

## **Mike Christiansen's Guitar Teacher's Symposium**

On June 28-30, 2005 a guitar teacher's symposium will be held on the campus of Utah State University in Logan, Utah. This year the symposium will focus on assisting those who teach guitar at the middle school and/or high school levels develop their pedagogical skills. The information and presentations will also be valuable to those instructors who are giving private instruction to young students.

The symposium is sponsored in part by the Utah State University Guitar Program. The guitar program at USU has been in existence for 30 years. Students attending Utah State may major in guitar performance or music education with emphasis in guitar. Many of the graduates from USU are now successful educators at the middle school and high school levels. One of the unique features of the guitar program at Utah State is the structure of the guitar pedagogy courses. The pedagogy courses are designed to train competent, well-prepared instructors for the classroom and private instruction. Some of the material presented in the symposium sessions will be extracted from the pedagogy courses. Sessions at this year's symposium will include:

- getting started, instruments to use
- where to find materials and repertoire
- creating lesson plans
- tuning techniques
- ensembles (why and how)
- pacing
- easy instrument repair
- layered learning
- accompaniment styles
- solo playing
- flatpick vs. fingerstyle
- suggested videos and listening
- implementing cross-curriculum materials
- sequencing
- motivating practice

There will also be panel discussions on what has worked and what has not worked for teachers.

The Guitar Teacher's Symposium is under the direction of Mike Christiansen. Mike is Professor of Music and Director of Guitar Studies at Utah State University. He has been teaching guitar for 35 years. He is the author and/or co-author of over 40 books including the popular *Mastering the Guitar Class Method* published by Mel Bay. Mike is an active performer working as a soloist and with the Lightwood Duo. He has presented numerous times at MENC conventions and his workshops are in demand at schools and teaching studios. For some time now, Mike has wanted to host a guitar teacher's symposium. He

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Guitar Teacher's Symposium

June 28-30, 2005

On the campus of Utah State University in  
Logan, Utah

<p>This year's emphasis is on helping the middle school and high school guitar-class teachers and private instructors</p>
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Sessions will include: getting started, what instruments to  
use, creating lesson plans, ensembles, solo and  
accompaniment styles, cross-curriculum material, assessing  
progress, what repertoire to use and where to find it,  
sequencing, using layered learning, and more.

Fee: \$250

Lodging and university credit are available.  
For more information and registration contact:

Mike Christiansen  
Utah State University  
Music Department  
4015 Old Main Hill  
Logan, Utah 84322-4015

phone (435)797-3011  
email [mchristiansen@hass.usu.edu](mailto:mchristiansen@hass.usu.edu)

explains, "Often at an MENC presentation or various workshops, I am allowed only one or two hours cover one or two aspects of guitar pedagogy. Of course, this allows for just enough time to touch on various topics dealing with guitar education. I have always felt frustrated that I didn't have enough time to get to the main course and present the information in more detail. Educators are (or could be) some of the finest guitar instructors, regardless of their playing level. This symposium will allow the time to present pedagogical techniques and practices in detail and allow time for discussion and demonstration."

Many workshops of this nature are structured with the emphasis placed on improving the teacher's playing ability. Although there will be instruction in the area of personal performance development, and the participants will see an increase in their abilities as a byproduct of attending, the emphasis will be placed on teaching. It is assumed that all of the participants will be able to play at least at a beginning level. The success of the symposium will not be damaged by a wide variation of performance skills. In fact, a variety of abilities will enhance the experience.

The symposium will take place in the Utah State University Fine Arts Center located in Logan, Utah. Logan is ninety miles north of Salt Lake City. A shuttle is available for those flying into Salt Lake City. Arrangements have been made for those attending the symposium to stay at the University Inn. A list of hotels in the area is available upon request. The cost of the symposium is \$250. The fee will cover admission to all sessions, teaching materials, two catered breakfasts, and one catered dinner. The fee does not include lodging. University credit will be made available.

The symposium will run three days (June 28-30) from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM. Those attending the symposium can also enjoy, in their free time, hiking in the Wasatch Mountains, visiting one of the nearby lakes, visiting one of the museums, taking in a play at the Lyric Repertoire Theatre, enjoying a night at the opera performed by the Utah Festival Opera, iceskating, or enjoying dinner at one of the fine restaurants. A free bus system provides transportation to most of the local venues and sites.

Educators and private instructors attending the symposium are guaranteed increased knowledge of guitar pedagogy and will feel more secure and better prepared in teaching their classes and private students. Because the workshop is being advertised on an international level and the enrollment is limited, those interested should apply early. To get more information on the symposium, including registration forms and outlines, contact Mike Christiansen at: Mike Christiansen, Utah State University, Music Department, 4015 Old Main Hill, Logan, Utah 84322-4015, or phone (435)797-3011 or email [mchristiansen@hass.usu.edu](mailto:mchristiansen@hass.usu.edu)

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# *Guítar* **TEACHER'S SYMPOSIUM**

**JUNE 28-30, 2005**

On the campus of  
*Utah State University*  
in Logan, Utah

**THIS YEAR'S EMPHASIS IS  
ON HELPING THE MIDDLE  
SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL  
GUITAR-CLASS TEACHERS  
AND PRIVATE INSTRUCTORS.**

**SESSIONS INCLUDE:**

getting started  
what instruments to use  
creating lesson plans  
ensembles  
solo and accompaniment styles  
cross-curriculum material  
assessing progress  
what repertoire to use  
and where to find it  
sequencing  
using layered learning



**FEE: \$250.00**

Lodging and university credit are available.  
For more information and registration

**CONTACT:**

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**MIKE CHRISTIANSEN**  
*Utah State University*

