

Michael Nix

Banjar: The Art of the Modern 7-String Banjo



Michael Nix performs a concert of solo music for the Banjar, a modern seven-string classical banjo of his own design. The first part of the program “From Bach to Bluegrass” explores influences on and music of the classical banjo in traditional banjo tunings. The second part features Nix’s compositions and arrangements in various tunings that express the wealth of texture and timbre of the instrument.

Michael Nix designed the **seven-string Banjar**, which combines elements of the five-string banjo and the classical guitar. The Banjar's seven high-tension nylon strings sound somewhat like a cross between the banjo and guitar or lute. Nix combines lyrical expression with an insatiable musical curiosity to forge an **intriguing performance style** incorporating various musical genres and textures drawn from banjo, classical guitar, jazz, blues, and folk. His **repertoire** includes **original compositions, classical, jazz, ragtime, folk music** and pieces from the **classical banjo and classical guitar** canon.

“Michael Nix takes the listener along on a new voyage with a completely different musical vessel. Listeners will discover a shimmering versatility.” --Ritchie Davis, The Recorder

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Michael Nix, Banjar sample repertoire

The Compositions of Michael Nix and Arrangements for Banjar

Koromanti	Michael Nix
Wintersong	Michael Nix
Barton Cove	Michael Nix
Sarabande, Bm Violin Partita	J.S. Bach
Dallas Rag (1927)	Dallas String Band
Healing Dance from "Labyrinth"	Michael Nix
Greensleeves Variations	Michael Nix
Summertime	George Gershwin
Canarios	Gaspar Sanz
Prelude from Cello Suite No. 1	J.S. Bach
Lord Inchequin/Carolan's Concerto	Tulough O'Carolan
Zarana (Oriental Quick Step)	Joe Morley
Spanish Fandango Variations	Michael Nix
Precious Memories (1925)	J.B.F. Wright
Romanza	Herbert J. Ellis
Ghost Dance	Fred J. Bacon
Somewhere Over the Rainbow	Arlen

Michael Nix, Banjar: The Art of the Modern 7-String Banjo

Michael Nix Bio

Michael Nix performs on classical guitar, Banjar, banjo, and mandolin, throughout the United States and Asia; has recorded for the PBS series “American Experience”, several independent documentaries, numerous CD projects; and his compositions are performed internationally. His music has been heard “Weekend Edition”, and other NPR programs.

A banjo innovator, Michael Nix designed the Banjar; a modern seven nylon string banjo combining elements of the five-string banjo and classical guitar; bringing the classic finger-style banjo of the late 1800's into the twenty first century. His instrumentals, songs, and compositions draw from classic banjo and guitar, early banjo, folk, jazz and world music traditions.

In 2017 Nix performed his compositions for New Classic Banjo at the Smithsonian Museum of American History in Washington, D.C. Nix participated in Seegerfest 2014, and other concerts commemorating the life of Pete Seeger. In 2012 Nix performed American music at the Surin International Folkore Festival in Thailand with the Sorvino Dance Project.

Nix toured as a member of the Monadnock Classical Guitar Duo, and as a soloist he was on the New Hampshire Touring Program for four years from 1979-1983. Throughout the 1980's he was a featured performer for the Connecticut Classical Guitar Society's Andres Segovia outreach program “The Guitar About Town. In 1988, he performed at the Bushnell Hall in Hartford CT, commemorating a 1931 Andres Segovia performance with Madam Emilita Segovia as the honored guest. Nix was member of The Moser/Nix Duo, which formed in 1995, performing music and recording for mandolin and guitar. He founded The NixWorks Ensemble in 1999, a flexible chamber ensemble, to explore multiple creative influences and genre. Nix formed The Pioneer Consort in 2005, with violinist Chris Devine, and cellist Greg Snedeker to play World Chamber Music. He currently performs with Chris Devine as the Devine-Nix Duo.

Michael Nix's concerts have been described as “touching” and “transcendent”:

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“... breathtakingly beautiful to hear.” –Peter Mix, “Acoustic Musician” Magazine

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