

Press Release Bio

A North Carolina native, guitarist, teacher, and composer Marty Edwards has been the recipient of numerous awards and honors. He won first place in the Francis S. Hutchins Award for musical composition, the Carlisle Keller Macdonald Scholarship for music study in Austria, and the Sherwood Hill Award for high potential in the field of music. Recently, for his graduate studies, he was awarded the Samuel Griffen Seawell and Pasty Moore Seawell Fund, Marjory J. Flint Scholarship for Music, a guitar assistantship with stipend and a University of North Carolina School of the Arts merit scholarship. Additionally, he is a member of various prestigious honors societies including Mortar Board and Vincit Qui Patitur.

As a guitarist, audiences around the globe for over a decade have enjoyed the artistic sensitivity of Marty Edwards' performances. He has been a featured soloist on numerous concert series and continues to maintain that busy roster today. Apart from his solo career, he has enjoyed the stage with other fine musicians ranging from singers and choirs to jazz, blues, rock, bluegrass, and orchestral ensembles. His guitar studies have been with Dr. Lewis. H. Dickert, Joseph Pecoraro, John Hedger, and Eva Moser-Reitsamer. Mr. Edwards has also studied the guitar applications of Alexander Technique with Dr. Ann Rhodes.

A passionate teacher since 2002, Marty has been educating musicians of all ages and skill levels. In his undergraduate, he held the position of music theory teaching assistant under Professor Robert Lewis at Berea College and is currently serving as a Graduate Assistant under Joseph Pecoraro at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. He is a registered guitar teacher with the Suzuki Association of America and is highly committed to continuing his training and development in that area. Presently, Marty is an instructor for the Young Guitarist section of the Piedmont Suzuki Studio. Additionally, he directs the guitar program at the West Forsyth YMCA where he holds weekly classes and teaches privately.

Mr. Edwards holds a Bachelor of Arts in Music degree from the Berea College Music Department and is working towards a Masters of Music in Guitar Performance with emphasis in Pedagogy, History and Literature at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. Marty is also a successful visual artist and has received numerous top awards for his work such as the Best in Show category from the North Carolina Federation of Women's Clubs Statewide Arts Festival. Recently he had paintings featured in the annual Kentucky publication *Carillon* and on the cover of Joseph Pecoraro's recent CD release *Perennials*. Mr. Edwards, under the guidance of luthier Dr. Gary Mahoney, has also participated in research projects covering the design, construction, and acoustical properties of the guitar.