

For Immediate Release:

Local Guitarist Announces Classical Concert at Shirley, MA Meetinghouse

Shirley, MA – On July 7 at 7 pm Catherine O’Kelly, DMA candidate in classical guitar performance at the Hartt School of Music in West Hartford, CT, will perform a solo concert at the Shirley Meetinghouse at 41 Brown Road in Shirley, MA. Catherine has performed in three previous concerts at the Meetinghouse: once as Tedesco Duo with flutist Arielle Burke and twice in solo performances, the most recent of which was in August, 2016. At that August concert she played *Five Bagatelles for Guitar* by William Walton and pieces by Bach, Villa-Lobos and Albéniz.

This July Catherine will perform works by Bach, Barrios and Nikita Koshkin. The Koshkin piece, *The Prince’s Toys*, is Catherine’s signature piece and features many unusual guitar techniques creating sound effects that audibly tell the story of a prince who mistreats toys that come to life and seek revenge on the prince.

Catherine explains, “I decided to learn *The Prince’s Toys* because I love how Koshkin finds untraditional ways of creating sounds on the guitar. Learning the piece was fun because it required quite a bit of experimentation on my part to find a way to produce the sound effects successfully.

“People often have trouble connecting to contemporary music because it sounds unfamiliar or even bizarre. *The Prince’s Toys* is one of my favorite pieces to play for audiences because it has such a fun, charming story, and audiences end up loving the piece. One of the most surprising techniques involves wrapping one string over another to mimic the sound of a snare drum, and the composer uses this technique to illustrate the prince’s toy soldiers drumming. The extended techniques are exciting to listen to and to watch, and people really get a kick out of the piece.”

The concert is sponsored by Golden Girl Granola of Shirley.