

# Drew Henderson - Classical Guitarist

## Biography

Drew Henderson is a renowned Canadian classical guitarist known for his sensitive performances and virtuosic technique. He has earned the highest praise from audience and critics, and is often cited as one Canada's best young classical guitarists. His performances have taken him throughout Canada, the United States and Italy. He has adjudicated local and international competitions, conducted masterclasses at Universities, and is often invited to perform at international guitar festivals.

In addition to performing, Drew is a dedicated teacher. Drew is a faculty member at the Toronto School for Strings, where he works with both young and adult students. His students have gone on to study guitar performance at the University of Toronto, have won Provincial Kiwanis Competitions, and have been awarded the "silver medal" (highest mark in the Province) for RCM exams. "Drew is one of the country's finest players...it's an honour to learn from him. Often enough a great player doesn't always translate to a great teacher. Luckily this is not the case with Drew" - Richard Marsella, Director of the Regent Park School of Music.

In 2011, Drew was honoured to be invited to judge, perform and teach at the Guitar Foundation of America's annual guitar festival and competition - the largest and most important guitar competition in the world. Drew judged the youth division over the course of three days.

In 2009, Drew's second duet CD received numerous glowing reviews, and was featured on the *Classical Guitar Alive!* radio program as a Best New Release. The program is syndicated in over 100 countries. The duo was also invited for an interview at Classical 96.3 FM.

Drew studied with several teachers both at the University of Toronto and at the Academia Tema in Milan, Italy. Most influential of his teachers were Eli Kassner (Liona Boyd's teacher), Jeffrey McFadden, and the great Italian virtuosos Lorenzo Micheli and Matteo Mela. Drew's studies in Italy were made possible by a generous grant from the Canada Council for the Arts.

During his studies, Drew was heavily involved in the competition circuit, so far being awarded six international prizes. These competitions include: Les Concours International de Guitare Classique de Lachine (Montreal), the Rantucci International Guitar Competition (New York), the Columbus Guitar Symposium and Competition (Georgia), and the Concorso Chitaristico "Citta' Di Voghera" (Italy). Drew has also been awarded numerous scholarships from the University of Toronto, the Ontario Arts Council and the D'Addario Foundation for the Performing Arts.

Since 2005, Drew has been a volunteer for the Guitar Society of Toronto where he has offered his talents as a web designer, graphic artist and videographer. It is the Guitar Society's mission to enrich Toronto's cultural life by providing educational support for teachers, performance opportunities for students, a meeting place for aficionados, free community concerts for schools and hospitals, and free concert tickets for deserving community members.

Drew has just released a new solo album entitled "*Nocturne - Guitar Music of the 19th Century*". This album is filled with virtuosic masterpieces by Regondi, Paganini, Coste and Legnani.