

Guitar Cultural History

Michael Kudirka

As a guitar historian, musician, and University of North Carolina School of the Arts assistant professor who resides part-time in Stevens Point, Michael Kudirka's passion for guitars is contagious. Using an interdisciplinary approach to provide context for the aesthetic and acoustic evolution of the guitar, Kudirka offers public performances and presentations focused on periods in music history and the instruments that shaped them.



March 27 Friday 5 – 6:30 pm

Renaissance & Baroque Lutes

Michael Kudirka relates the tale of the European lute from its peak during the Renaissance to its radical Baroque-era developments and the various notational systems created for it. Learn about renowned composers who took this instrument from the streets to the highest chambers of royalty and clergy.

March 28 Saturday 1 – 2 pm

Renaissance & Baroque Lute Performance

During Kudirka's interactive performance, hear compositions by four of the greatest masters who wrote music for the ancestor of the guitar: Francesco da Milano, John Dowland, Sylvius Leopold Weiss, and Johann Sebastian Bach.

April 10 Friday 5 – 6:30 pm

Rise of the Guitar: Classical & Romantic Eras

Learn how the lute's late-eighteenth-century decline made way for the guitar's ascension from supporting role to center-stage star. For the first time, guitar virtuosos played full-scale sonatas and concertos with orchestra, paralleling the piano works of Mozart, Beethoven, and Schubert.

April 11 Saturday 1 – 2 pm

Classical & Romantic Guitar Performance

Michael Kudirka's guitar recital and discussion highlight masterpieces by four significant composers from Mozart's time to the height of the Romantic era. Hear how compositions evolved from the balanced clarity of the late-eighteenth century to the profoundly expressive and personal style of the mid-nineteenth century.

April 11 Saturday 1 – 2:30 pm

Slow Art Day

Join a worldwide art appreciation effort; experience instruments on view and Michael Kudirka's classical guitar performance and then discuss your impressions in casual conversation with Kudirka and others. Learn more at www.slowartday.com

May 7 Thursday 5:30 – 6:30 pm

Art 101 Instrument Interpretations in Art & Literature

Kudirka traces artistic portrayals of the guitar in painting, sculpture, poetry, and prose from Italian Renaissance paintings of the lute to Edgar Allen Poe's description of a demented guitar waltz in "The Fall of the House of Usher."

May 8 Friday 5 – 6:30 pm

Nylon Strings & Modern Music

Guitar strings – traditionally fashioned from gut – made from nylon after its invention in 1935, coincided with a wave of new music that emerged from the guitar. Michael Kudirka explains how some of the most influential composers of the twentieth century – Anton Webern, Igor Stravinsky, Pierre Boulez, Luciano Berio, and Steve Reich – contributed to the guitar's music repertoire.

May 9 Saturday 1 – 2 pm

The Avant-Garde Guitar: New Millennium Music

Michael Kudirka performs and discusses late-twentieth and early-twenty-first century music written for the guitar. Develop a deeper understanding of modern music and then hear Steve Reich's epic three-movement work for guitar, *Electric Counterpoint*.

Support for the Michael Kudirka residency is provided by the B.A. & Esther Greenheck Foundation.

