

# Alex de Grassi

## Residency Activities

A single activity is available for a one-day residency, in conjunction with a concert. For multiple day residencies, several or all of these activities are available. Please note that residency fees may vary.

### Lecture/Demonstrations

#### **Arranging for Guitar**

##### **A lecture/demonstration discussing the arrangement process**

- Audience: intermediate to advanced players of all ages
- Number of participants: minimum 5; maximum limited only by space available
- Length: 60 to 120 minutes

A good arrangement begins with a concept. The concept might be arrived at methodically or intuitively but, like good architecture, it gives the musical structure a clear sense of design. In this lecture-demonstration, Alex will address the process of arranging for solo guitar from conception through the development of the theme. By breaking down one of his own arrangements, Alex will demonstrate how elements such as meter, rhythm, orchestration, reharmonization, and sonic texture work together in the making of a successful guitar arrangement. Storytelling and continuity are vital components of Alex's arrangements and original compositions. This is an opportunity for both arrangers and fans of guitar music to gain some insights into how that process unfolds. Be prepared to learn a few new techniques and alternate tunings along the way. Participants may enjoy bringing their guitars to try ideas out, but it is not required.

#### **The 3-D Sound**

##### **A lecture/demonstration on honing solo guitar performance skills**

- Audience: intermediate to advanced players of all ages
- Number of participants: minimum 5; maximum limited only by space available
- Length: 60 to 120 minutes

A successful solo guitar performance should have depth and dimension. The ability to hear the individual voices and create a dialogue within the music is a bit like conducting an orchestra. Alex will present his insights into combining dynamics, timbre, articulation, and phrasing to produce an orchestrated, three-dimensional sound. Utilizing the depth of field concept found in the visual arts, Alex will demonstrate his "hierarchy of accents" principle. He will also demonstrate how various sonic textures and articulations can be employed to add dimension to phrasing and the overall shape of a performance. Participants will benefit from bringing instruments to learn some techniques and play short musical examples, but it is not required.

#### **Meet the Performer**

- Audience: any
- Number of participants: minimum 10, maximum limited only to available space
- Length: 50-60 minutes

There are so many different ways to play guitar. From folk to classical, jazz to rock, and flamenco to blues. Like many of today's fingerstyle guitarists, Alex has borrowed a little from many traditions to forge a unique approach to composing, arranging and performing solo steel-string guitar. Alex will play a few pieces and discuss his musical influences and experiences as a recording artist and touring musician. He will demonstrate how he uses techniques, rhythms, and harmonies from different guitar styles in his own work. Questions from the audience are encouraged. This is a chance to hear Alex comment on such diverse topics as the type of guitars he plays, the recording process, and his favorite musicians.

## Masterclasses

### **Fingerstyle Guitar Masterclass**

- Audience: intermediate to advanced players of all ages
- Number of participants: minimum 3; maximum 9 + unlimited number of auditors
- Length: 60-180 minutes (depending on number of participants)

This is an opportunity for guitar players to receive one-on-one instruction and constructive feedback about their playing from one of today's foremost fingerstyle performers. Alex has been teaching master classes in small groups for many years and he utilizes that experience to zero in on technical and expressive details of each participant's performance. Players should be prepared to perform either a composition by Alex or another solo guitar composition approved in advance by Alex. Each performer will have 20 minutes to perform and receive comments. While the number of participants is very limited, auditors are welcome to observe.

### **Arranging/Composing Masterclass**

- Audience: intermediate to advanced players/arrangers of all ages
- Number of Participants: minimum 3; maximum 9 plus unlimited number of auditors
- Length: 60 to 180 minutes (depending on number of participants)

Participants will present their arrangements of one of two pre-assigned themes for feedback and discussion with the group. Alternatively, they may present an original composition. Each participant will present an arrangement of the melody alone, as well as their complete arrangement of the piece. Arrangements need not be of a specific length, but should include the complete theme as well as some development. Students are encouraged to consider altering the tempo, the time signature, or the harmony from the original as a method of creating an original arrangement. The workshop will provide an opportunity to discover various approaches for conceiving, developing, and arranging a musical idea. This is a hands-on workshop for guitar players; auditors are welcome.

### **Private Lessons** \*(Available only in conjunction with multiple day residencies)

- Audience: any
- Number of participants: 1
- Length: 30-45 minutes (depending on available time)

Private lessons of approximately 30-45 minutes each for students at the participating university, conservatory, or music school. Students will be expected to perform a composition by Alex de Grassi for critique and constructive comments. The lessons can be optionally taken as "open" in that other students will be invited to observe, but not actively participate in the lesson.



{196 West Ashland Street ■ Suite 201 ■ Doylestown, PA 18901 ■ p.267-880-3750 ■ f.267-880-3757 ■ [www.baylinartists.com](http://www.baylinartists.com) }