by the New York Times as “cultivated and musical,” Stephen Aron performs regularly throughout the US and Canada. An avid arranger, his work is published by Tuscan Editions (“wonderful guitaristic arrangement,” American Music Teacher) and Mel Bay Publications (“historic,” Guitart). His original composition “Rockport Stomp” and the “Complete Guitar Works of Burle Marx” were recently released by Clear Note Publications. Aron’s recordings have been described as “stunning” (Guitar Review), “superbly produced” (Soundboard), “warmly recommended” (Fanfare) and “inspired” (Classical Guitar). Aron has adjudicated numerous national and international competitions and has been a repeat guest, giving performances, lectures and masterclasses at Guitar Foundation of America Conventions, Stetson Guitar Workshops, Portland Guitar Festivals, Eastman Guitar Festivals, Rantucci Guitar Festivals, and Appalachian Guitar Festivals as well as at the Yale Guitar Extravaganza, the Ithaca College Winter Guitar Festival, the National Summer Guitar Workshop, the Alexandria Guitar Festival, the Eastern Carolina University Guitar Festival, the Eastern Tennessee Guitar Festival and others. In addition to his post as Professor of Music and Chairman of Guitar Studies at the University of Akron, Stephen Aron is Teacher of Guitar and founder of the classical guitar studies program at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music.

www.stephenaron.net

STEPHEN ARON

Classical Guitar

Reviews

IN PERFORMANCE

“One of America’s foremost guitarists and pedagogs”
Guitar Player Magazine

“A cultivated and musical young guitarist...his phrasing and dynamic shading were exemplary”
New York Times

“The slow pieces were delightfully melodic; the fast pieces left the audience in awe; a standing ovation brought him back for an encore”
GFA Soundboard

“Notes were gorgeously edgy, stunning the audience with their evocation of regret and lament”
Daytona Beach News Journal

“Stephen Aron thrilled the capacity crowd...spectacular renditions soared gloriously”
The Post and Courier (Charleston, SC)

“Spirited performance...most effective playing...a fine recital”
GFA Soundboard

“A stunning concert which demonstrated the virtuosity of both performers”
GFA Soundboard

“It was an exciting concert. Aron has the ability to play with such precision that no matter how soft a passage gets, the notes literally zing out into the audience. His style, while full of romantic vibrato, was also delicate and lyrical”
Cleveland Plain Dealer

“Expert and entertaining”
GFA Soundboard

ON RECORD

“Inspired” (Complete Chopin Mazurkas)
Classical Guitar Magazine

“An impressive feat” (Complete Chopin Mazurkas)
Acoustic Guitar

“There are many reasons to like this superbly produced CD...it is one of the best discs to cross my desk” (In My Heart)
GFA Soundboard

“Warmly recommended” (Shine On Harvest Moon)
Fanfare Magazine

“JoNell Aron has a youthful quality and crystal clear diction; Stephen Aron plays well with vitality and wit. This CD will obviously have strong appeal.” (Shine On Harvest Moon)
Classical Guitar

“Exceptional and appealing; get this CD” (Shine On Harvest Moon)
The Rag Times

“Aron’s playing is clean, crisp and understated...he gets into the spirit of the music and gives interpretations that sing with vibrant rhythm, subtle color and a feeling of intimacy” (Sketches)
Cleveland Plain Dealer

IN PRINT

“This colorful collection is truly something new and interesting. The volume is beautifully done...these songs with guitar accompaniment would be a great deal of fun” (On a Sunday Afternoon)
National Association of Teachers of Singing Journal

“A perfect example of how it really should be done...Mr. Aron’s artistic integrity and moreover love of his subject shines out for all to see...the best attempt yet to make the works of Chopin available to the guitarist.” (Complete Chopin Mazurkas)
Classical Guitar Magazine

“Very exciting” (Complete Chopin Mazurkas)
Acoustic Guitar Magazine

“La Danza, that intoxicating tarantella once so splendidly sung by Caruso...is a little masterpiece...the music lies surprisingly well on the guitar. Seemingly virtuosic, the piece is not so very difficult to perform, and is a remarkably idiomatic addition, by a major composer, to the...19th Century repertoire.
”

(La Danza--Rossini)

GFA Soundboard.

“Incontestablement sonne fort bien.” (Kinderszenen--Schumann)
Les Cahiers de la Guitare et de la Musique

“The entire suite is at last available in a wonderful guitaristic arrangement
suitable for any kind of program” (Kinderszenen--Schumann)
American Music Teacher