



THE SAINT LOUIS CLASSICAL GUITAR SOCIETY

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www.guitarstlouis.net

“A little jewel in the local music scene.”

--St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 02/05

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To All Non-Profit Organization Managers and Supporters,

I was really impressed with the annual Guitar Foundation of America Convention held in Austin last June. Dr. Matt Hinsley did a phenomenal job. Not only was the Convention extremely well-organized, but every speaker or artist was well-chosen, every major event had artistic collaborations with other community arts groups, and every opportunity to promote and document it was taken.

I was also impressed with Matt’s ability to function on all levels of engagement, from greeting and welcoming volunteers; to getting full participation from local foundations, media, and Austin’s major cultural and educational institutions; and to his personal deportment on both stage and television.

I subsequently asked Matt if we could “do lunch” one day, and he generously agreed. In my recent day-long visit with him in Austin last August he shared with me the genesis of the Austin Guitar Society from a small organization to a major creative force in Austin.

Matt has shown the way to develop an arts organization from the ground up. With a combination of creative ideas, an inclination toward artistic collaboration, and an unshakeable belief in the value of music education, he has woven together an “orchestra” of many players in a common cause. He has helped me to think in bigger terms and inspired me to follow his path towards creating a similar organization here in St. Louis.

Matt is unusual for his ability to convey his vision, inspire others, and execute the follow through necessary to grow an organization. I look forward to devouring his new book *Creativity to Community*, as I have no doubt it will be brimming with good advice. I wholeheartedly recommend Matt as a consultant to anyone looking to find both inspiration and good advice.

Sincerely,

William Ash

President

St. Louis Classical Guitar Society