

SHARE

[Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [Google Buzz](#) [Digg](#) [Stumble Upon](#) [RSS Feed](#) [Print This Page](#)

Music for the lute is delicate and “easy to listen to”

By Susan Rife, Herald-Tribune / Friday, April 6, 2012

A program of music by German composer Sylvius Weiss is planned by lutenist Nigel North for the final concert of GuitarSarasota’s 2012 season.

“His music is very much made for the lute, very idiomatic and very easy to listen to,” said North, who is professor of lute at the Early Music Institute at Indiana University.

The lute is a stringed instrument principally associated with the Baroque period and has as many as 24 strings, typically in pairs called courses. Its rounded back gives it a uniquely delicate sound that epitomizes the secular music of the Renaissance.



Nigel North teaches lute at Indiana University

It is a much lighter instrument than a guitar, said North, and its strings are primarily plucked rather than strummed — a challenge because of the paired courses of strings.

“The production of the sound, the phrasing, the way of articulating is almost entirely another world,” he said.

North, who was born in London and has taught at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London, the Hochschule der Kunste in Berlin and the Royal Conservatory in Den Haag, Netherlands, came to the lute as a teenager after studying violin and guitar as a child. But he found himself drawn through the guitar to classical music of the Baroque period and thus to the lute.

“It’s very delicate and intimate,” said North, “but I think it’s more that I feel connected to the music of 1500 to 1800. I probably played the instrument in another life.”

Weiss, 1687-1750, was a contemporary of Bach and composed hundreds of works for the lute.

North finds Weiss's work appealing not only for its adherence to the Baroque conventions but for "the naturalness of the way it's written, the wide range of emotions and the way that he writes as I suppose he played. It's a very resonant, singable type of music. You really can't play it on anything else. People do play it on guitar but to my ear it never really sounds natural."

**CONCERT
PREVIEW**
NIGEL NORTH.
GuitarSarasota.
7:30 p.m. April 14,
St. Paul Lutheran
Church, 2256
Bahia Vista,
Sarasota. Tickets
\$25, \$29
GuitarSarasota
members, \$5
student rush.
www.guitarsarasota.com



SUSAN RIFE
Susan Rife is the arts and books editor for the Herald-Tribune Media Group. She holds a bachelor of science degree in journalism from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. She can be reached by [email](#) or call (941) 361-4930. Make sure to "Like" Arts Sarasota on Facebook for news and reviews of the arts.

*Last modified: April 6, 2012
All rights reserved. This copyrighted material may not be published without permissions. Links are encouraged.*

YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN

15 prescription fraud counts for Sarasota man (*HeraldTribune.com*)

Missing Bradenton woman Kelly Moriarty's severed leg found in St. Pete, deputies say (*HeraldTribune.com*)

Hit-and-run driver injures pedestrian on Siesta Key (*HeraldTribune.com*)

Review: "Avenue Q" hits the street of fun learning for adults at Venice Theatre (*Arts Sarasota*)

REVIEW: 'Oliver' brings fresh life to the familiar (*Arts Sarasota*)

REVIEW: 'Cloud Nine' will leave you floating (*Arts Sarasota*)

FROM AROUND THE WEB

Kissing Angelina Jolie Was 'Awkward, Sweaty, And Not Very Nice' (*StyleBistro*)

Khloe Kardashian's Colored Jeans Showed a Little Too Much of Her (*The Stir By CafeMom*)

India's Hidden Plague (*SnagFilms*)

Google Sued by Frenchman Caught on Street View in Embarrassing Pose (*PC World*)

The Most Iconic Swimsuits Ever (*In Style*)

Kenny Loggins: 'I'm alright' being frugal (*Bankrate.com*)

[what's this]