

Michael Hardy, Guitarist

Born in Columbus, Georgia, Michael Hardy learned to play popular music from his mother during his teen years. His interest soon turned to the classical guitar, and he became the first person to graduate with a degree in guitar performance from Columbus State University. He then went on to earn his Master of Music degree from The University of Texas and a Graduate Performance Diploma from The Peabody Conservatory. Michael is currently pursuing his Doctorate of Musical Arts at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York. In addition to being a student of outstanding musicians such as Julian Gray, Adam Holzman, Nicholas Goluses, and Andrew Zohn, he has performed in masterclasses with internationally recognized guitarists such as David Russell, Manuel Barrueco, the members of the Los Angeles Guitar Quartet and Soloduo.

His performing career has taken him throughout the United States and to Italy where La Stampa called his playing "brilliant and expressive." In addition to his solo career, Michael is enthusiastic about collaborating with other musicians. He has performed with violinists, violists, flutists, oboists, vocalists, and other guitarists in duo, trio, and quartet settings. He has also worked under the baton of conductors, a place guitarists rarely find themselves, in the Columbus State University Wind Ensemble and the University of Texas New Music Ensemble. Michael has performed successfully in many competitions and festivals. He was a top prize winner in the 2000 Columbus State University Guitar Competition and the 2006 East Carolina University Competition. An avid supporter of new music, Michael has premiered new works with the Texas Guitar Quartet and the Texas New Music Ensemble. He has also actively volunteered for Creative Access, the Peabody Conservatory's outreach program.

Michael is also becoming increasingly sought after as a teacher. His students have been accepted into colleges and universities across the United States. From 2004 to 2006, he headed the guitar studies at Campbell University and Chowan University in North Carolina. Recently, he has given masterclasses at Buffalo State College, East Carolina University, Tennessee State University, and the Weaver Academy for the Arts in North Carolina. Currently, Michael is a teaching assistant at the prestigious Eastman School of Music. An explorer of new music and new audiences, Michael works to be at the forefront of the path of the guitar in the 21st century. He is a founder and president of the Great Lakes Guitar Society. The society works to bring about collaborations with many other musicians, reach broader audiences, and hopefully break old molds while forming new ones.

Please do not alter this biography without prior approval

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