

Record Label

Daily

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Esalen

**Weekend of January 1, 2010**  
8:30 pm 1/1/10 through 11:30 am 1/3/10

*Got Rhythm? Develop Your Inner Rhythm  
by Studying World Music with Ancient Future  
Leader Matthew Montfort*

Matthew Montfort of the pioneering world music band Ancient Future, is the author of Ancient Traditions -- Future Possibilities. Rhythmic Training Through the Traditions of Africa, Bali and India. The book, which is the basis for the workshop, received rave reviews in publications such as GUITAR PLAYER, ELECTRONIC MUSICIAN, DRUMS AND DRUMMING, and the SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE. Material from the book has been used by musicians such as Reinhard Flatischler, founder of the TaKeTiNa rhythm training process, and Steve Smith, famed jazz and rock drummer.

Esalen Institute, founded in 1962, has long been recognized as a world leader in alternative and experiential education. The institute is dedicated to exploring work in the humanities and sciences that furthers the full realization of the human potential.



Dramatically situated on the Big Sur cliffs, Esalen is equally renowned for its transformational seminars and trainings, and its natural healing hot springs.



The workshop is presented in an easy to follow, entertaining yet educational format. Not just for musicians and percussionists, this training can help anyone with a desire to improve their rhythmic skills. Timing is everything, and learning the ancient rhythms of the earth can help one to be more in tune with life. Melodic aspects of the traditions will also be covered. No musical background is required.

Register on the web or call 831 667 3005  
For additional information please contact info@esalen.org

ESALEN INSTITUTE, 55000 HIGHWAY 1, BIG SUR CA 93920. TEL: 831 667 3000. WWW.ESALEN.ORG

Ancient-Future.Com Records

Artists In Concert

1/1/2010

Matthew Montfort Events

January 1-3, 2010, 8:30 p.m. 1/1/2010 through 11:30 am 1/3/2010, **World Music Workshop, Esalen Institute**, Highway 1, **Big Sur, CA 93920**. Cost: Workshop alone: Regular Rate- \$385. Friends of Esalen Rate- \$335. With Bunk Bed Room: Regular Rate- \$530. Friends of Esalen Rate- \$480. With standard accommodations: Regular Rate-\$670. Friends of Esalen Rate- \$620. Standard accommodations are shared housing with two or three persons per room. Contact Esalen for other options. Reservations: 831-667-3005. Reservations: 831-667-3005, Registration Form: [www.esalen.org/assets/RezForm.pdf](http://www.esalen.org/assets/RezForm.pdf). Fax: 831-667-2724. Email: [info@esalen.org](mailto:info@esalen.org).

**Sunday, January 17, 7:30 pm**, Soiree Celebrating Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar (on sale at Borders January 2010) featuring Matthew Montfort (scalloped fretboard guitar, Godin Glissentar), **Pena Pacha Mama**, 1630 Powell near Union, **San Francisco CA 94133**. Tix: \$12. Info: 415-646-0018.



Web-Calendar  
Daily  
Marin County/Bay Area/Worldwide  
www.marinlocalmusic.com

marinlocalmusic.com  
Shelley Champine  
12/3/2009



### San Francisco Soiree for 'Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar'

San Francisco Soiree for 'Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar' by Matthew Montfort  
Sunday, January 17, 2010, 7:30 pm  
Pena Pacha Mama  
1630 Powell near Union  
San Francisco CA 94133  
Tix: \$12. Info: 415-646-0018  
www.penapachamama.com

This soiree for Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar celebrates the debut solo recording by Ancient Future leader Matthew Montfort. Montfort will perform on both the scalloped fretboard guitar, a special modified instrument able to produce ornaments more characteristic of the sitar, and on a Godin Glissentar, an 11 string fretless guitar based on the oud. While previously known more for his compositions for the trendsetting world music group Ancient Future, Seven Serenades features his intimate improvisational guitar work. The CD will be available at all Borders nationally in the month of January, 2010, as part of a special romantic music sale.

Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar by Matthew Montfort. (AF 2008). \$17.98: Buy 1 Now.

#### Matthew Montfort Bio

As leader of the world music group Ancient Future, Matthew Montfort has devoted himself to the scalloped fretboard guitar since 1978. Featured in the December 2009 commemorative Les Paul issue of Guitar Player Magazine, Montfort is a pioneer among guitarists who have had their fretboards scalloped in order to play various forms of world music that require intricate note-bending ornaments while still being able to play chords. Montfort immersed himself in an intensive study with vina master K.S. Subramanian in order to fully apply the South Indian gamaka (note-bending) techniques to the guitar. He has performed concerts worldwide, from the Festival Internacional de la Guitarra on the golden coast of Spain to the Festival of India in Mumbai. He has worked with many world music legends, including tabla phenomenon Zakir Hussain and Chinese zither master Zhao Hui. Montfort wrote the book Ancient Traditions – Future Possibilities: Rhythmic Training Through the Traditions of Africa, Bali, and India, which has been used by many musicians to improve their rhythm skills.

#### Quotes

"Because Montfort's guitar has a scalloped fretboard, his fingers touch only the strings, enabling him to produce ornaments more characteristic of the sitar. This album reveals a thorough knowledge of Hindustani microtonal ornaments, transferred in ways that create one of the most distinctive guitar sounds in contemporary music. However, it also reveals a lifetime of exploration in world music, which can be immediately summoned in a flash of inspiration. When this level of mastery is reached, there is no need to rewrite. The first improvisation has the depth of a reworked composition." – Teed Rockwell, INDIA CURRENTS, March 2009

Read full article online:  
<http://localmusicvibe.com/san-francisco-soiree-seven-serenades-scalloped-fretboard-guitar-matthew-montfort>



Writer-Staff

Monthly

National

www.guitarplayer.com

Guitar Player Magazine

Barry Cleveland

12/1/2009



## Riffs Interview: Matthew Montfort's Purple Raga

"IN MY JUNIOR YEAR IN HIGH SCHOOL I made a conscious decision to devote myself to music that fused ideas from various world traditions," says Ancient Future's Matthew Montfort. To that end, Montfort attended the Ali Akbar College of Music in San Rafael, California, in 1977, and studied with South Indian vina master K.S. Subramanian. He also modified his guitar to better accommodate the techniques he was learning. "The vina has frets similar to a scalloped-fretboard guitar," explains Montfort. "And Subramanian taught me many techniques of pulling strings across the frets to create the various note-bending ornaments, which are often combined in very involved ways." Sometimes, the various world traditions Montfort works with include his own. "I began to think about the intersection between raga and the music of Jimi Hendrix after seeing a photograph of Jimi in the front row of an Indian music concert, his mouth agape in awe of what he was experiencing," he says. "Then one day a student of mine was having difficulty improvising over the chord changes in 'Purple Haze,' and I had the idea that the techniques learned by studying Indian music would help my student to improvise more effectively. Visit [guitarplayer.com](http://guitarplayer.com) to watch Montfort demonstrating the rage he devised from the 'Purple Haze' solo, and read the accompanying lesson. — Barry Cleveland

Read lesson:

<http://www.guitarplayer.com/article/the-music-jimi/October-2009/102013>

Play video:

<http://link.brightcove.com/services/player/bcpid38497947001?bclid=38457201001&bctid=38673592001>

**RIFFS**

**MATTHEW MONTFORT'S  
"PURPLE RAGA"**

"IN MY JUNIOR YEAR IN HIGH SCHOOL I made a conscious decision to devote myself to music that fused ideas from various world traditions," says Ancient Future's Matthew Montfort. To that end, Montfort attended the Ali Akbar College of Music in San Rafael, California, in 1977, and studied with South Indian vina master K.S. Subramanian. He also modified his guitar to better accommodate the techniques he was learning. "The vina has frets similar to a scalloped-fretboard guitar," explains Montfort. "And Subramanian taught me many techniques of pulling the strings across the frets to create the various note-bending ornaments, which are often combined in very involved ways." Sometimes, the various world traditions Montfort works with include his own. "I began to think about the intersection between raga and the music of Jimi Hendrix after seeing a photograph of Jimi in the front row of an Indian music concert, his mouth agape in awe of what he was experiencing," he says. "Then one day a student of mine was having difficulty improvising over the chord changes in 'Purple Haze,' and I had the idea that the techniques learned by studying Indian music would help my student to improvise more effectively. Visit [guitarplayer.com](http://guitarplayer.com) to watch Montfort demonstrating the rage he devised from the 'Purple Haze' solo, and read the accompanying lesson. — Barry Cleveland

So what's on your mind?  
Read the full article at the link:  
[guitarplayer.com](http://www.guitarplayer.com)

26 | [www.guitarplayer.com](http://www.guitarplayer.com)



Web Music Network  
Weekly  
Worldwide  
www.myspace.com/imagemavin

**DC Bebop on Myspace**

Leon James

11/11/2009



**DC Bebop**  
DC BEBOP.COM

**The Music is the Message**  
The DC area has produced many music giants. A lot of them are no longer with us, but still the soul pulses that beat and the rise and fall just from DC. Some all over the world.

**Featured this week**  
Matthew Montfort (11 string fretless guitar), Godin Glissentar (11 string fretless guitar), electric guitar, flamenco guitar, sitar, charango, mandolin, gamelan and composer. Matthew holds a B.A. in World Music and Composition and an M.A. in Arts and Media Technology from Antioch University and has studied with the master musicians of many world music traditions. He is on the faculty of Blue Bear School of Music in San Francisco, where he teaches all styles of guitar as well as rhythm classes based on his book "Ancient Traditions--Future Possibilities: Rhythmic Training Through the Traditions of Africa, Bali and India." He is the leader of the world fusion music ensemble "Ancient Future" and a pioneer of the scalloped fretboard guitar (an instrument combining qualities of the South Indian vina and the steel string guitar). Looking towards the future Matthew says "I want to record new music live in concert for release on DVD and CD."

**DC Bebop Listening to...**  
Matthew Montfort (Acoustic/Experimental/Ambient) - Sangria  
Joshua Redman (Jazz)  
- Neverend (Album Version)  
Latoya London (R&B/Soul)  
- More (Album Version)  
Lao Tizer (Jazz)  
- Flow (Live)  
Christian Scott (Minimalist/Progressive/Roots Music)  
- Litany Against Fear (Live)  
Drew Davidsen (Jazz/Christian/Pop)  
- Astro  
Cody Geil (Ambient/Lounge/Alternative)  
- Brazil  
Sarah Blacker (Acoustic/Folk/Jazz)  
- the STORY SONG  
Christy Smith (Jazz/Blues/R&B)  
- The Time is Now  
Gastón Contenti (Jazz/Bossa Nova/Other)  
- Wave

**Featured this week**

Matthew Montfort - Multi-instrumentalist: scalloped fretboard guitar, Godin Glissentar (11 string fretless guitar), electric guitar, flamenco guitar, sitar, charango, mandolin, gamelan and composer. Matthew holds a B.A. in World Music and Composition and an M.A. in Arts and Media Technology from Antioch University and has studied with the master musicians of many world music traditions. He is on the faculty of Blue Bear School of Music in San Francisco, where he teaches all styles of guitar as well as rhythm classes based on his book "Ancient Traditions--Future Possibilities: Rhythmic Training Through the Traditions of Africa, Bali and India." He is the leader of the world fusion music ensemble "Ancient Future" and a pioneer of the scalloped fretboard guitar (an instrument combining qualities of the South Indian vina and the steel string guitar). Looking towards the future Matthew says "I want to record new music live in concert for release on DVD and CD."

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- The Time is Now  
Gastón Contenti  
(Jazz/Bossa Nova/Other)  
- Wave

On a weekly basis, I select and feature 10 songs in a table on both my MySpace page and my website.

It's not a top 10 list. It features songs I liked and think perhaps others might appreciate the music as well.

Webzine
Weekly
Worldwide
www.dcbepop.com

DC Bebop.com

Leon James

11/11/2009

MUSIC - Matthew Montfort



DC BEBOP Google search results page for Matthew Montfort, featuring a list of articles and a sidebar with navigation links.

Multi-instrumentalist: scalloped fretboard guitar, Godin Glissentar (11 string fretless guitar), electric guitar, flamenco guitar, sitar, charango, mandolin, gamelan and composer.

Matthew holds a B.A. in World Music and Composition and an M.A. in Arts and Media Technology from Antioch University and has studied with the master musicians of many world music traditions. He is on the faculty of Blue Bear School of Music in San Francisco, where he teaches all styles of guitar as well as rhythm classes based on his book "Ancient Traditions--Future Possibilities: Rhythmic Training Through the Traditions of Africa, Bali and India."

Matthew says he has always had an attraction to the guitar, and has been influenced by and involved in music his entire life. His love of the guitar grew from two things. One of them is his older half brother Rick Epting who played guitar in a professional folk music group when he was still in his crib and he always wanted to play like him. This desire to create and play music was evident in high school where he and a childhood friend, Benjy Wertheimer, dreamt about forming a band together.

Q&A:

DCB: In an article by Jello Biafra, he talks about your musical ability to reproduce the playing style of Hendrix. In the beginning, what styles of music were you attracted to. Did your musical ear and desire to learn and play music draw you to the more complex styles by the well known guitar musicians of the time?

MM: I was actually attracted to the guitar for two main reasons. First of all, my older half brother Rick Epting played guitar in a professional folk music group when I was still in my crib, and I had always wanted to play like him. And when I heard the music of Jimi Hendrix and Jimmy Page, I was mesmerized by the sound of the electric guitar. It was actually the note bending ornaments that intrigued me the most. The scalloped fretboard guitar allows me to have the best of both worlds: an acoustic guitar that it is possible to play like a sitar, or like Jimi Hendrix.

DCB: I read that you teach music. Is this still the case and do I have the right school identified -Blue Bear School of Music in San Francisco?

MM: I'm still teaching at my studio in San Rafael, at Blue Bear School of Music in San Francisco, and also at various institutions and centers such as the New Year's Day World Music Workshop at Esalen January 1-3, 2010.

For the rest of the interview, visit: www.dcbepop.com/dcbmusic-6\_SFGMM.asp

Webzine  
Hourly  
Worldwide  
www.worldmusic.net

## World Music Network

Phil Stanton

10/31/2009



## Lilalit — Matthew Montfort of Ancient Future

USA

Genre: Indian Slide-Guitar

NOTE: This is NOT slide guitar. A similar sound is created with a scalloped fretboard guitar played by Matthew Montfort.

"This serenade falls within the scale of Rag Lalit, a raga often portrayed in ragamala paintings as a lover looking back as he departs from his sleeping beauty before sunrise. Music theory excels at explaining the musical moments of the past so they can be built upon in the future. With that in mind, I'll introduce the ascending and descending patterns of the traditional raga, and then cover the fusion process that led to this serenade. Rag Lalit is unusual in that it omits the perfect fifth (Pa) and uses both fourths. The perfect fourth (ma) is the dominant note of the raga and the augmented fourth functions in a manner similar to a diminished fifth. Thinking too much about theory while performing can distract from the most important responsibility of any musician: being completely involved in the music in the moment. In this improvisation, the muse of the moment and thirty years of practicing blues scales led me to treat this same set of notes like an F minor blues scale played over an E drone. The result is a greater emphasis on the augmented fourth, which I used in the ascending and descending patterns as well as the accompaniment drone. Even though the tonal palette is the same as Rag Lalit, the mood produced is quite a bit different due to the difference of note hierarchy. In "Lilalit," I have without thinking about it first superimposed a blues scale over a dissonant drone to produce something haunting and ethereal." -- Matthew Montfort

The screenshot shows a forum post on the World Music Network website. The post title is "Lilalit — Matthew Montfort of Ancient Future". The post content includes a "NOTE" section that explains the musical concept of Rag Lalit and the author's improvisation. The forum interface includes a navigation menu at the top with categories like NEWS, STORE, RADIO & VIDEO, SYNC RIGHTS, NETWORK, and MUSICIANS CORNER. There is also a search bar and a "MUSIC PLAYER" section on the left. At the bottom of the page, there are logos for "think global" and "Ancient Future Records".



Web-Retailer  
Monthly  
Worldwide  
stringsandbeyond.com

**Strings and Beyond**

Mike Griggs

10/28/2009



**Strings and Beyond's CD of the Month: November 2009**

Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar - Ancient Future Matthew Monfort - Improv World Music - November 2009

Matthew Monfort is a magician with the Scalloped Fretboard Guitar. The scalloped fretboard guitar allows for some serious string bending and picking. I really enjoyed listening to the blend of instrumental, world music, soft rock, etc. A wonderful arrangement!

Click here to buy the CD or listen to a few samples  
<http://www.ancient-future.com/serenade.html>

Ancient Future's Matthew Monfort "Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar " Track list:

1. Gauri the Golden
2. Sangria
3. Soul Serenade
4. Michelle's Star
5. Celtic Raga
6. Purple Raga
7. Lilalit

Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar - Ancient Future Matthew Monfort - Improv World Music - November 2009

Date: Wed, 28 Oct 2009 10:02:09 -0400

Subject: Re: Tracking Solo Guitar CD sent on 7/1/2009 to Mike Griggs at  
Strings and Beyond

From: Mike Griggs <info@stringsandbeyond.com>

Hello Matthew,

I really enjoyed listening to the music.

I have finally managed to get this up on our site.

><http://www.stringsandbeyond.com/cd-of-the-month1.html>

The music was just wonderful. By far the best submission we have had.

Thank you!

Mike

Date: Wed, 28 Oct 2009 10:02:09 -0400

From: Mike Griggs <info@stringsandbeyond.com>

Hello Matthew,  
I really enjoyed listening to the music.  
I have finally managed to get this up on our site.  
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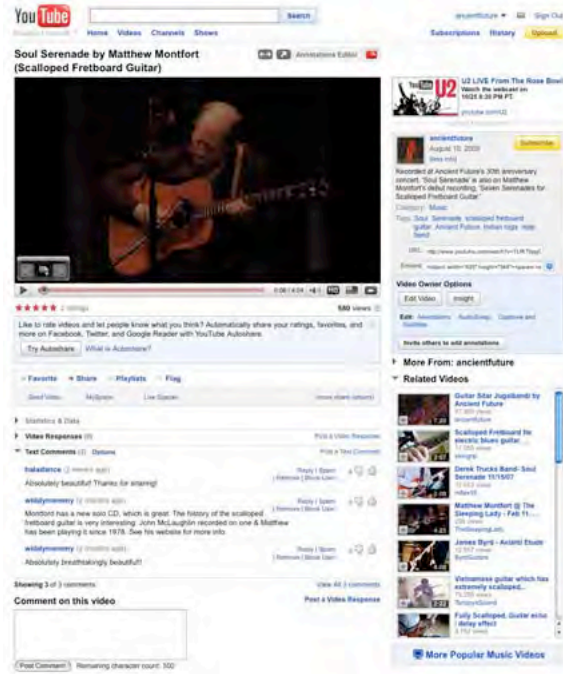
The music was just wonderful. By far the best submission we have had.

Thank you!

Mike

TV-Internet  
Hourly  
Worldwide

[www.youtube.com/ancientfuture](http://www.youtube.com/ancientfuture)



## YouTube

Ancient Future Channel

10/22/2009



## Soul Serenade by Matthew Montfort \*\*\*\*\* 2 ratings 580 views (8/10/09)

Soul Serenade by Matthew Montfort (Scalloped Fretboard Guitar)

ancientfuture

August 10, 2009

Recorded at Ancient Future's 30th anniversary concert, 'Soul Serenade' is also on Matthew Montfort's debut recording, 'Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar.'

Text Comments (3)

haladance (2 weeks ago)

Absolutely beautiful! Thanks for sharing!

widdymemmy (2 months ago)

Montfort has a new solo CD, which is great. The history of the scalloped fretboard guitar is very interesting. John McLaughlin recorded on one & Matthew has been playing it since 1978. See his website for more info.

widdymemmy (2 months ago)

Absolutely breathtakingly beautiful!!!

Watch video:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TLfKTbpgO1Q>



Newspaper  
Monthly  
Truckee/North Lake Tahoe  
www.moonshineink.com

Moonshine Ink  
Rocking Stone  
10/18/2009



### Gettin' Serenaded: Matthew Montfort romances his guitar

by Jackie Varriano, October Print Edition (October 15-November 11)

I received "Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar" by Matthew Montfort in the mail a few weeks ago. Its title, in the Lord of the Rings-ish font on the album cover, was intriguing. Don't get me wrong: it was no "Abbey Road" or "Nevermind." In fact its fuzzy picture of who I assumed to be Montfort did almost nothing to draw me in. Then I read the press release.

Apparently Seven Serenades is the long-awaited debut solo recording by Ancient Future leader Matthew Montfort. Ancient Future –loosely defined as a "world music" – band, is now celebrating their 30th anniversary as an active band. I thought, "Thirty years, and this is the first solo album?!" and almost simultaneously, "What in hell is a scalloped fretboard guitar?" So I popped it in, gave it a listen and waited for the waves of appreciation to wash over me. They did.

The collection of serenades bends back and forth, blending musical lines between Celtic, Spanish, Indian and Hindu sounds. The disc invites you in, while it both relaxes and invigorates the spirit. There's something to this scalloped fretboard thing. But where did it come from?

According to Montfort legend, "In late 1978 luthier Ervin Somogyi carved out the wood between the frets so that the pad of Montfort's fingers touch only the strings, reducing the friction while he bends them to produce ornaments more characteristic of the sitar."

Montfort will be performing a benefit concert for the Sierra Nevada Guitar Society on October 17 at 7:30 p.m. at Trinity Episcopal Church in Reno.

My interest piqued, I emailed Montfort searching for answers. Moonshine Ink: After 30 years with Ancient Future, is this really your first solo album? If so, how did it come about?

Matthew Montfort: Ancient Future started as a small ensemble of musicians who met while studying North Indian classical music at the Ali Akbar College of Music in San Rafael. As leader of Ancient Future, I coined the term "world fusion music." The mission of the band is to create new music-fusing ideas from many traditions, and so over the years it has grown into a large family of musicians from all over the world who collaborate in over a dozen different ensemble variations.

Because of this mission, I haven't had much time to develop my own career as a guitarist. But I had been hearing for many years from people who wanted me to do a recording that focused on the capabilities of the scalloped fretboard guitar. The last Ancient Future studio recording, "Planet Passion," features 19 top masters of world music traditions, and took seven years and thousands of hours to create. After that, I had a desire to do a less complicated project, so I decided to do an improvised release focusing on my guitar playing.

MI: I see a quote from Alex Henderson of All Media Guide, which states that "Montfort...is much more interested in feeling and expression than technique." Would you agree with that quote? And can that really be a conscious choice, to be more concerned with expression than technique?

MM: That is an interesting question. I certainly wouldn't tell my guitar students to be more concerned with expression than technique when they practice, although I do give them tips for bringing their soul and personality into their playing. My focus with my own practice has been on technique and musicianship skills. But when I perform, expression is the most important element. Without it, technique is meaningless.

Read entire article: <http://www.moonshineink.com/articles.php/o/1449>

Newspaper  
Daily  
Reno/Tahoe/Northern Nevada  
www.rgj.com

**Reno Gazette-Journal**

Forrest Hartman

10/17/2009

**Our Event Picks**

Our Event Picks

Oct 17, 2009 October 17, 2009 42nd Street  
Eldorado Hotel Casino  
Tap dance heaven as Broadway's song and dance e...

Oct 17, 2009 October 17, 2009 Rob Thomas  
Reno Events Center  
The Matchbox Twenty frontman performs along wit...

Oct 17, 2009 October 17, 2009 Guitarist Matthew Montfort  
Trinity Episcopal Church



Newspaper  
Daily  
Northern California/Nevada  
www.sacticket.com

**Sacramento Bee**

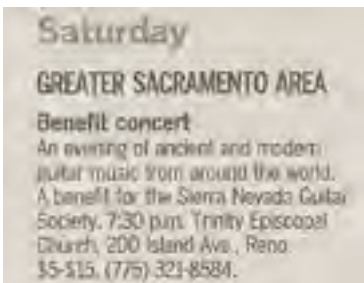
Features Calendar Desk

10/16/2009

**Ticket: The Sacramento Bee | Arts and Entertainment**

Saturday  
GREATER SACRAMENTO AREA  
Benefit concert

An evening of ancient and modern guitar music from around the world. A benefit for the Sierra Nevada Guitar Society. 7:30 p.m., Trinity Episcopal Church, 200 Island Ave., Reno. \$5-15. (775)321-8584



Writer-Freelance
Monthly
National/Worldwide
www.guitarplayer.com

Guitar Player Magazine
Article by Matthew Montfort
10/15/2009



The Music of Jimi Hendrix Applied to Indian Raga

I began to think about the intersection between raga the music of Jimi Hendrix after seeing a photograph of Jimi in the front row of an Indian music concert, his mouth agape in awe of what he was experiencing. One day a student of mine was having difficulty improvising over the chord changes in "Purple Haze," and I had the idea that the techniques learned by studying Indian music would help my student to improvise more effectively.

An Indian raga is a melodic recipe for a mood: a "super scale" using a set of notes in ascending and descending order, a hierarchy of note importance, and a key phrase that shows the heart of the movement of the raga. I was inspired to create a modern raga based on the guitar solo in "Purple Haze." Before I explain how to use this raga to create your own music that is tonally related to Hendrix's solo, some explanation of the Indian system of music is necessary. North Indian raga uses a system of solfeggio (i.e. "do, re, mi, fa, so, la, ti, do") known as sargam with seven note names per octave, starting with Sa (the tonic and main drone note) followed by Re (2), Ga (3), ma (4), Pa (5), Dha (6) and Ni (7). Indian music does not utilize the concept of perfect pitch where absolute note values are recognized. Sa can be set to any note, and is normally set to the most convenient place for the instrumentalist or vocalist. Just as in Western music, there are 12 main tones per octave, but there are also microtonal ornaments similar to the use of quarter tones in the blues. Indian raga uses a non-tempered tuning system where Sa and Pa are tuned a perfect just fifth apart. The other notes are close to the Western just tuning system, but the tuning of individual notes can vary from raga to raga. The word komal refers to the minor or flat version of a note, shuddh refers the natural or major version, and tivra refers to sharp or augmented version. Sa (1) and Pa (5) cannot be modified. Re (2), Ga (3) Dha (6) and Ni (7) can be either shuddh Re (M2), Ga (M3) Dha (M6) or Ni (M7), which correspond to the Western major intervals, or komal re (m2), ga (m3) dha (m6) or ni (m7), which correspond to the Western minor intervals. The note ma (4) can be either shuddh ma (P4), the natural perfect 4th, or tivra Ma (#4), which corresponds to the Western augmented fourth. In a common North Indian notation system, capital letter abbreviations are used for the version of the note that is highest in pitch and lower case letters for the note version lowest in pitch. For example, using this notation system, this is how a Western chromatic scale would be written:

S r R g G m M P d D n N S

Purple Raga

To improvise within Purple Raga, one should first practice the ascending and descending scales. Notice that the patterns zig zag: they don't simply go straight up and down a scale. This allows a raga to prescribe more than simply a mode and to include melodic instructions within the rule set. The heart phrase exemplifies an important melodic pattern for the raga. Try playing sections of the heart phrase in various octaves to emphasize the purple part of the raga.

Jimi Hendrix Raga

While one could play "Purple Haze" using these melodic instructions, an unlimited number of improvisations in a similar tonal mood are also possible. On my Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar release, rather than playing "Purple Haze," I instead improvised a contemporary interpretation of the North Indian musical form known as alap (a rubato exploration of melody without rhythmic accompaniment). Each raga has a patron god or goddess, which in this case has to be the god of rock guitar. So I serenaded to the spirit of Hendrix while improvising within the raga rules I created inspired by the guitar solo in "Purple Haze." Underneath, the didjeridu drones a chord in overtones: a D7#9, also known as the "Jimi Hendrix chord."

Read story online with multimedia:
http://www.guitarplayer.com/article/the-music-jimi/October-2009/102013



Newspaper  
Weekly  
Reno/Tahoe/Northern Nevada Area  
www.newsreview.com/calendar

**Reno News and Review**  
Calendar Editor

10/15/2009



**A Benefit for Sierra Nevada Classical Guitar Festival & Competition**

Scalloped Fretboard Guitar Pioneer MATTHEW MONTFORT Performing an Evening of Ancient and Modern Guitar Music from Around the World with Opening Act, Larry Aynesmith, Classical Guitar

Saturday, October 17, 2009, 7:30pm  
Trinity Episcopal Church 200 Island Avenue Reno, NV 89505  
Tix: \$15/10/5 adult/senior/student At door &  
www.sierraguitar.org sierraguitar@yahoo.com 775-321-8584  
Matthew Montfort and the Scalloped Fretboard Guitar  
www.matthewmontfort.com • www.ancient-future.com

“Montfort reveals a thorough knowledge of Hindustani microtonal ornaments, transferred in ways that create one of the most distinctive guitar sounds in contemporary music. He also reveals a lifetime of exploration in world music, which can be immediately summoned in a flash of inspiration. When this level of mastery is reached, there is no need to rewrite. The first improvisation has the depth of a reworked composition.” - Teed Rockwell, INDIA CURRENTS

Larry Aynesmith  
Opening act classical guitarist Larry Aynesmith will perform classical guitar music inspired by South American, Turkish and modern musical influences. Larry Aynesmith received the 2008 - 2009 Nevada Artist Fellowship Honorable Mention Award

More Info and Tickets: www.sierraguitar.org

SIERRA NEVADA  
GUITAR SOCIETY

A Benefit for **Sierra Nevada**  
CLASSICAL GUITAR FESTIVAL & COMPETITION

Scalloped Fretboard Guitar Pioneer  
**MATTHEW MONTFORT** Performing an Evening of Ancient and Modern Guitar Music from Around the World with Opening Act, Larry Aynesmith, Classical Guitar

**Saturday, October 17, 2009, 7:30pm**  
Trinity Episcopal Church 200 Island Avenue Reno, NV 89505  
Tix: \$15/10/5 adult/senior/student At door &  
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Matthew Montfort and the Scalloped Fretboard Guitar  
[www.matthewmontfort.com](http://www.matthewmontfort.com) • [www.ancient-future.com](http://www.ancient-future.com)

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Supported in part by:

More Info and Tickets: [www.sierraguitar.org](http://www.sierraguitar.org)



Newspaper  
Daily  
Northern Nevada/Reno-Tahoe Area  
www.sparkstribune.net

### SPARKS TRIBUNE-BIG NICKEL

AnnElise Hatjakes

10/14/2009



### Guitarist blends east and west

by AnnElise Hatjakes

Courtesy photo - Matthew Montfort blends various genres and cultures in his guitar playing.

Guitarist Matthew Montfort blends the sounds of traditional Indian music, classic rock, Celtic and many others and will be showcasing his unique sound at a benefit concert for the Sierra Nevada Guitar Society this Saturday at the Trinity Episcopal Church in Reno.

His album "Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar" was released in February.

Montfort's style reflects influences from India. He plays on the scalloped guitar, which sounds like the sitar, and combines the qualities of the South Indian vina and the steel string guitar. However, his music is also influenced by other cultures. The first song from his most recently released CD features music made with the world fusion music ensemble Ancient Future, which he leads. The songs include sounds from all over the world, such as the first song opening with Alan Tower on the didgeridoo.

Along with Tower, Patti Weiss plays the electric and classic violin, and Mariah Parker composed the second track on the album, "Sangria."

Ancient Future's music is also inspired by Celtic sounds, as heard in the song "Celtic Raga." Each song has its own unique sound, especially "Purple Raga," which is based on the music of Jimi Hendrix. The didgeridoo provides a drone in the background in the "Jimi Hendrix Chord," which is D7#9.

Montfort spent three months in intensive study with vina master K.S. Subramanian in order to fully apply the South Indian note-bending techniques to the guitar. He is also known for his work on electric guitar, flamenco guitar, sitar, charango, mandolin and gamelan. He is currently on the faculty of Blue Bear School of Music in San Francisco, where he teaches music theory, all styles of guitar as well as rhythm classes.

Proceeds from the concert will benefit the Nevada Sierra Nevada Guitar Society, which provides educational opportunities for area musicians. Tickets are \$15 for general admission, \$10 for seniors and \$5 for students. The Trinity Episcopal Church is located at 200 Island Ave. in Reno and the concert begins at 7:30 p.m. Tahoe classical guitarist Larry Aynesmith will be opening for Montfort. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.sierraguitar.com.





Newspaper  
Daily  
Northern California/Nevada  
www.sacbee.com

Sacramento Bee/Reno Affiliate  
Mel Shields  
10/11/2009



### Around the Silver Circle

By Mel Shields  
Bee Correspondent  
Page 61

• The Carson Valley Inn's banquet staff turns the Shannon Ballroom into an old-time German beer hall for the hotel's popular Oktoberfest this Friday. All the favorites are served buffet style, from all the wursts to spaetzle. There's a hot pretzel bar, too.

• Matthew Montfort, leader of the pioneering world fusion ensemble Ancient Future, will perform music from his new release "Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar." The instrument is a modified guitar able to produce sounds more characteristic of the sitar. His concert will be Saturday at Trinity Episcopal Church in downtown Reno, a historic building on the Truckee River.

• When "Reno 911" first debuted on Comedy Central, the city took issue with the portrayal of its law enforcement personnel.

Now that the show has been canceled, there's a concerted effort to bring it back via petition at saverenog11.com.

#### Around the Silver Circle

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Newspaper  
Daily  
Northern Nevada Reno Tahoe Area  
www.rgj.com

### Reno Gazette-Journal

Jason Kellner

10/11/2009



### Guitar society benefit is Saturday at Trinity church

A benefit for the Sierra Nevada Guitar Society is scheduled at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at Trinity Episcopal Church, 200 Island Ave.

Guest artist Matthew Montfort, who plays Indian and Hindustani music, will perform. Some classical guitar pieces based on South American and Turkish music also will be featured.

The suggested donation is \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors 62 and older and \$5 for students younger than 30. However, no one will be turned away for inability to pay.

Details: 775-321-8584 or www.sierraguitar.org.



Newspaper  
Weekly  
Reno/Tahoe/Northern Nevada  
www.tahoethisweek.com

## North Tahoe/Truckee This Week

Joy Michiel

10/8/2009

## The Scene

### Boogie Nights

While the weather continues to cool, the venues are in gear for a fall heat up. It is a known fact that the best way to stay warm is boogie and there are lots of options to do just that over the next few weeks.

OCT. 17 — Troubaduo heads in for a night at Bar of America. This powerful male/female soul singing duo places their emphasis on lyrics, vocals, guitars and percussive instruments to share their original tunes as well as songs from their favorite artists.

Bay Area Blues Hall of Fame inductee J. C. Smith and his band play a free show in the Crystal Bay Club's Red Room. This horn infused six-piece is fronted by Smith, an outstanding performer noted for his energy and charisma.

Local San Francisco artist Kaweh comes to the area for a show at the Brewery Arts Center. His music can be best described as world jazz nuevo Flamenco with a touch of Latin, Brazilian, Mediterranean and Middle Eastern flavors with vocals in English, Spanish, Italian and German.

An evening of ancient and modern guitar music from around the world is presented at the Trinity Episcopal Church in Reno. Matthew Montfort, the leader of the pioneering world fusion music ensemble Ancient Future, brings tonalities from world music traditions to guitar. Opening act Larry Aynessmith will perform works for classical guitar inspired by South American, Turkish and modern musical influences.



**WEEKLY**

From *Slipstream* to *Blues*, it's all inside - Entertainment Weekly, featuring the best of the week in Reno, Tahoe, Truckee & Beyond.

**The Scene**  
By Joy Michiel

**Boogie Nights**

While the weather continues to cool, the venues are in gear for a fall heat up. It is a known fact that the best way to stay warm is boogie and there are lots of options to do just that over the next few weeks.

**OCT. 16 - The Mitch Marcus Quintet**, known for the ability to lead the audience through a labyrinth of ever-shifting musical textures, will live up the crowd at Moody's Bistro for two nights. The group's repertoire ranges from straight-ahead jazz to complex harmonic/rhythmic endeavors and multi-movement suite.

**Bezo Corobetta** is proud to open the 2009-10 season with acclaimed world-guitar-fusion trio **Incendio**. The groups richly textured music is rooted in a myriad sources including Flamenco and classical guitar, rock-style dramatics and lightning-fingered jazz-fusion mastery.

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**Rob Thomas** makes an appearance at the Reno Events Center. Making sense of his musical inspiration is what Rob Thomas does at an exceptionally high level. The result is percussive rock that pulses with passion and energy.

**Wayne Brady** will transform the stage at the Silver Legacy with his special brand of improv. His musical melody passages are truly unrivaled and his hilarious improvisational antics, paired with his ability to impersonate just about anyone make for an entertaining evening.

Joy Michiel, a.k.a. Big Joy, is a local singer and comedienne. For more information, visit her Web site at [www.bigjoy.com](http://www.bigjoy.com) and send a Big Joy singing telegram. Got an entertainment listing? E-mail it to [entertainment@tahoethisweek.com](mailto:entertainment@tahoethisweek.com).

(19)



Web-Newsletter
Monthly
Reno/Tahoe/Northern Nevada
www.sierraguitar.org

Sierra Nevada Guitar Society

Youtube Channel

10/2/2009



Sierra Nevada Guitar Society -- October, 2009 Newsletter

Dear Friends,

Our forthcoming concert features: An Evening of Ancient and Modern Guitar Music from Around the World

Here's the inside preview of our next concert, October 17. The lutenist we scheduled to perform couldn't make it this year. So our October 17 concert will be a benefit for Sierra Nevada Guitar Society! During this difficult economic time, every bit helps. Innovative guest artist Matthew Montfort will perform at a reduced rate, and I will open the show with some classical guitar pieces based on South American and Turkish music.

We usually concentrate only on classical guitar but we occasionally widen the spectrum of our offerings. October 17 will be one such event. Matthew Montfort is widely known in "world music" circles and has created some very innovative guitar work with a "scalloped fretboard guitar." I first encountered a scalloped fretboard guitar when I produced a CD of traditional Vietnamese music some years ago. The scalloped fretboard enables greater control when "bending" notes to the microtonal inflections of various musical traditions. Matthew plays many styles but is largely influenced by Indian and Hindustani music.

We are asking donations of \$15.00 for adults, \$10.00 for Seniors 62+, and \$5.00 for students under 30. No one will be turned away for inability to pay, but we ask donations if possible.

See you there October 17, 7:30pm, Trinity Episcopal Church, 200 Island Avenue, Reno, NV!

LarryA, Sierra Nevada Guitar Society, www.sierraguitar.org

October 17, 2009: An Evening of Ancient and Modern Guitar Music from Around the World
Location: Trinity Episcopal Church, 200 Island Avenue, Reno, NV. Time: 7:30pm. \$15.00 Adults, \$10.00 Seniors, \$5.00 Students. Tickets available at door or online at: www.sierraguitar.org

GUEST ARTIST: MATTHEW MONTFORT and the Scalloped Fretboard Guitar
www.matthewmontfort.com www.ancient-future.com

Matthew Montfort is well known as the leader of the pioneering world music group Ancient Future, and for his work on Glissentar (11-string fretless guitar), jazz guitar, flamenco guitar, mandolin, charango, sitar, and gamelan. He has performed at the Festival Internacional de la Guitarra on the golden coast of Spain near Barcelona, which showcases top guitarists from all over the world and has toured India, performing at prestigious events such as the Festival of India in Mumbai with sitar master Pandit Habib Khan and tabla maestro Pandit Swapan Chaudhuri.

"It isn't every day that acoustic guitarists make their instrument sound a lot like an Indian sitar, but that is exactly what Matthew Montfort accomplishes on the instrumental "Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar." What exactly is a scalloped fretboard guitar? According to Ancient-Future.com, guitar maker Ervin Somogyi took an acoustic guitar back in 1978 and 'carved out the wood between the frets so that the pads of Montfort's fingers touch only the strings, reducing friction while he bends them to produce ornaments more characteristic of the sitar.' Montfort demonstrates that even though he has considerable chops and technical prowess, he is much more interested in feeling and expression than technique." - Alex Henderson, ALL MUSIC GUIDE

Read whole newsletter:

http://hosted.verticalresponse.com/446778/a3f0c73fba/1762501132/6a0de7b779/



A detailed screenshot of the newsletter's main content. It features a 'Guest Artist' profile for Matthew Montfort, a 'Classical Guitar Holiday Concert' announcement for December 12, 2009, and a 'Sierra Nevada Classical Guitar Festival & Competition July 2010' notice. The text includes descriptions of Montfort's work, concert details, and contact information for the society.

A footer section of the newsletter containing logos for various organizations like 'Ancient-Future.com', 'Sierra Nevada Guitar Society', and 'Trinity Episcopal Church'. It also includes a small photo of a person and some text about the newsletter's distribution.

Webzine  
Monthly  
National  
www.guitarplayer.com

## GuitarPlayer.Com

Video

9/10/2009

### Video: Matthew Montfort's Purple Raga

Most Popular

The Music of Jimi Hendrix Applied to Indian Raga  
Diatonic Shredding with Gus G. of Firewind  
Intros and Endings: GIT's Dale Turner Shares Ten Cool Ways to Get In and Out of Songs  
10 Things You Gotta Do To Play Like Steve Howe  
10 Things You Gotta Do To Play Like Eddie Van Halen

Play video:

<http://link.brightcove.com/services/player/bcpid38497947001?bclid=38457201001&bctid=38673592001>



Web-Newszine
Hourly
Worldwide
www.top40-charts.com

top40-charts.com

Tour Dates

9/4/2009



Scalloped Fretboard Guitar Pioneer Matthew Montfort Performs In Reno

Reno, NV (Top40 Charts/ Sierra Nevada Guitar Society ) - Benefit Concert for the Sierra Nevada Guitar Society (www.sierraguitar.org)
Scalloped Fretboard Guitar Pioneer Matthew Montfort Performs. An Evening of Ancient and Modern Guitar Music from Around the World
With Opening Act, Larry Aynesmith, Classical Guitar
Saturday, October 17, 2009, 7:30pm
Trinity Episcopal Church
200 Island Avenue
Reno, NV 89505
Adm: \$15.00 Adults, \$10.00 Seniors, \$5.00 Students. Tickets at door, or online at www.sierraguitar.org.
Bring your Paypal receipt as your ticket.
Info: Email or sierraguitar@yahoo.com call 775-321-8584.

An Evening of Ancient and Modern Guitar Music from Around the World

Matthew Montfort, the leader of the pioneering world fusion music ensemble Ancient Future, brings tonalities from world music traditions to guitar.
Montfort will be performing music from his new release, 'Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar.' The recording showcases his pioneering work on the scalloped fretboard guitar, a special modified instrument able to produce ornaments more characteristic of the sitar.

Opening act Larry Aynesmith will perform works for classical guitar inspired by South American, Turkish and modern musical influences.

MATTHEW MONTFORT

As leader of the world music group Ancient Future, Matthew Montfort has devoted himself to the scalloped fretboard guitar since 1978. An award-winning guitarist (Louis Armstrong Jazz Award, Colorado Outstanding Young Guitarist Award), he is a pioneer of the scalloped fretboard guitar (an instrument combining qualities of the South Indian vina and the steel string guitar). Montfort immersed himself in an intensive study with vina master K.S. Subramanian in order to fully apply the South Indian gamaka (note-bending) techniques to the guitar. The method is based on pulling the strings across the frets in order to raise the pitch.

He has performed concerts worldwide, from the Festival Internacional de la Guitarra on the golden coast of Spain to the Festival of India in Mumbai. He has worked with many world music legends, including tabla phenomenon Zakir Hussain and Chinese zither master Zhao Hui. Montfort wrote the book 'Ancient Traditions - Future Possibilities: Rhythmic Training Through the Traditions of Africa, Bali, and India,' which has been used by many musicians to improve their rhythm skills.

REVIEWS

"Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar is best described as world fusion; Indian music is an influence, but it isn't the disc's only influence - and Montfort also draws on everything from Spanish flamenco to blues to folk-rock and Celtic music. Through it all, Montfort demonstrates that even though he has considerable chops and technical prowess, he is much more interested in feeling and expression than technique." - Alex Henderson, ALL MEDIA GUIDE

Read entire article:

http://top40-charts.com/news/Tour-Dates/Scalloped-Fretboard-Guitar-Pioneer-Matthew-Montfort-Performs-In-Reno/51510.html

top40-charts.com website screenshot showing tour dates, news, and reviews for Matthew Montfort's performance in Reno.

Help Us Help You Take Our Quick Survey button and logo.



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Hourly

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<http://myworldmusicfriends.com>

myworldmusicfriends.com

WorldMusic Wall

9/3/2009



Front Page Placement: Week of 9/3/09 through 9/10/09

Scalloped Fretboard Guitar Pioneer Matthew Montfort Performs An Evening of Ancient and Modern Guitar Music from Around the World

Matthew Montfort with Scalloped Fretboard Guitar

Benefit Concert for the Sierra Nevada Guitar Society ([www.sierraguitar.org](http://www.sierraguitar.org))

Scalloped Fretboard Guitar Pioneer Matthew Montfort Performs An Evening of Ancient and Modern Guitar Music from Around the World With Opening Act, Larry Aynesmith, Classical Guitar

Saturday, October 17, 2009, 7:30pm

Trinity Episcopal Church

200 Island Avenue

Reno, NV 89505

Adm: \$15.00 Adults, \$10.00 Seniors, \$5.00 Students. Tickets at door, or online at [www.sierraguitar.org](http://www.sierraguitar.org). Bring your Paypal receipt as your ticket.

Info: Email or [sierraguitar@yahoo.com](mailto:sierraguitar@yahoo.com) call 775-321-8584.

An Evening of Ancient and Modern Guitar Music from Around the World

Matthew Montfort, the leader of the pioneering world fusion music ensemble Ancient Future, brings tonalities from world music traditions to guitar. Montfort will be performing music from his new release, 'Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar.' The recording showcases his pioneering work on the scalloped fretboard guitar, a special modified instrument able to produce ornaments more characteristic of the sitar.

Opening act Larry Aynesmith will perform works for classical guitar inspired by South American, Turkish and modern musical influences.

MATTHEW MONTFORT [www.matthewmontfort.com](http://www.matthewmontfort.com)

Read More:

<http://www.myworldmusicfriends.com/articles/09032009/scalloped-fretboard-guitar-pioneer-matthew-montfort-performs-evening-ancient-and-m>

Web Music Discovery  
Daily  
Worldwide  
www.soundunwound.com

soundunwound.com

beta

8/28/2009

Top ranked Instrumental Guitar Artists (No. 1)

Matthew Montfort



The screenshot shows the 'Instrumental Guitar' category page on soundunwound.com. At the top, there is a search bar and navigation links. Below the header, there is a section for 'Instrumental Guitar' with an overview and a list of top-ranked releases. The releases are displayed as small album covers with titles and artist names. On the right side, there is a section for 'Top ranked Instrumental Guitar artists' with a list of artists and their album covers. The page also includes a 'Webstore' section and a 'Top writers for Instrumental Guitar' section.

Webzine
Monthly
Uzbekistan/Worldwide
www.progressor.net

ProgressorR: Uzbekistan Progressive Rock

Vitaly Menshikov

8/20/2009



Matthew Montfort "Seven Serenades" \*\*\*\*\*+

Matthew Montfort - 2008 - "Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar"
(56:28, 'Ancient Future Records') \*\*\*\*\*+

TRACK LIST:

- 1. Gauri the Golden 8:46
2. Sangria 6:05
3. Soul Serenade 6:31
4. Michelle's Star 5:53
5. Celtic Raga 8:48
6. Purple Raga 6:01
7. Lilalit 14:22

SOLO PILOT:

Matthew Montfort – scalloped fretboard guitar

With: Alan Tower – didjeridu (1, 6); Patti Weiss – violins (1, 2); Mariah Parker – santur (2)

Prolusion: Matthew MONTFORT is widely known above all as the founder and the main mastermind behind the renowned American world-fusion ensemble Ancient Future, while the star of this occasion is his latest solo output "Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar". I think I'd hardly be able to introduce you readers into the history of this release any better than the CD booklet itself, so let me please cite the corresponding lines from there: "As leader of the world-music group Ancient Future, Matthew Montfort has devoted himself to the SFG since 1978. In 1978, luthier Ervin Somogoi carved out the wood between the frets so that the pads of Matthew's fingers touch only the strings, reducing friction while he bends them to produce ornaments more characteristic of the Sitar: while visually subtle, the difference in sound is striking. He spent years of study with some of the world's best musicians, such as gamelan director KRT Wasitodipuro, North Indian sarod master Ali Akbar Khan and vina master KS Subramanian (VM: not to be confused with violinist Subramanian), with whom he did an intensive study of South Indian note-bending techniques. He has performed concerts worldwide. He has worked with many world music legends, including tabla phenomenon Zakir Hussain and Chinese zither master Zhao Hui. While therefore Matthew Montfort has been known for his compositions, this first effort showcases improvisational music for scalloped fretboard guitar – that is." Still in the booklet, each of the recording's seven tracks-serenades is accompanied by Matthew's own comments, though on the Ancient Future website, there is a page which contains a much more detailed description of each, and I was asked by Matthew to carefully familiarize myself with its contents before reviewing "Serenades". For the first time I read those notes back in May, after which I've made quite a few attempts to start on writing what I had – and still have – to, but in the end I realized that it's beyond my scope to review the album in a proper way or from the offered perspective, if you will. While feeling fairly confident when having a deal with most, if not all, of the styles that form the progressive rock genre and even with some of those beyond it (Classical and Avant-garde Academic music in particular), I am an ignoramus in many other musical and – especially – related aesthetics. For instance, before I read Matthew's remarks on the fifth track I was completely unaware that there is any relationship between ancient Celtic and Vedic, i.e. Indian, musical traditions, let alone what a professional can create as a result of his passion for those and his knowledge of the peculiarities of each alike. All in all, when trying to professionally examine this release again and again, during the last few days in particular, I have quite exhausted myself and lost most of the ideas I had before I ventured on the matter, fearing now that my review of "Serenades" will be one of the least informative, i.e. worst, explorations I've ever done. In that way, well, I'm reaching a decision to quote Matthew's, say, canonic description of the disc's contents (here: its shorter, album, version) – before my apocryphal (at best) opinion of those.

Read full review: www.progressor.net/review/mmontfort\_2008.html





Webzine  
Weekly  
National  
www.zonemusicreporter.com

ZoneMusicReporter.com

RJ Lannan

8/15/2009



## Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar 🎸 🎵 🎵 🎵

Mathew Montfort, founder of the band Ancient Future, is a note bender, a musician of the finest ilk and a composer second to none. His Seven Serenades album is his solo debut album. Occasionally, you will see a guitarist shake her or his guitar making a resonant echo or vibe. The deeply carved frets on Montfort's guitar allow him to do this and more without a whole lotta shaking going on. The sound is hauntingly beautiful and unique to his brand of music. His album is deeply influenced by Eastern ragas with the repetitive structure that is uncommon to Western music. I took some time to get used to it, but once I did, the music was warm as well as somewhat spiritually uplifting in an unexpected fashion.

Soul Serenade is exotic and deeply mesmerizing. It is an intimate exploration of places unknown and untouched by the physical. The music is sinuous like the growth of a passionflower. It sends out its exploring tendrils into the deep places looking for the soulful energies that dwell in all of us. Can beauty be far behind? Michelle's Star is a favorite on the recording that encompasses the modern version of adult contemporary music. It has a great flow and a sparkling light all its own. The longest and most intricate tune on the album is called Lilalit. Montfort truly finds the "rasa" or aesthetic delight on the fourteen-minute tune. Although the structure is complex, it has a warm melody deep within its roots. Great chill out music if ever there was. Montfort is indeed, one with his guitar.

Rating: Very Good

- reviewed by RJ Lannan on 8/15/2009

**Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar**  
By Matthew Montfort  
Label: Ancient-Future.Com  
Release: November 21, 2009

**Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar tracks**

1. Gauri the Golden
2. Sangria
3. Soul Serenade
4. Michelle's Star
5. Celtic Raga
6. Purple Raga
7. Lilalit

**Rating: Very Good** 🌟🌟🌟🌟  
- reviewed by RJ Lannan on 8/15/2009

Web Music Network  
Weekly  
Ireland/Worldwide  
www.myspace.com/homelyplanet

**Homely Planet**  
Myspace Page Features

8/10/2009



**Myspace Player Feature: Celtic Raga by Matthew Montfort**

Promoting World and Roots Music & Cultural Exchange within Northern Ireland and Globally...

Positivity, Multiculturalism, Respect.

Homely Planet Inter(net) Cultural Radio is a service to assist cultural relations and education in Northern Ireland and to promote global exchange. Homely Planet's vision is to show how people representing different cultures & religions contribute in a more positive way to the economic and social status of society when we respect & have a better understanding of each others' diversity.

The radio service will allow all communities, faith groups, schools, organisations, artists and individuals to participate in broadcasting items exploring religion, race and cultural diversity.

Northern Ireland has gone through many changes and an uncomfortable history of division and conflict. The need for education providing a clear understanding of different cultures is now, more than ever a paramount issue. Homely Planet will assist to meet this need by providing a forum for learning, cultural and race relations, equality and diversity education.

With addition to cultural education Homely Planet will also support the grassroots roots music sector in Northern Ireland and will develop links globally to become a catalyst for the world music industry and global cultural relations

Homely Planet is managed by the Beyond Skin, a charity addressing racism and sectarianism in Northern Ireland through multicultural artforms. Primary partnership groups for Homely Planet are the Equality Commission Northern Ireland, Sinful Design, Arts & Business, Beat N track and OFMDFM

Homely Planet will be broadcasting 24/7 and information about the service and how people can get involved is available from the official website www.homelyplanet.org

The idea originated after the 'Homely Planet' festival 2006 from musicians involved. The idea of using radio for cultural exchange through music, verbal arts and dialogue has become a shared vision. "Thanks to 1 Giant Leap, Nitin Sawhney & Peter Gabriel for the inspiration"



Radio-Internet  
Weekly  
Ireland/Worldwide  
www.homelyplanet.org

**HomelyPlanet.org**

Radio

8/10/2009



**First Play Feature**

+ first play  
Launch Homely Planet with iTunes Player  
Launch Homely Planet Player

Homely Planet Music Presents | First Play  
Ear Candy!  
Each week we will be highlighting an artist in our Homely Planet Mini Player, 'First Play'.

Get listening via the link below (available in banner at top throughout the site!)

Launch Homely Planet First Play Player  
On First Play  
New Artists, New Albums

Artist: Matthew Montfort  
Album: Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar  
Tracks:  
1. Celtic Raga  
2. Sangria  
3. Purple Raga  
4. Soul Serenade  
5. Guari The Golden  
Web: ancient-future.com  
Email: info@ancient-future.com



Radio-Public  
Daily  
San Francisco Bay Area/Worldwide  
kzsu.stanford.edu

**KZSU 90.1 FM**

Sunshine

7/22/2009



**LIVE in studio: Getting Over the Hump**

Getting Over the Hump DJ: Sunshine Wed, 22 Jul 2009 / 1100-1500  
Mariah Parker•Milo's Moment•Sangria•Ancient-Future.Com Records  
Matthew Montfort•Purple Raga•Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar• Ancient-Future.Com  
LIVE in studio: Matthew Montfort•Soul Serenade•KZSU with Sunshine•Ancient-Future.Com Records  
Ancient Future•Forest Frolic•Planet Passion•Ancient-Future.Com Records  
LIVE in studio: Matthew Montfort•Celtic Raga•KZSU with Sunshine•Ancient-Future.Com Records  
Ancient Future•Semara•Planet Passion•Ancient-Future.Com Records  
Mariah Parker•Sangria•Sangria•Ancient-Future.Com Records  
LIVE in studio: Matthew Montfort•improv: Sunshine's Soulful Scalloped Serenade•Ancient-Future.Com





Magazine  
Quarterly  
National  
www.getthebeat.com

The Beat  
Steve Heilig  
7/16/2009



### Matthew Montfort, Seven Serenades (Ancient-Future.Com)

This longtime world music/fusion guitarist offers a solo and lightly-backed recording for acoustic "scalloped fretboard" guitar, and however that may differ from a regular guitar (OK, there are actually no [flat surfaces between the] frets and he touches only the strings), he plays it just beautifully, at times hypnotically, and makes it sound like some sort of sitar hybrid on a "modern raga," a "Celtic raga," and even a "purple" one based on Jimi Hendrix's music. With even the dreaded didj blending in tastefully, this is a very fine set, meditative and rhythmic all at once.

Page 22, THE BEAT VOL. 28 #1, 2009  
(Annual Bob Marley issue, and first edition of 2009 finally published in mid July due to the recession)



Radio-Syndicated  
Weekly  
National/Worldwide  
www.earthbeatradio.org

earthbeatradio.org

Aries Keck

7/7/2009



### Obama MIA on Climate; Black Carbon & TED Talks

July 7th, 2009

Today on Earthbeat, host Mike Tidwell discusses how President Obama is missing in action when it comes to climate leadership. 'Black carbon' makes up 50 percent of the non-carbon dioxide global warming pollution in our atmosphere. In this rebroadcast of an April 2009 interview, we speak to Durwood Zaelke, the president and founder of the Institute for Governance and Sustainable Development. The TED talks are renown for bringing together some of Silicon Valley's leading thinkers and innovators. John Doerr is a partner in the famed venture capitalism firm Kleiner, Perkins, Caufield & Byers and known for investing in Amazon, Google and others before they were household names. John is now focusing his efforts, and his fortune on green technology. Alex Steffen is the founder of the website Instructables and is the cofounder and executive editor of the website WorldChanging. He speaks about how innovation will help us create a sustainable future.

Error:

Music for this edition of Earthbeat comes from the album Sangria by Mariah Parker.

Correction:

**Music for this edition of Earthbeat comes from the album Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar by Matthew Montfort.**

Listen: [www.earthbeatradio.org/home/obama-mia-on-climate-black-carbon-ted-talks/](http://www.earthbeatradio.org/home/obama-mia-on-climate-black-carbon-ted-talks/)



### Wax On, Wax Off - The Pros & Cons of Waxman-Markey

May 26th, 2009

Today on Earthbeat host Mike Tidwell debates the massive Waxman-Markey climate bill with Joe Romm, the editor of the blog Climate Progress, and the author of the book, Hell and High Water. Waxman-Markey is the shorthand for the massive, over 900-page climate change legislation introduced by Congressmen Henry Waxman of California and Edward Markey of Massachusetts. Then Mike discusses a blue-ribbon military report that says that America's national security is gravely threatened by our country's reliance on fossil fuels. The authors of the report include a former Army Chief of Staff, Commanders-in-Chief of U-S forces around the world, general officers from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps, and a former NASA space shuttle astronaut. Joining us to discuss the report is the executive director of the Military Advisory Board of the Center for Naval Analyses, the non-profit research arm of the center - Sherri Goodman.

Error:

Music in this edition of Earthbeat is 'Gauri the Golden' by Matthew Montfort.

Correction:

**Music for this edition of Earthbeat comes from the album Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar by Matthew Montfort.**

Listen: [www.earthbeatradio.org/home/wax-on-wax-off-the-pros-cons-of-waxman-markey/](http://www.earthbeatradio.org/home/wax-on-wax-off-the-pros-cons-of-waxman-markey/)

Web-Newsletter

Monthly

Worldwide

www.drunkwithwonder.com

DrunkWithWonder.com

Steve Ryals

7/5/2009



## Fresh Tracks: Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar

*Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar* - Matthew Montfort - Ancient-Future.com Records

Matthew Montfort has been the leader of the seminal world fusion group Ancient Future for over 30 years. In that time, he and his group have often led the way in crafting exquisite, timeless melodies reflecting musical influences from the Middle East, India, Asia and beyond. Now Matthew has released his first solo CD, *Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar*. You may well be asking, as I did, what exactly is a scalloped fretboard guitar? It turns out that it's not a new idea for stringed instruments. Many lutes, for example have scalloped fretboards, where some of the wood between the frets on the guitar neck is removed to facilitate "bending" notes. Matthew has been experimenting with this idea on an acoustic guitar for many years, and has developed a unique sound that may remind you of a sitar. The delightful result forms the core sound of *Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar*, a series of improvisational masterpieces that somehow manage to sound both traditional and contemporary at the same time.

While some of the tracks, such as "Soul Serenade" and "Celtic Raga" are gorgeous solo efforts, on other tracks Matthew includes some stellar musicians. On "Sangria," for example, Mariah Parker plays santur and Patti Weiss adds violin. I reviewed Mariah's wonderful CD, also titled *Sangria*, in my March 2009 newsletter. Every time I hear this intoxicating song, I imagine a sun-splashed courtyard overlooking the Mediterranean, whitewashed stucco reflecting the languid afternoon, heat undulating in waves from red tile roofs. Matthew's playing is always impeccable, filled with subtle emotion and even wanderlust. I don't know of anyone who plays quite like Matthew. His mastery of the scalloped fretboard guitar seems unequaled. For a richly rewarding journey into the magic of acoustic world fusion music, look no farther than *Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar*.

**Drunk with Wonder**  
*Awakening to the God Within*  
A Rock Creek Press Email Newsletter

July 2009

**Fresh Tracks**

*Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar*

**Matthew Montfort**  
Matthew Montfort has been the leader of the seminal world fusion group Ancient Future for over 30 years. In that time, he and his group have often led the way in crafting exquisite, timeless melodies reflecting musical influences from the Middle East, India, Asia and beyond. Now Matthew has released his first solo CD, *Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar*. You may well be asking, as I did, what exactly is a scalloped fretboard guitar? It turns out that it's not a new idea for stringed instruments. Many lutes, for example have scalloped fretboards, where some of the wood between the frets on the guitar neck is removed to facilitate "bending" notes. Matthew has been experimenting with this idea on an acoustic guitar for many years, and has developed a unique sound that may remind you of a sitar. The delightful result forms the core sound of *Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar*, a series of improvisational masterpieces that somehow manage to sound both traditional and contemporary at the same time.

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Magazine  
Bi-Monthly  
National  
www.dirtylinen.com

Dirty Linen  
Editor  
7/1/2009



## Matthew Montfort- future fingers between the frets

by Paul -Emile Comeau (Comeauville, NS, Canada)

**Various Artists**  
**Harp Guitar Dreams**  
Harp Guitar Music HGM-CD-005 (2008)

**Matthew Montfort**  
**Seven Serenades**  
Ancient-Future.Com AF 2008 (2009)

**Mariah Parker**  
**Sangria**  
Ancient-Future.Com AF 2017 (2009)

Although high profile guitarists such as Michael Hedges and Pat Metheny initially drew attention to the instrument, Gregg Miner is now the main booster of the harp guitar. Apart from administering a very impressive website devoted to the subject, which also includes an extensive discography, Miner also has his own label, Harp Guitar Dreams, the follow-up to a compilation called Beyond Six Strings, again features 13 tracks by as many artists. Seven of the players, including Andy McKee, John Doan, Muriel Anderson (the only woman), and Miner himself, are carryovers from the first compilation. Tim Donahue plays the only electric instrument, while Alex de Grassi, whose contribution is a "Reverie for Greensleeves," is one of two playing the harp-symptitar. The album title hints at a new age ambience and the music does indeed fall under that genre. Although the virtuosity of the players is obvious, the music, although undeniably pleasant, isn't likely to jump out and seize the listener's attention. The booklet features photos of the players with their beautiful instruments.

Like the harp guitar, the scalloped-fretboard guitar is another variation on the world's most well-known instrument. Matthew Montfort, the founder and leader of the world-fusion group Ancient Future, has been playing the instrument since 1978, when luthier Ervin Somogyi carved out the wood between the frets so that, according to the notes on the back cover, "the pads of Montfort's fingers touch only the strings, reducing friction while he bends them to produce ornaments more characteristic of the sitar." The appearance of the guitar isn't all that different, but the sound does indeed lie between a guitar and a sitar. On his first solo album, Montfort plays six of his own compositions, three of them in a solo format. "Celtic Raga" draws parallels between ancient Celtic and Vedic traditions. Didjeridu player Alan Tower provides droning accompaniment on a couple of tracks, including "Purple Raga," which was inspired by Jimi Hendrix.

The only non-Montfort composition on his album is "Sangria," a composition by Mariah Parker, a fellow Ancient Future member who plays santur on the track. The tune also serves as the title track of her own debut album, one that features her playing piano on five of her compositions and santur on two others. The album, which was produced by Montfort, who also plays on all the tracks, is subtitled "an Indo-Latin Jazz Musical Experience" and features more than half a dozen notable musicians, including Paul McCandless.

which give depth to the tunes while subtly creating the idea of music from ancient times. There are solo sets from each man and 10 sets in which they both play.

All the tracks are keepers. Especially outstanding ones, though, are "Lad O'Berne's Favorite" (The Silver Strand Band's "Booster" set which begins with a tune from early 20th century Sligo fiddler James O'Berne), goes into a tune from Notting Casey, and ends with a piece composed by Jamie Maddox; a set that includes "The Mystery Root" and the solo sets by each man.

### THE BELLEVILLE OUTFIT

Time to Stand self-released (2008). Swing, Gypsy jazz, bluegrass, blues, and country form the musical ideas of the Belleville Outfit, an Austin-based five-piece band that has been touring widely across the country and rising up through the Americana scene. Four of the six members are singers, and all play, bringing in instruments from violin to electric guitar to upright bass to Hammond B3. The title track, "Time to Stand," is a tribute to journalist Daniel Pearl and finds the group leaning to bluegrass style. "Sunday Morning" is more of a swing sort of song, and "Let Me Go" brings Gypsy jazz to the front.

The musicians are all still in their 20s and have been playing together for just a bit over two years. It's clear that they can create, imagine, and cover really complex music and make it engaging and fun for listeners, especially listeners who've enjoyed the music of Hot Club of Cowtown and Lu Downie Souvenirs. The song lyrics (some of which are original, and a few covers) will be a bit too much of a one-perspective, one-orientation idea throughout almost all the selections.



The Belleville Outfit - rising in style on Sunday morning  
54 July/August 99 #142

tions. This aspect of their music could use a little reining and a bit more depth. This is the band's second album, and it was funded by asking fans and friends to financially adopt a song.

—Kary Dexter (Tallahassee, FL)

**JEFFREY FREDERICK**  
*Clanton's B.C.*  
Frederick Productions FPC004 (2008)

**VARIOUS ARTISTS**  
*St. Jeffrey's Day...the Songs of Jeffrey Frederick Volume 1*  
Frederick Productions 2008FPC01 (2008)

Jeffrey Frederick was a songwriter/musician/trickster who is known mostly for having released a gem of an album on Rounder with his group The Clantonos in 1977. He also played a key role on *How Healy*, a classic album featuring the Holy Modal Rounders and Michael Hurley that had been released a year earlier. In recent years, Frederick's widow has released several albums of her late husband's material. In 1976 Frederick moved from Vermont to Oregon, and Clanton's B.C., a double CD that contains 27 songs, is a recording of a Clantonos live gig in Vancouver, British Columbia, that was taped by a local radio station. The songwriting is quirky, the humor irreverent, and the musicianship loose, as befits a party group that also served double-duty as a West Coast version of the Holy Modal Rounders. Unusually, however, Clanton's B.C. is for the already covered.

*St. Jeffrey's Day* is the first volume in what promises to be a series of tribute albums. The contributors include all the members of the original Clantonos, except pianist Richard Tyler; Jill Gross, Frederick's first singing partner; Jake Ray, Frederick's son; and other musicians from the Portland, Oregon, area. The repertoire includes half the songs from the original 1977 album and 10 other Frederick originals. Rounder Babes Rematta contributes a song about Frederick, and Michael Hurley closes the album with a solo performance of "Jamnia." Members of Frederick's cult following may want to have everything that bears the Clantonos name. These

who have yet to discover the man would be advised to check out a reissued version of the original Rounder album and then follow up with *St. Jeffrey's Day*.

—Paul E. Comeau (Comeauville, NS, Canada)

**VARIOUS ARTISTS**  
*Harp Guitar Dreams*  
Harp Guitar Music HGM-CD-005 (2008)

**MATTHEW MONTFORT**  
*Seven Serenades*  
Ancient-Future.Com AF 2008 (2008)

**MARIAH PARKER**  
*Sangria*  
Ancient-Future.Com AF 2017 (2009)



Matthew Montfort - future fingers between the frets

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—Paul-Emile Comeau (Comeauville, NS, Canada)

**MATT & SHANNON HEATON**  
*Lovers' Well*  
Fandango's CD008 (2008)

The course of love is unpredictable; situations between lovers and friends often encompass the whole range of emotion from joy to sorrow to anger to just about anything else you could think up. Over the centuries, song that love

Newspaper  
Daily  
Santa Cruz/Worldwide  
www.santacruzsentinel.com

### Santa Cruz Sentinel

Wallace Baine

6/25/2009



### Best Bets: June 25, 2009

#### Coulter/Phillips Trio

Awarded a Grammy in 2005 for his contribution to The Pink Guitar, a collection of solo guitar arrangements of the music of Henry Mancini, William Coulter has been performing and recording traditional music for more than 20 years. Tonight he performs with Barry Phillips on cello, tabla and percussion and Shelly Phillips on double-reeds, harp, harmonium and flutes. Matthew Montfort also performs at this concert presented by Fiddling Cricket.

WHEN: 7:30 p.m.

WHERE: Don Quixote's, 6275 Highway 9, Felton

COST: \$15

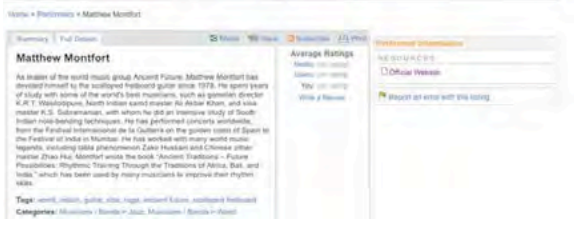
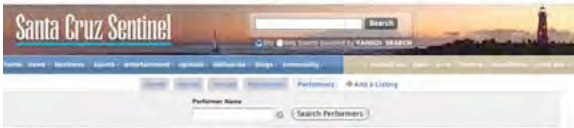
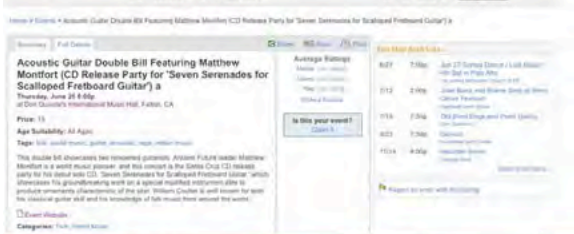
DETAILS: 603-2294, donquixotesmusic.com

#### Acoustic Guitar Double Bill Featuring Matthew Montfort (CD Release Party for 'Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar') and the William Coulter Trio

This double bill showcases two renowned guitarists. Ancient Future leader Matthew Montfort is a world music pioneer, and this concert is the Santa Cruz CD release party for his debut solo CD, 'Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar,' which showcases his groundbreaking work on a special modified instrument able to produce ornaments characteristic of the sitar. William Coulter is well known for both his classical guitar skill and his knowledge of folk music from around the world.

#### Matthew Montfort

As leader of the world music group Ancient Future, Matthew Montfort has devoted himself to the scalloped fretboard guitar since 1978. He spent years of study with some of the world's best musicians, such as gamelan director K.R.T. Wasitodipuro, North Indian sarod master Ali Akbar Khan, and vina master K.S. Subramanian, with whom he did an intensive study of South Indian note-bending techniques. He has performed concerts worldwide, from the Festival Internacional de la Guitarra on the golden coast of Spain to the Festival of India in Mumbai. He has worked with many world music legends, including tabla phenomenon Zakir Hussain and Chinese zither master Zhao Hui. Montfort wrote the book "Ancient Traditions – Future Possibilities: Rhythmic Training Through the Traditions of Africa, Bali, and India," which has been used by many musicians to improve their rhythm skills.



News Feed
Hourly
National
www.mizn.com

MizN - Artist PR Marketing

Eric de Fontenay

6/25/2009



MizN Newsletter Recommendation: MATTHEW MONTFORT

MizN

Welcome to MizN's i2N, INDIE NET NEWS
The Largest, FREE Source of Musician News
http://www.mizn.com

June 25, 2009

MUSIC EVENTS

=> MATTHEW MONTFORT PERFORMS
ON SCALLOPED FRETBOARD GUITAR;
'Seven Serenades For Scalloped Fretboard
Guitar' CD Release Party 8/15/09 At Cozmic
Cafe, Placerville
http://www.mizn.com/press.php3?press\_nb=120932

LINKS TO WEB SITE FEATURE:

Matthew Montfort Performs On Scalloped Fretboard Guitar
Email: info@ancient-future.com
Url: http://www.ancient-future.com
Sound: http://www.jukeboxalive.com/audio\_play\_offsite.php?mid=1854087&sk[...]
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 6/13/2009
1-888-823-8887 • info@ancient-future.com • www.ancient-future.com

EVENT
CD Release Party for 'Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar' by Matthew
Montfort
Matthew Montfort (scalloped fretboard guitar, Glissentar)
Joe Fajen (tabla, percussion)
Saturday, August 15, 8 pm
The Cozmic Cafe
594 Main St.
Placerville, CA 95667
Tix: \$10 adv, \$12 door
Info: 530-642-8481
Web: www.thecozmiccafe.com
Contact: Christine Cole
events@thecozmiccafe.com

This CD release party for 'Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar' celebrates
the debut recording by Ancient Future leader Matthew Montfort. The recording
showcases his pioneering work on the scalloped fretboard guitar, a special modified
instrument able to produce ornaments more characteristic of the sitar. While previously
known more for his compositions for the trendsetting world music group Ancient
Future, this first solo effort features his improvisational music.

Read full feature: www.mizn.com/press.php3?press\_nb=120932

A screenshot of a web browser displaying a news article from MizN. The article title is 'Matthew Montfort Performs On Scalloped Fretboard Guitar'. The text describes the CD release party for 'Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar' by Matthew Montfort, featuring Joe Fajen on tabla and percussion. It mentions the event is on Saturday, August 15, 8 pm at The Cozmic Cafe in Placerville, CA. The article also includes a bio of Matthew Montfort, quotes from guitar magazines, and media files for the event.



Radio-Internet

Monthly

Worldwide

http://musicsojourn.com

Coolstreams

CD Submissions

6/24/2009



## A Timeless Canyons World Feature

Timeless Canyons focuses on music in the New Age, Acoustic, World, Ambient, and Electro-Acoustic genres. Hear artists featured like Mannheim Steamroller, Windham Hill and Narada artists, Enya, William Ackerman, Secret Garden, Tingstad & Rumbel, Yanni, Mark Isham, Jeff Oster, Ryan Farish, Enam, and many more.

1st Set:

Raphael - Music For Love

SET TC-1,119 - Featured: Raphael (2008) - Music For Love:  
With Raphael and Darunam.

2nd Set:

Mathew Montfort - Seven Serenades For Scalloped Fretboard Guitar

SET TC-1,118 - Featured: Mathew Montfort (2009) - Seven Serenades For Scalloped Fretboard Guitar: A  
Timeless Canyons World Feature:  
With Mathew Montfort, Lawson Rollins, Cadence Spalding, and Lawrence Blatt.

3rd Set:

Lawrence Blatt - The Color Of Sunshine

SET TC-1,117 - Featured: Lawrence Blatt (2009) - The Color Of Sunshine:  
With Lawrence Blatt, Tony Sandate, Bill Leslie, Sundad, and Brian Rolland.

4th Set:

Michele Ippolito - In The Clouds

SET TC-1,116 - Featured: Michele Ippolito (2009) - In The Clouds: An MRI - Meditation,  
Relaxation & Inspiration Feature:  
With Michele Ippolito, Rudy Adrian, Raphael, and Fiona Joy Hawkins.

5th Set:

Mark O'Connor - Double Violin Concertos

SET TC-1,115 - Featured: Mark O'Connor (2005) - Double Violin Concertos: A New Age-  
Classical Merge Feature:  
With Mark O'Connor, Tom Salvatorio - Iris Litchfield, Jami Sieber, Sean Dockery, and  
Lydia McCauley.

Newspaper  
Daily  
Marin County, California  
www.mariniij.com

## Marin Independent Journal

Katie Watts

6/19/2009



### THREE THINGS TO DO TODAY

#### Scalloped guitar

>**What:** Don't miss the chance to see a pioneer of a newly modified instrument live as Matthew Montfort, leader of the world music group Ancient Future, gives a solo performance at a release party for his CD "Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar."

>**When:** 7:30 p.m.

>**Cost:** \$12

>**Do it:** Open Secret Bookstore, 923 C St., San Rafael; 457-4191; www.opensecretbookstore.com



Newsletter  
Quarterly  
Worldwide  
atma.syn8.com

**Association of Transformative Media Arts**

Sharon Hart

6/19/2009



**CD Release Party**

CD Release Party for 'Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar' featuring **MATTHEW MONTFORT**

Friday, June 19, 7:30 pm, Open Secret. 923 C St., San Rafael, CA 94901  
Tix: \$12. Info: 415-457-4191. <http://www.opensecretbookstore.com/>

The screenshot shows the ATMA website with a news article titled "CD Release Party for Ancient Future". The article includes a photo of Matthew Montfort and several quotes from music magazines like "Guitar Player" and "Vintage Guitar".

This CD release party for 'Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar' celebrates the debut recording by Ancient Future leader Matthew Montfort. The recording showcases his pioneering work on the scalloped fretboard guitar, a special modified instrument able to produce ornaments more characteristic of the sitar. While previously known more for his compositions for the trendsetting world music group Ancient Future, this first solo effort features his improvisational music. As leader of the world music group Ancient Future, Matthew Montfort has devoted himself to the scalloped fretboard guitar since 1978. Montfort is a pioneer among guitarists who have had their fretboards scalloped in order to play various forms of world music that require intricate note-bending ornaments while still being able to play chords. Montfort immersed himself in an intensive study with vina master K.S. Subramanian in order to fully apply the South Indian gamaka (note-bending) techniques to the guitar. The method is based on pulling the strings across the frets in order to raise the pitch. He has performed concerts worldwide, from the Festival Internacional de la Guitarra on the golden coast of Spain to the Festival of India in Mumbai. He has worked with many world music legends, including tabla phenomenon Zakir Hussain and Chinese zither master Zhao Hui. Montfort wrote the book "Ancient Traditions - Future Possibilities: Rhythmic Training Through the Traditions of Africa, Bali, and India," which has been used by many musicians to improve their rhythm skills.

*"Because Montfort's guitar has a scalloped fretboard, his fingers touch only the strings, enabling him to produce ornaments more characteristic of the sitar. This album reveals a thorough knowledge of Hindustani microtonal ornaments, transferred in ways that create one of the most distinctive guitar sounds in contemporary music. However, it also reveals a lifetime of exploration in world music, which can be immediately summoned in a flash of inspiration. When this level of mastery is reached, there is no need to rewrite. The first improvisation has the depth of a reworked composition."* - Teed Rockwell, INDIA CURRENTS, March 2009

*"Matthew Montfort conjures lovely Asian zither-like inflections with a scalloped fretboard guitar."* - GUITAR PLAYER MAGAZINE

*"Though he plays guitar, Montfort's music isn't merely guitar music; it's a sonic environment that features a guitar. Strong Indian and Balinese influences permeate these seven exotic soundscapes. Beautifully recorded, this sumptuous music creates a unique wall of sound that you won't soon forget."* -Steven Stone, VINTAGE GUITAR MAGAZINE

*"The mind-bending playing abilities of guitar virtuoso, Matthew Montfort, stems from the note-bending capabilities of the scalloped fretboard guitar. This produces a different sound than the more familiar guitar, because the fretboard is carved out, so the fingers only touch the strings. Musically, the songs verge on a flamenco-Indian-jazz continuum. This is partly due to Matthew's playing technique and the sitar-like sounds of his guitar. The crystal-clear picking on guitar and accompaniment on didjeridoo (with Alan Tower), violin (with Patti Weiss) and santur (with Mariah Parker) provides a rich musical texture. For everyone interested in the sounds of guitar, especially fans of Bob Brozman or Ben Bowen King, then this is definitely for you."* - Matthew Forss, INSIDE WORLD MUSIC



Newspaper  
Weekly  
Marin County, California  
www.pacificsun.com

Pacific Sun  
Gabiella West  
6/19/2009



**SUNDIAL**  
FRIDAY JUNE 12 — FRIDAY JUNE 19  
Pacific Sun's Community Calendar

Highlights from our online community calendar—great things to do this week in Marin...

Check out our Online Community Calendar for more listings, spanning more weeks with more important event information. ..pacificsun.com/sundial

**LIVE MUSIC**  
Can't LIVE if you want all the fun from your Live Music calendar listings. For more go to: [pacificsun.com/sundial](http://pacificsun.com/sundial)

**Concerts**  
06/12-13 **Matthew Montfort** CD release party for "Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar." The debut recording by Ancient Future leader Matthew Montfort, 7:30-10 pm. \$12. Open Secret, 923 C St., San Rafael. 457-4191. [www.opensecretstore.com](http://www.opensecretstore.com)

**Theater/Auditions**  
06/12-13 **Marin Arts Council presents "Theatre of the Mind"** A play by David Byrne and Annie Lennox. The Marin Arts Council presents a play by David Byrne and Annie Lennox. The Marin Arts Council presents a play by David Byrne and Annie Lennox.

**Art**  
06/12-13 **Marin Arts Council presents "Theatre of the Mind"** A play by David Byrne and Annie Lennox. The Marin Arts Council presents a play by David Byrne and Annie Lennox.

**SUNDIAL**  
FRIDAY JUNE 19 — FRIDAY JUNE 26  
Pacific Sun's Community Calendar

Highlights from our online community calendar—great things to do this week in Marin...

Check out our Online Community Calendar for more listings, spanning more weeks with more important event information. ..pacificsun.com/sundial

**Concerts**  
06/19 **Matthew Montfort** CD release party for "Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar." The debut recording by Ancient Future leader Matthew Montfort, 7:30-10 pm. \$12. Open Secret, 923 C St., San Rafael. 457-4191. [www.opensecretstore.com](http://www.opensecretstore.com)

**Theater/Auditions**  
06/19-20 **Marin Arts Council presents "Theatre of the Mind"** A play by David Byrne and Annie Lennox. The Marin Arts Council presents a play by David Byrne and Annie Lennox.

**Art**  
06/19-20 **Marin Arts Council presents "Theatre of the Mind"** A play by David Byrne and Annie Lennox. The Marin Arts Council presents a play by David Byrne and Annie Lennox.

Live Music Spotlight: 6/12/09 Issue/Concerts: 6/19/09 Issue

SUNDIAL  
FRIDAY JUNE 12 – FRIDAY JUNE 19  
Pacific Sun's Community Calendar

[Highlights from our online community calendar—great things to do this week in Marin...]

Check out our Online Community Calendar for more listings, spanning more weeks with more important event information. ..pacificsun.com/sundial

[www.pacificsun.com/sopecal/calendar.php?event\\_start\\_date=6/19/2009&event\\_stop\\_date=6/19/2009&category=all](http://www.pacificsun.com/sopecal/calendar.php?event_start_date=6/19/2009&event_stop_date=6/19/2009&category=all)

www.pacificsun.com/sopecal/calendar.php?event\_start\_date=6/19/2009&event\_stop\_date=6/19/2009&category=all

Live Music

06/19: Matthew Montfort (world) CD release party for 'Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar.' 7:30 pm. \$12. Open Secret, San Rafael.

SUNDIAL  
FRIDAY JUNE 19 – FRIDAY JUNE 26  
Pacific Sun's Community Calendar

[Highlights from our online community calendar—great things to do this week in Marin...]

Check out our Online Community Calendar for more listings, spanning more weeks with more important event information. ..pacificsun.com/sundial

Concerts

06/19: Matthew Montfort CD release party for "Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar," the debut recording by Ancient Future leader Matthew Montfort, 7:30-10 pm. \$12. Open Secret, 923 C St., San Rafael. 457-4191. [www.opensecretstore.com](http://www.opensecretstore.com)

Web Music Discovery  
Hourly  
Worldwide  
www.pandora.com

**Pandora**  
Music Genome Project  
**6/18/2009**



**Matthew Montfort-Seven Serenades For Scalloped Fretboard Guitar**

Ancient-Future.Com 2009

**People Listening to This Artist**

persianpri n c e 8 1 (also listening to: Anoushka Shankar, Vanessa Da Mata, Bossanova Ismoret (also listening to: Deep Forest, Simple Songs, For Soprano & Piano: Hildegard Von Bingen, O Euchari Columba, Response For St Eucharius: O Euchari, Sigur Ros) tim919 (also listening to: Linda Ronstadt, John Denver, Bob Dylan, Cowboy Celtic) faddeg41 (also listening to: Jeff Beck, In Flames, Miles Davis) mazeng96 (also listening to: The Oldies But Goodies (Remind Me Of You), Comedy, Do Or Die)

**About This Album**

It isn't every day that acoustic guitarists make their instrument sound a lot like an Indian sitar, but that is exactly what Matthew Montfort accomplishes on the instrumental Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar. What exactly is a scalloped fretboard guitar? According to Ancient-Future.com, guitar maker Ervin Somogyi took an acoustic guitar back in 1978 and "carved out the wood between the frets so that the pads of Montfort's fingers touch only the strings, reducing friction while he bends them to produce ornaments more characteristic of the sitar." And while that might sound technical to those who aren't professional musicians, there is no question that the scalloped fretboard guitar that Montfort plays on this early-2009 release is very sitar-sounding. Traditional Indian music is a strong influence on instrumentals like "Purple Raga," "Gauri the Golden," and "Lilalit," which is not to say that this is a traditional Indian album in the Ravi Shankar vein. Instead, Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar is best described as world fusion; Indian music is an influence, but it isn't the disc's only influence -- and Montfort also draws on everything from Spanish flamenco to blues to folk-rock. Celtic music is an influence on "Celtic Raga," which successfully combines Irish-Celtic and Indian elements. Through it all, Montfort demonstrates that even though he has considerable chops and technical prowess, he is much more interested in feeling and expression than technique. This 56-minute CD is an adventurous, consistently engaging demonstration of what Montfort can accomplish on the scalloped fretboard guitar. ~ Alex Henderson, All Music Guide

**Track List (try tracks 1,2,3,4 and 5)**

1. Gauri The Golden
2. Sangria
3. Soul Serenade
4. Michelle's Star
5. Celtic Raga
6. Purple Raga
7. Lilalit

**Similar Albums**

- One Guitar by Ottmar Liebert
- Metamorpheus by Steve Hackett
- Guitar Nova by Erik Wollo
- School Of The Flower by Six Organs Of Admittance
- Ancestral Voices by R. Carlos Nakai & William Eaton

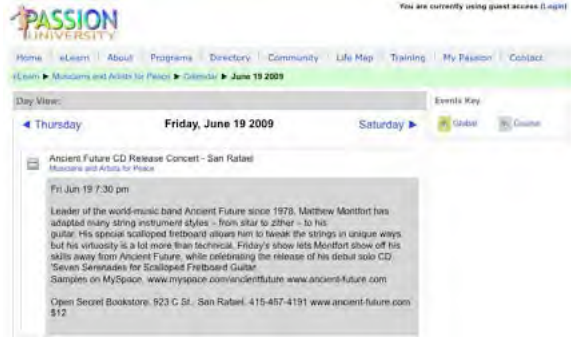


Web-Newsletter

Weekly

National

[www.butterflyspirit.org/calendar](http://www.butterflyspirit.org/calendar)



Newspaper

Daily

San Francisco Bay Area

[www.sfchronicle.com](http://www.sfchronicle.com)



## Butterfly Gardeners Association

Alan Moore

6/18/2009



## Ancient-Future.Com CD Release Concert - San Rafael

Fri Jun 19 7:30 pm

Leader of the world-music band Ancient Future since 1978, Matthew Montfort has adapted many string instrument styles – from sitar to zither – to his guitar. His special scalloped fretboard allows him to tweak the strings in unique ways, but his virtuosity is a lot more than technical. Friday's show lets Montfort show off his skills away from Ancient Future, while celebrating the release of his debut solo CD, 'Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar. Samples on MySpace.

[www.myspace.com/ancientfuture](http://www.myspace.com/ancientfuture)

[www.ancient-future.com](http://www.ancient-future.com)

Open Secret Bookstore, 923 C St., San Rafael. 415-457-4191 \$12

## San Francisco Chronicle Pink Section

David Rubien

6/14/2009



## Datebook: This Week: Friday Chronicle Pick

Music

Matthew Montfort

Leader of the world-music band Ancient Future since 1978, Matthew Montfort has adapted many string instrument styles – from sitar to zither – to his guitar. His special scalloped fretboard allows him to tweak the strings in unique ways, but his virtuosity is a lot more than technical. Friday's show lets Montfort show off his skills away from Ancient Future, while celebrating the release of his debut solo CD, "Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar." Samples on YouTube and MySpace. \$12. 7:30 p.m. Open Secret Bookstore, 923 C St., San Rafael. 415-457-4191, [www.ancient-future.com](http://www.ancient-future.com).



Webzine  
Weekly  
Worldwide  
www.nightflying.com

NIGHTFLYING MAGAZINE

Peter Read

6/7/2009



News of Record

I listen to music and write about it ... a tough job, but someone has to do it, right? I like all kinds of music, though jazz is my favorite. For some reason we get very little jazz submitted for review. We get a lot of rock, a bit of folk, world music, bluegrass, country, blues, and the occasional rap or hip-hop album. We even get some classical, though rarely, and no opera, which is okay with me because I have never been a big fan of opera. England Dan has died. Dan Seals took that sobriquet when he joined with John Ford Coley to do music because he did not wish to appear to be trading on the family name. He was the brother of Jim Seals of Seals & Croft. Dan Seals went solo in 1980 and later joined his brother (in 2002) after an impromptu jam in Nashville that brought down the house. He was 61. The king of Philippine rap has passed. Francis Magalona was but 44. And musicologist Wanda Wilk, a philanthropic backer of Polish classical music, has passed on at 88. In a weird coincidence, two popular singers who had their first hits with that Christmas song about Mommy kissing Santa Claus, have both died (that would be Molly Bee, who also starred on TV, and Jimmy Boyd, who did some TV work too; both were in their seventies). Speaking of TV, Uncle Al Lewis passed away recently at 84. He was no musician, but he hosted a kiddie show on which he led the little ones in the Hokey Pokey. Another octogenarian, Grand Ole Opry singer Ernie Ashworth died not long ago. He wrote hit songs for such disparate singers as Little Jimmy Dickens and Paul Anka. On the local scene, singer / pianist Eddie Ho (Edwin Joseph Bocage) has left the stage at 79. He was a very popular performer down here by de bayous. Singer / actor Andy Hallett has died at but 33. I just found out the federal tax on roll-your-own cigarette tobacco is going up by two thousand percent. Reckon I have to quit smoking that stuff. At least I keep telling myself that until I run, well, drive, to the store and buy some more. Now if you all will excuse me, I have to go build some soup. Meanwhile, peruse these reviews, whaddaya say? Hey, beats the hell out of reading the financial pages. (And you thought it was a good thing to have money in the bank.)

SEVEN SERENADES FOR SCALLOPED FRETBOARD GUITAR

Matthew Montfort  
Ancient-Future.com

I have to admit that I have no idea what a scalloped fretboard guitar is, but it sounds a lot like a sitar, or is it a sarod? For a drone, he relies on the didjeridu, which works wonderfully well. If you like Indian music, you definitely need to check this out.

The screenshot shows the 'News of Record' section of the Nightflying website. The main article discusses the death of Francis Magalona, a 44-year-old Philippine rapper. It also mentions the death of musicologist Wanda Wilk and singer Ernie Ashworth. The page includes a navigation menu on the left with links to Home, Search, Guestbook, Notes from the Pub, Major Concerts, Club Dates, Features, Horrorscopes, Space News, Photo Galleries, Bob Boyd's World, News of Record, Real Time, Hot Classifieds, and Webflying (Links). There are also several promotional banners for music releases, including 'George's Majestic Live! At Ozark' and 'The Ozark Folk Center'.

Radio-Syndicated  
Weekly  
National  
www.echoes.org

**Echoes**  
John Diliberto  
6/3/2009



Start Time	Group Name	Song Name	Album Name / Version / CD Info
<b>Echoes Playlist</b> <i>Echoes Program 0922C - Wednesday, June 3rd</i>			
<b>First Half Hour</b>			
01:00:00	Matthew Montfort	Sangria	Seven Serenades
01:00:00	Harold Budd & Clive Wright	Beautiful Intruder	Candy Lion
01:01:53	Inbar Bakal	Song of Ascendant	Song of Songs / CD Info
01:13:02	Plastik Joy	63	3:03
01:22:05	Ruben Garcia	Through the Looking Glass	Through the Looking Glass
02:00:00	break		
<b>Second Half Hour</b>			
03:00:00	Megan Devine	Other Life	Other Life
03:24:26	Moby	Sun in the Back of the Head	Mezzanine
03:37:53	Baldernob	November 1, 1931	Mr. W. W. All in Silence
03:59:53	William Orbit	Optical Illusions	Optical Illusions
04:27:47	break		
04:51:57	Aria Horvathova	Migration	Cartography
04:58:48	Lee Abraham	A Ghost on Every Corner	The Garage and the Tavern
05:12:46	Moby	Road or Day	Road or Day
05:50:00	break		
<b>Third Half Hour</b>			
06:00:00	Marine Lamé Real	Hidden Shore	Hidden Shore
06:06:00	Samuel Etoha	Samuel's Light Fantasy	The Spirit of Sam
06:11:56	John Ford	Barbarian Rockage	My Last City
06:16:39	Keban & Sandhu's Press	Leaving Space	Cello Cello / M2 / CD Info
06:22:18	Lee Collins and Heidi Matson	Chico	Human, Untamed, Sacred
07:00:00	break		
<b>Fourth Half Hour</b>			
08:00:00	H.U.V.A. Network	Urbanization pt 1	Urbanization
08:26:00	David Arkenstone	Dark Sea	Echoes of Light and Shadow
08:43:38	Song of Water	Up from the Depths	Song of Water / CD Info
08:49:43	break		
09:08:13	Mark Dwyer	Astral	Other Worlds
09:15:15	Break with Michael Kaufman	Fairy Weaver	The Lament of Control v.1
<i>signature dot a playlist</i>			
<b>Echoes Playlist</b> <i>Echoes Program 0918E - Friday, May 8th</i>			
<b>First Half Hour</b>			
01:01:00	Arcis	Edessa Beyond	Living Amabile
01:06:00	Bronck & Marie-Anne	Living Time	The Living Situation
01:13:00	Nalpa	Flakings	Flakings
01:18:00	Electric Harp Ensemble Group	Beyond the Edge	Electric Harp Ensemble Group / CD Info
01:23:33	Omara	DI La Lupa	Lullaby
02:00:00	break		
<b>Second Half Hour</b>			
<b>An Interview with David Borden of Master Mallard's Portable Masterpiece Company</b>			
02:00:00	break		
02:05:52	Master Mallard's Portable Masterpiece Company	Over Music	1951-53
02:07:57	David Borden	Part Twelve A	The Continuing Story of Compostopia pt. 3-12
02:12:11	David Borden	Part Four	The Continuing Story of Compostopia pt. 1-4 and Part 5
02:30:00	break		
<b>Third Half Hour</b>			
03:01:00	Aryeh Fruchter	Shach Soto Biko	Midnight Show
03:06:00	Badi	Harin Temple Dance	Harin Temple
03:09:14	Joe Howell	Last Night the Moon Came Down	Last Night the Moon Came Down (feat. Joe Howell) by Charles In the Street
03:20:00	Solar Flare	Unconquered	Unconquered
03:29:00	break		
<b>Fourth Half Hour</b>			
04:00:00	Matthew Montfort	Sangria	Seven Serenades
04:19:52	The Mahin	DI Nana	Sound Spectrum
04:40:34	Charlie North	Faith	The Spaces In Between / CD Info
04:48:00	break		
04:56:31	Darin Layne & Jason McKenzie	Wayward	Left of Sunday Afternoon / CD Info
05:04:56	William Orbit	Optical Illusions	My Oracle Lives Uptown
<i>signature dot a playlist</i>			

**Matthew Montfort/Sangria/Seven Serenades**

Echoes Playlist

Echoes Program 0922C - Wednesday, June 3rd

First Half Hour

- 0:01:00 **Matthew Montfort** Sangria **Seven Serenades**
- 0:06:00 Harold Budd & Clive Wright Beautiful Intruder Candy Lion
- 0:10:53 Inbar Bakal Song of Ascendant Song of Songs
- 0:15:02 Plastik Joy 63 3:03

Echoes Playlist

Echoes Program 0918E - Friday, May 8th

Fourth Half Hour

- 0:30:01 **Matthew Montfort** Sangria **Seven Serenades**
- 0:35:52 The Malah O2 Nature Sound Spectrum
- 0:40:44 Charlie North Faith The Spaces In Between
- 0:48:01 break
- 0:48:31 Darin Layne/Jason McKenzie Wayward Left of Sunday Afternoon
- 0:54:56 William Orbit Optical Illusions My Oracle Lives Uptown

Webzine  
Weekly  
Worldwide  
www.billysbunker.com

Billysbunker.com

Billy Sheppard

5/16/2009



Seven Soul Serenades

Matthew Montfort  
"Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar"  
Seven Soul Serenades

*The distinguishing mark of good music is the unique sound quality of voice somehow entangled in the tones and transmitted from the instrument for the ear of the imagination. Though music is literally sound, some sounds make us hear someone's character. ~ Yusef Lateef (Known for his innovative blending of "Eastern" music with American jazz)*

*I first realized Matthew Montfort was a true guitar wizard when he called me on the phone and played me one flawless Hendrix riff after another. We were in the seventh grade. By the time we escaped high school, Matt had gone acoustic, turning coffee house basements into his own planet with fierce improvisations. Now a pioneering master of world fusion, his knowledge and depth are staggering, yet he doesn't let it get in the way of the joy and spirit and soul that we like about music in the first place. ~ Jello Biafra, Dead Kennedy singer, punk rock icon and spoken word artist*

*As far as 'world fusion' goes, I actually coined the term in response to the term 'world music' which as coined by Dr. Robert Brown of the Center for World Music, only applied to traditional music. But I wasn't trying to create a genre. World fusion is a process, not a genre. So Ancient Future is a band dedicated to a process, not a style, not a genre, nothing like that. ~ Matthew Montfort*

SOUL SERENADES

When I first heard this album in a quiet room late at night I thought of my mother. That was the week of Mother's Day. Mom passed two years ago. I'd been thinking about her off and on through the day, but it was a busy day. "Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar" has a technical name so I didn't expect it change my mood and slow down my thoughts. There were feelings of loss in my body and mind but they were quiet feelings while I was busy. This CD slowed me down with a drone sound like throat singing played on a didjeridu with a deep roar swelling up as thought it were coming from the earth. I was not thinking of a didjeridu when the guitar and violin began to play. The drone continued quietly swelling and subsiding as the guit-box started to meander into sound. The music was emerging from that calm and undulating force beneath the surface resisting the tug from below like a bird pulling away from a congealed oil slick drawn above by a melody on the violin. Then I remembered my Mom on her bed in a pink hospital gown. All but three of the hospital gowns were white but Mom had insisted she wanted to die in the pink. This album had given me a still moment, slowed my racing thoughts, and let me feel what my spirit was doing. My spirit was morning like an inarticulate drone while daily tasks had occupied my thoughts, so when the music slowed me down those thoughts stuck to my deeper feelings.

*I'm glad you can feel my music. It is interesting that it brings up your feelings about your mother. My mom actually heard much of the music on the recording before she died, and I played for her live when she was near to passing. So the music on 'Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar' is very similar to what my mom heard in her last conscious moments.*

Read more: [www.billysbunker.com/view.php?nID=155&sort=genre&cat=All](http://www.billysbunker.com/view.php?nID=155&sort=genre&cat=All)



A vertical screenshot of a webzine page. At the top is the Billy's Bunker logo. Below it is a photo of Matthew Montfort with the text "Matthew Montfort 'Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar' Seven Soul Serenades". The page contains several columns of text, including an "INTERVIEW" section with a photo of Matthew Montfort and a "Click to read" button at the bottom.



Radio-Syndicated  
Weekly  
National/Worldwide  
www.hos.com

Music from the Hearts of Space

Steven Hill

5/8/2009



PGM 875 : "INDIA EVOLUTION"

PGM NOTE : the sublime world of Indian ambient and devotional music

INTRO : The drone...the modal scale...the sinuous, ornamented melodic line. Even without a sitar or a tabla, you know you're enveloped in one of the new Indian influenced strains of ambient music.

Hundreds of years ago, while Western music turned right at polyphony, harmony, and the equal-tempered scale, Indian classical music continued to develop the old modal system of scales and natural intervals in a vocal-centered, monophonic style.

Where we created chords and counterpoint, monumental symphonies, hymns and songs, Indian music continued to evolve the melodic sophistication of raga, the rhythmic complexity of tala, and the patient pursuit of mood and depth.

On this transmission of Hearts of Space, we return to the sublime world of Indian ambient and devotional music...on a program called INDIA EVOLUTION.

PREM JOSHUA & MANISH VYAS/Nisha < 0:0->8:19>  
: WATER DOWN THE GANGES ; White Swan WS 0046; 2002  
: Info: www.whiteswanrecords.com

PREM JOSHUA/Taranga < 08:19->9:31>  
: TARANGA ; White Swan WS 0075; 2007  
: Info: www.whiteswanrecords.com

PREM JOSHUA & MANISH VYAS/Sawarii < 09:31->13:27>  
: WATER DOWN THE GANGES ; White Swan WS 0046; 2002  
: Info: www.whiteswanrecords.com

MAGIC CARPET/Awakening < 13:27->18:42>  
: MAGIC CARPET ; Magnatune 2009  
: Info: www.magnatune.com

MATTHEW MONTFORT/Lilalit < 18:42->23:10>  
: SEVEN SERENADES FOR SCALLOPED FRETBOARD GUITAR ; Ancient-Future.com  
AF-2008; 2008  
: Info: www.ancient-future.com

STEVE GORN/Indian Nights < 23:10->32:29>  
: COLORS OF THE MIND ; Dharmamoon SG CD 104; 2002  
: Info: www.dharmamoon.com

BENJY WERTHEIMER & DAVID MICHAEL/Calling < 32:29->39:14>  
: WITHIN ; Wolf Cub Music 2008-02; 2008  
: Info: www.benjymusic.com

JAI UTTAL & BEN LEINBACH/Loveland < 39:14->44:24>  
: LOVELAND ; Sounds True M997D; 2006  
: Info: www.soundstrue.com

DEVA PREMAL/Invocation < 44:24->54:53>  
: DEVA PREMAL SINGS THE MOOLA MANTRA ; White Swan WS 0077; 2007  
: Info: www.whiteswanrecords.com

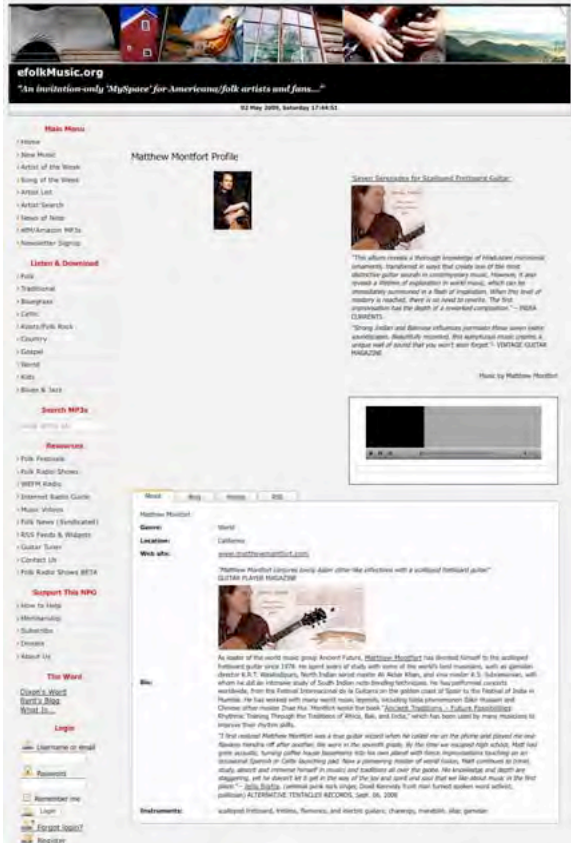
AL GROMER KHAN/Caru Caru (Music for the Curry Mahal) < 54:53->58:59>  
: SITAR SECRETS ; New Earth NE 2918; 2009  
: Info: www.newearthrecords.com

PRODUCED BY : Steve Davis and Stephen Hill  
BAY AREA WEATHER : conjuring summer



Web Music Network  
Hourly  
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www.EFOLKMUSIC.org

eFolkMusic Inc  
Chris Frank  
5/2/2009



**Matthew Montfort**

'Seven Serenades for Scalloped Guitar'

"This album reveals a thorough knowledge of Hindustani microtonal ornaments, transferred in ways that create one of the most distinctive guitar sounds in contemporary music. However, it also reveals a lifetime of exploration in world music, which can be immediately summoned in a flash of inspiration. When this level of mastery is reached, there is no need to rewrite. The first improvisation has the depth of a reworked composition." – INDIA CURRENTS

"Strong Indian and Balinese influences permeate these seven exotic soundscapes. Beautifully recorded, this sumptuous music creates a unique wall of sound that you won't soon forget." – VINTAGE GUITAR MAGAZINE

Matthew Montfort  
Genre: World  
Location: California  
Web site: www.matthewmontfort.com

Bio:  
"Matthew Montfort conjures lovely Asian zither-like inflections with a scalloped fretboard guitar." = GUITAR PLAYER MAGAZINE

As leader of the world music group Ancient Future, Matthew Montfort has devoted himself to the scalloped fretboard guitar since 1978. He spent years of study with some of the world's best musicians, such as gamelan director K.R.T. Wasitodipuro, North Indian sarod master Ali Akbar Khan, and vina master K.S. Subramanian, with whom he did an intensive study of South Indian note-bending techniques. He has performed concerts worldwide, from the Festival Internacional de la Guitarra on the golden coast of Spain to the Festival of India in Mumbai. He has worked with many world music legends, including tabla phenomenon Zakir Hussain and Chinese zither master Zhao Hui. Montfort wrote the book "Ancient Traditions – Future Possibilities: Rhythmic Training Through the Traditions of Africa, Bali, and India," which has been used by many musicians to improve their rhythm skills.

"I first realized Matthew Montfort was a true guitar wizard when he called me on the phone and played me one flawless Hendrix riff after another. We were in the seventh grade. By the time we escaped high school, Matt had gone acoustic, turning coffee house basements into his own planet with fierce improvisations touching on an occasional Spanish or Celtic launching pad. Now a pioneering master of world fusion, Matt continues to travel, study, absorb and immerse himself in musics and traditions all over the globe. His knowledge and depth are staggering, yet he doesn't let it get in the way of the joy and spirit and soul that we like about music in the first place." – Jello Biafra, (seminal punk rock singer, Dead Kennedy front man turned spoken word activist, politician) ALTERNATIVE TENTACLES RECORDS, Sept. 06, 2008

Instruments: scalloped fretboard, fretless, flamenco, and electric guitars; charango, mandolin, sitar, gamelan

Magazine  
Bi-Monthly  
National

[www.newageretailer.com](http://www.newageretailer.com)

**New Age Retailer**

New Releases

5/1/2009

**Play List: Music reviews by Bill Binkelman**



**Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar**  
**Matthew Montfort**

Ancient-Future.Com Records  
[www.ancient-future.com](http://www.ancient-future.com)

As founder of the pioneering world fusion band Ancient Future, Matthew Montfort was instrumental in shaping that genre. For his first solo album, he casts the spotlight on the unique musical characteristics of the scalloped fret board guitar, an instrument with a highly different "personality," which is revealed through Montfort's considerable talent. This type of guitar sounds quite different—notes can be "bent" and the music acquires an exotic, sensual characteristic. Some tracks feature Montfort going solo, while on others he's joined by artists on santur, didgeridoo, or violin. Many of the CD's seven tracks carry an East Indian flavor, but "Michelle's Star" has a breezy folk-like feeling and "Celtic Raga" pulses with the lively spirit of Irish-pub music. The closing "Lilalit" is a 14-minute solo tour de force!

NAF

Contact music reviewer Bill Binkelman at [bill@newageretailer.com](mailto:bill@newageretailer.com).

Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar  
Matthew Montfort  
Ancient-Future.Com Records  
[www.ancient-future.com](http://www.ancient-future.com)

As founder of the pioneering world fusion band Ancient Future, Matthew Montfort was instrumental in shaping that genre. For his first solo album, he casts the spotlight on the unique musical characteristics of the scalloped fret board guitar, an instrument with a highly different "personality," which is revealed through Montfort's considerable talent. This type of guitar sounds quite different—notes can be "bent" and the music acquires an exotic, sensual characteristic. Some tracks feature Montfort going solo, while on others he's joined by artists on santur, didgeridoo, or violin. Many of the CD's seven tracks carry an East Indian flavor, but "Michelle's Star" has a breezy folk-like feeling and "Celtic Raga" pulses with the lively spirit of Irish-pub music. The closing "Lilalit" is a 14-minute solo tour de force!



Magazine  
Monthly  
National

www.vintageguitar.com

## Vintage Guitar Magazine

Steven Stone

5/1/2009

### Hit List

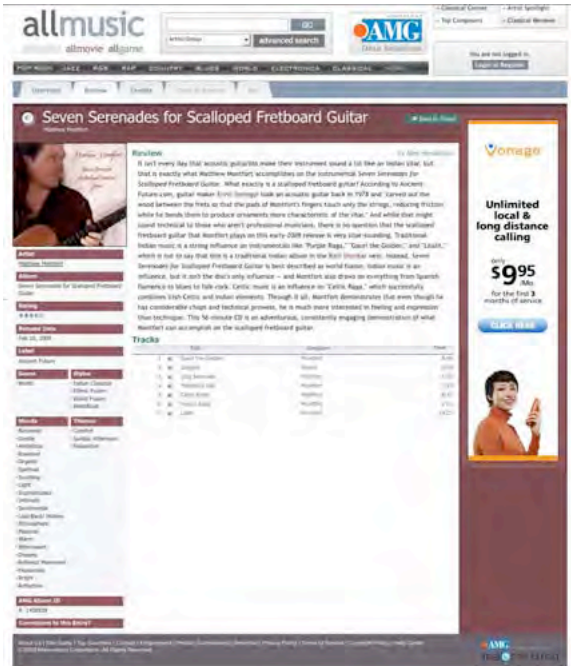
Matthew Montfort  
Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar  
(Ancient-Future.Com)

Though he plays guitar, Montfort's music isn't merely guitar music; it's a sonic environment that features a guitar. Strong Indian and Balinese influences permeate these seven exotic soundscapes. Beautifully recorded, this sumptuous music creates a unique wall of sound that you won't soon forget. – SS



Writer-Freelance  
Hourly  
Worldwide  
www.allmusic.com

All Media Guide  
Alex Henderson  
5/1/2009



Seven Serenades/Matthew Montfort  
Review by Alex Henderson

It isn't every day that acoustic guitarists make their instrument sound a lot like an Indian sitar, but that is exactly what Matthew Montfort accomplishes on the instrumental *Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar*. What exactly is a scalloped fretboard guitar? According to Ancient-Future.com, guitar maker Ervin Somogyi took an acoustic guitar back in 1978 and "carved out the wood between the frets so that the pads of Montfort's fingers touch only the strings, reducing friction while he bends them to produce ornaments more characteristic of the sitar." And while that might sound technical to those who aren't professional musicians, there is no question that the scalloped fretboard guitar that Montfort plays on this early-2009 release is very sitar-sounding. Traditional Indian music is a strong influence on instrumentals like "Purple Raga," "Gauri the Golden," and "Lilalait," which is not to say that this is a traditional Indian album in the Ravi Shankar vein. Instead, *Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar* is best described as world fusion; Indian music is an influence, but it isn't the disc's only influence -- and Montfort also draws on everything from Spanish flamenco to blues to folk-rock. Celtic music is an influence on "Celtic Raga," which successfully combines Irish-Celtic and Indian elements. Through it all, Montfort demonstrates that even though he has considerable chops and technical prowess, he is much more interested in feeling and expression than technique. This 56-minute CD is an adventurous, consistently engaging demonstration of what Montfort can accomplish on the scalloped fretboard guitar.

Radio-Public  
Daily  
San Francisco Bay Area/International  
kzsu.stanford.edu

KZSU  
Lisa Dornell (Decca)  
4/6/2009



Album Review: Matthew Montfort/Seven Serenades

Not our typical kind of world music, but I thought it was interesting. Montfort makes the guitar sound like a sitar. Some might find this too "new age" but I found it unexpected and quite good. As befits the term "serenades" all are slow and all infused with the spirit of India.

1. Raga w/didjeridu drone & strings. Mysterious & a bit dark.
2. Flamenco-like trill w/hints of India and the medieval world.
3. Solo guitar part N. Indian raga, part ballad. Lyrical.
4. Relaxed folk, almost Hawaiian solo guitar.
5. Blend of Indian & Celtic, picks up later. Good finger work.
6. A didjeridu dones hypnotically while guitar blends rock & India.
7. Solo guitar, a touch of blues by way of Bombay.

Webzine  
Bi-Weekly  
Canada/Worldwide  
www.goodsound.com

GoodSound.com/SoundStage! Network

Joseph Taylor

4/1/2009



Matthew Montfort: Seven Serenades

Matthew Montfort: Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar

Ancient-Future.com AF 2008

Format: CD

Musical Performance \*\*\*

Sound Quality \*\*\*\*

Overall Enjoyment \*\*\*1/2

Matthew Montfort is a member of the world-music ensemble Ancient Future, who market their projects through Ancient-Future.com. He studied the music of India with master musicians from that country, and has adapted it for a version of the guitar with a scalloped fretboard. Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar, Montfort's first solo outing, is a relaxing series of pieces in which the guitarist sustains his ideas with arrangements that include wind instruments, violin, and voice. The best tunes, such as "Guari the Golden" and "Lilalit," are meditative, and allow Montfort to develop improvisations around a central theme. He doesn't dazzle with quick notes or flashy virtuosity, but lets the music play out in a more considered, deliberative manner. Although at times Montfort veers toward new-age background music ("Michelle's Star"), and I occasionally wished for a bit more energy, Seven Serenades has a cumulative effect that pulled me in. "Purple Raga," Montfort's tribute to Jimi Hendrix, is an enjoyable reminder that Hendrix, too, was influenced by Indian and Middle Eastern music. The recording is exceptionally clear and intimate. . . . Joseph Taylor

The screenshot shows the GoodSound.com website interface. At the top, there's a banner for a USB THINGIE Digital Converter. Below that, the 'MUSIC' section is active. Two reviews are visible:

- Sonny Rollins: Saxophone Colossus** (April 1, 2009): A review by Joseph Taylor. It includes a 5-point rating system: Musical Performance (4/5), Sound Quality (4/5), Picture Quality (4/5), and Overall Enjoyment (4/5). The review text discusses the film's focus on Rollins' performance and the quality of the DVD transfer.
- Matthew Montfort: Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar** (April 1, 2009): A review by Joseph Taylor. It includes a 5-point rating system: Musical Performance (3/5), Sound Quality (4/5), and Overall Enjoyment (3.5/5). The review text describes Montfort's use of a scalloped fretboard guitar and the meditative nature of the music.



Magazine  
Monthly  
India  
www.raveindia.com

Rave magazine  
Madanmohan Rao  
4/1/2009



### Seven Serenades by Matthew Montfort

Artiste: Matthew Montfort  
Album: Seven Serenades  
Rating: 5 stars

Matthew Montfort, leader of the world fusion group Ancient Future, steps out solo here with a set of carefully crafted tunes on scalloped fretboard guitar, giving it a distinctly Indian feel. The 7 tracks span just about an hour of fine acoustic listening pleasure, perfect for an early morning or mealtime experience. Our picks include the tracks Sangria and Celtic Raga. Montfort's guitar combines qualities of the South Indian veena and the steel string guitar. He intensively studied with veena master K.S. Subramanian, and has also performed flamenco guitar, charango and mandolin. He has recorded with Indian tabla maestros Swapan Chaudhuri and Zakir Hussain.

Writer-Blog  
Weekly  
Worldwide  
www.ear taste.com



Eartaste  
CD Submissions  
3/29/2009



## Matthew Montfort - Michelle's Star

Sunday, March 29, 2009

Matthew plays a scalloped fretboard guitar, a new instrument for me. It's sound is similar to a sitar, and many of the tunes on this CD sound as if they were from India. I am choosing to highlight Michelle's Star because it brings the same tonality to a western-sounding melody in a beautiful way. The CD is good for relaxing with a cool drink, perhaps even Sangria (another tune from the album) after cleaning up after a loud raucous bbq.

View youtube video of Michelle's Star:  
www.youtube.com/watch?v=epnOtF1BehQ

Posted by Eartaste at 1:53 PM

Web Music Network  
Hourly  
Worldwide  
www.8Tracks.com



8Tracks  
3/28/2009



## Mixes including Matthew Montfort

Indo World  
Eight tracks including music by Ancient Future, Mariah Parker, Matthew Montfort, and Zakir Hussain.  
Tags: world india guitar  
Listen: <http://8tracks.com/ancientfuture/indo-world>

5/20/2009: avivamagnolia says: Only 2 tracks in, and I'm in heaven. Or in a trance. Or both. Or deeply grateful as I hear this pure clear sound

Rock to Raga  
Eight tracks including music by Jimi Hendrix, Mariah Parker and Matthew Montfort.  
Tags: world mix rock  
Listen: <http://8tracks.com/ancientfuture/rock-to-raga>

Indo Latin Guitar  
Eight tracks of instrumental, soundtracks and world, including music by Matthew Montfort, Mariah Parker, Carlos Santana & John McLaughlin, and Egberto Gismonti.  
Tags: world soundtracks  
Listen: <http://8tracks.com/mariahparker/indo-latin-guitar>

Radio-Internet  
Daily  
Worldwide  
www.karmacaffe.com

**KarmaCaffe.com**  
Chandi Devi  
3/25/2009



The screenshot shows the BlogTalkRadio interface. At the top, there are navigation links: Home, On Air, Categories, Featured, Popular, Networks, Channels. The main content area features a KarmaCaffe episode titled "Matthew Montfort, Ancient Future" with a "TWEET THIS" button. Below the episode title, there is a description of Matthew Montfort's background and a "PLAY" button. To the right, there is a "Profile" section for KarmaCaffe, including a "Follow on Twitter" link and a "Send Message" button. At the bottom, there are social media tags and a "Comments" section.

**Blogtalk Interview: Matthew Montfort, Ancient Future**

Original Air Date: 3/25/2009 2:00 PM  
Matthew Montfort, Ancient Future

Matthew Montfort holds a B.A. in World Music and Composition and an M.A. in Arts and Media Technology from Antioch University. He has studied with the master musicians of many world music traditions, including sarangi master Ram Narayan, sarod master Ali Akbar Khan, mridangam master Guruvayoor Dorai, vina master K.S. Subramanian, and gamelan director K.R.T. Wasitodipuro. Montfort is the leader of the world fusion music ensemble Ancient Future. An award-winning guitarist (Louis Armstrong Jazz Award, Colorado Outstanding Young Guitarist Award), he is a pioneer of the scalloped fretboard guitar, an instrument combining qualities of the South Indian vina and the steel string guitar. He is also known for his work on sitar, charango, mandolin, and gamelan, and as Ancient Future's main composer.

Listen:  
www.blogtalkradio.com/karmacaffe/2009/03/25/matthew-montfort-ancient-future



Music Database  
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www.notendatenbank.net

sheetmusicdb.net  
Robbin D. Knapp  
3/17/2009



### Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar

CDs/DVDs  
7 Serendas for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar - click for larger image  
click for larger image  
click here - Montfort, Matthew  
Montfort, Matthew  
CD/DVD name 7 Serendas for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar  
Article no. 6026631  
Subcategory Solo instrument  
Performer Montfort, Matthew (guitar)  
Publisher \* click here  
Short info Matthew Montfort (scalloped fretboard Git)  
Patti Weiss (electric Vln)  
Alan Tower (didjeridu)  
Mariah Parker (santur)  
Publisher's article no. \* click here  
Price 26.97 EUR suggested  
Year of publication 2008  
UPC \* click here  
Total duration ca. 56:07  
Date added 2009.03.17 (100,000 banners ran on family of websites)  
Date updated 2009-04-24 (50,000 banners ran on family of websites)  
Date updated 2009-05-13 (video added)

The screenshot shows the product page for '7 Serendas for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar' on sheetmusicdb.net. The page includes a navigation menu, a search bar, and a list of related products. The main content area displays the product details, including the title, article number (6026631), subcategory (Solo instrument), performer (Montfort, Matthew), and publisher (click here). It also lists the price (26.97 EUR suggested), year of publication (2008), and total duration (ca. 56:07). A video sample is embedded in the page. At the bottom, there is a table of tracks with their titles, composers, durations, and album numbers.

No.	Title	Composer	Duration	Album number
1	Gaze the Golden	Montfort, Matthew	6:41	
2	Sangria	Montfort, Matthew	6:53	
3	Soul Serenade	Montfort, Matthew	6:28	
4	Mickelle's Star	Montfort, Matthew	5:50	
5	Cello Raga	Montfort, Matthew	6:41	
6	Purple Raga	Montfort, Matthew	5:58	
7	Liars	Montfort, Matthew	14:21	

Radio-College

[www.uvm.edu/~wruv](http://www.uvm.edu/~wruv)



WRUV

Jeffrey Pascoe

3/12/2009

### Matthew Montfort: Seven Serenades

[Classical/Avant Garde, World/International] from Ancient Future  
Matthew Montfort: Seven Serenades  
review by jaypaul

Virtuoso guitarist with extensive classical training in India plays with a scalloped fretboard that lets him produce embellishments similar to those heard from a sitar. Very creative and energetic arrangements.



Radio-Internet  
Weekly  
Richmond, Virginia/International  
www.WGOERadio.com

WGOERadio.com  
Mike Chenault  
3/5/2009



**Matthew Montfort**  
Click Here To View Artist Website

Record Label: [Ancient Future Records](#)

Guitarras on the golden coast of Spain near Barcelona and the Mumbai Festival at the Gateway of India in Bombay.

Matthew Montfort is on the faculty of Blue Bear School of Music in San Francisco, where he teaches music theory, all styles of guitar as well as rhythm classes based on his book on the rhythmic traditions of Africa, Bali, and India. He also teaches at his studio in San Rafael, California. Some of his students have gone on to promising music careers.

Exit Artist View

**Matthew Montfort**

CD Name: [Seven Serenades For Scalloped Fretboard Guitar](#)

CD Type: Single CD  
Disc(s): 1  
# 25336 20082 1  
Year Released: 2009  
Record Label: [Ancient Future Records](#)

**Song**

- [Great The Golden](#)
- [Santitas](#)
- [Soul Serenades](#)
- [Michelle's Star](#)
- [Café, Hialeah](#)
- [Purple Haze](#)
- [Lullaby](#)

Exit Artist View

## Matthew Montfort/Seven Serenades

(band leader, composer, scalloped fretboard guitar, Glissentar 11 string fretless guitar, electric guitar, flamenco guitar, mandolin, charango, sitar, gamelan)

Matthew Montfort is the leader of the world fusion music ensemble Ancient Future. An award-winning guitarist (Louis Armstrong Jazz Award, Colorado Outstanding Young Guitarist Award), he is a pioneer of the scalloped fretboard guitar (an instrument combining qualities of the South Indian vina and the steel string guitar). Montfort spent three months in intensive study with vina master K.S. Subramanian in order to fully apply the South Indian gamaka (note-bending) techniques to the guitar. He is also known for his work on electric guitar, flamenco guitar, sitar, charango, mandolin, and gamelan, and as Ancient Future's main composer.

Matthew Montfort holds a B.A. in World Music and Composition and an M.A. in Arts and Media Technology from Antioch University. He has studied with the master musicians of many world music traditions, including sarangi master Ram Narayan, sarod master Ali Akbar Khan, mridangam master Guruvayoor Dorai, and gamelan director K.R.T. Wasitodipuro. He has recorded with legendary world music figures ranging from Bolivian panpipe master Gonzalo Vargas to tabla maestros Swapan Chaudhuri and Zakir Hussain. He has performed concerts world wide, including at the Festival Internacional de la Guitarra on the golden coast of Spain near Barcelona and the Mumbai Festival at the Gateway of India in Bombay.

Matthew Montfort is on the faculty of Blue Bear School of Music in San Francisco, where he teaches music theory, all styles of guitar as well as rhythm classes based on his book on the rhythmic traditions of Africa, Bali, and India. He also teaches at his studio in San Rafael, California. Some of his students have gone on to promising music careers.

\* Seven Serenades For Scalloped Fretboard Guitar

CD Type: Single CD  
Disc(s): 1  
8 25336 20082 1  
Year Released: 2009  
Record Label: Ancient Future Records



Magazine  
Monthly  
California  
www.indiacurrents.com

India Currents  
Teed Rockwell  
3/1/2009



### California World Fusion

What California world fusion teaches us about musicians and composers.  
TEED ROCKWELL

The relationship between musicians and composers varies tremendously from one world tradition to another. In European classical music, the musician's job is to play exactly what the composer says to play. That is why when a European classical musician says the word "music," he usually means sheets of paper, not actual sound: "Put your music on the stand," etc.

In Indian music, this relationship is dramatically reversed. A musician is someone who makes music, in the sense of actual sound, not marks on paper. Many teachers do use a form of written music, but it is regarded with suspicion and usually only used to teach exercises. The preferred form of teaching is having the student copy a melody directly with voice or instrument. In the Karnatik music of South India, this fundamentally oral tradition has preserved compositions by 18th century composers, who dominate Karnatik music the way their contemporaries Mozart and Haydn dominate European music. These Karnatik compositions, however, are supplemented by long improvised passages, which means that the musician is a creative artist, in addition to an interpretive artist.

In the Hindustani music of the North, the musician has even greater creative responsibility. The "composer," as understood in the West, does not exist at all. A Hindustani raga is not a melody, but rather a set of rules, both firm and flexible, which always create a similar mood, but are never "played the same way twice."

Students learn fixed compositions from their teachers, and must play them perfectly during the lesson. But the experienced musician must use those compositions as raw material to create music on the spot, which must be both completely new and firmly rooted in tradition.

This paradoxical blend of freedom and discipline was both appealing and a bit frightening to guitarist and composer Matthew Montfort. He once had dreams of becoming a classical sitarist and studied extensively at the Ali Akbar College of Music. But Ali Akbar Khan was an understandably intimidating role model. The patterns he taught in class were amazingly beautiful and profound, but the ability to improvise great music based on those patterns seemed to elude almost all of his western students.

Montfort concluded that he could not do his best work if he pretended that he had grown up in a village in Maihar and only had one teacher. Northern California was (and still is) home to music from almost everywhere: South America, Bali, Africa, the Middle East, as well as North and South India. Montfort decided to create a style he would call World Fusion music, which would combine elements from all of these traditions. Stitching together all of these different traditions could not be done instinctively and spontaneously. It required careful musical scholarship and a discovery of connections between styles that had developed in separate cultural universes. The kind of freedom enjoyed by Hindustani musicians would not be possible. Instead, Montfort became a master of arranging instruments that had never been played together before. Although improvisation was frequent, it was usually allocated to specific points in an otherwise fixed composition.

View more at [www.ancient-future.com/serenade.html](http://www.ancient-future.com/serenade.html)

Webzine  
Monthly  
Worldwide

www.ZoneMusicReporter.com

**ZoneMusicReporter.com**

Daryl Portier and Ben Dugas

3/1/2009



**February 2009 New Age/Ambient/World Radio Chart**

Rank	Title	Artist	Label	Score
<b>No. 8</b>	Seven Serenades	Matthew Montfort	Ancient-Future.Com Records	3.17

Rank	Prev	Title	Artist	Label	Score
11	—	Seven Serenades	Matthew Montfort	Ancient-Future.Com Records	3.17
12	5	Subliminal	Al Conti	Shedside Music Publishing	2.47
13	34	Shikokuzenka (off is white)	Kaiko Takada / Ed Toonenberg	Vigam Records	2.42
14	12	Close to Home	Leone Sullivan	Scallop Sound Records	2.30
15	40	Rain: Healing Waves	Faergel	New Faith Records	2.26
16	88	Orchard	Alicia Rossette	Walden Records	2.08
17	—	The Journey to the Heart of My Soul	Uchi Logan	Shura Inc.	2.05
18	—	Serenade	Mariah Parker	Andrea Fabrik Sam Records	2.01
19	7	Subliminal	Richard Bove	Chrysalis Laboratories	2.00
20	—	12 Months	David Maut	There Records	1.92
21	8	In a Stream	Peter Kaser / Dominic Miller w/ Jakob Marlenbaum and E. Kater Loggia	Point of Light Records	1.90
22	3	Afternoon	Ishan Kelly	SkyLight Music	1.87
23	6	Autumn	Sean Dedbery	Self Released	1.86
24	4	Four Seasons for Scalloped	Dyan Davis w/ Amber Fitzgerald	Scallop Sound, Inc.	1.85
25	—	East Wind	Timothy Cooper	New Faith Age Music	1.80
26	—	Blue Dunes	Floris Jay Hawkins	Little Light Music	1.58
27	57	Starlight Volume 1	Robert Carly	—	1.45
28	9	Winter	Kevin Weave	New Vision Music	1.42
29	20	Chrysalis / Factory of Hope 1.1	Wolfgang	Compass Records	1.35

Magazine  
Monthly  
National

www.maximumink.com

**Maximum Ink Music Magazine**

ANDREW FREY

3/1/2009



**Eclectic Vibes: Matthew Montfort • Seven Serenades**

Matthew Montfort  
Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar  
Record Label: Ancient Future Music  
Review published: March 2009  
Rating: 7

Being aptly titled to describe the non vocal guitar wizardry on this debut release from award winning Ancient Future band leader manages to expose his proficiencies and improvisational skills. Although well executed and technically proficient, the serenades are a tad on the dry side overall.

**Maximum Ink** ECLECTIC VIBES  
Music Magazine

Montfort, Matthew  
Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar  
by Andrew Frey  
Review published: March 2009  
Rating: 7

Being aptly titled to describe the non vocal guitar wizardry on this debut release from award winning Ancient Future band leader manages to expose his proficiencies and improvisational skills. Although well executed and technically proficient, the serenades are a tad on the dry side overall.

7 Serenades: Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar: (3/1/2009)  
7 Paradise Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar: (3/1/2009)

Webzine

Hourly

Worldwide

www.Minor7th.com

Minor7th.com

Alan Fark

3/1/2009



## Minor 7th

March & April Short Takes

**Matthew Montfort "Seven Serenades for Scalloped Guitar," 2008** Michael Montfort's "Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar" is an impressive collection of meditative sonic excursions. Montfort currently teaches music theory and guitar at the Blue Bear School of Music in San Francisco. He has also recorded with legendary Bolivian panpipe master Gonzalo Vargas and tabla extraordinaire Zakir Hussain. As the title aptly suggests, this recording features the intricate nuances of a scalloped fretboard acoustic, which has subtle qualities of both the Indian vina and the steel string guitar. On the opening, "Gauri the Golden," Montfort delicately weaves Middle Eastern inspired motifs over opaque tonal layers provided by Patty Weiss's electric violin and Alan Tower's didjeridu. "Celtic Raga" is an interesting solo piece exploring the common ground found in Northern Indian and Irish music. All of these contemporary ragas are pristinely recorded using rich, lush reverb. Michael Montfort is a true pioneer and master of the scalloped fretboard acoustic, and this recording is highly recommended for all fans world music. © James Scott

### Matthew Montfort "Seven Serenades for Scalloped Guitar" 2008

Matthew Montfort's "Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar" is an impressive collection of meditative sonic excursions. Montfort currently teaches music theory and guitar at the Blue Bear School of Music in San Francisco. He has also recorded with legendary Bolivian panpipe master Gonzalo Vargas and tabla extraordinaire Zakir Hussain. As the title aptly suggests, this recording features the intricate nuances of a scalloped fretboard acoustic, which has subtle qualities of both the Indian vina and the steel string guitar. On the opening, "Gauri the Golden," Montfort delicately weaves Middle Eastern inspired motifs over opaque tonal layers provided by Patty Weiss's electric violin and Alan Tower's didjeridu. "Celtic Raga" is an interesting solo piece exploring the common ground found in Northern Indian and Irish music. All of these contemporary ragas are pristinely recorded using rich, lush reverb. Matthew Montfort is a true pioneer and master of the scalloped fretboard acoustic and this recording is highly recommended for all fans world music. © James Scott



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Fonoteca, Praça Duque de Saldanha

Alda Goes

3/1/2009



Fonoteca (Portuguese Music Listening Library)

Título:

Seven serenades for scalloped fretboard guitar

Autor:

Matthew Montfort

Outros Responsáveis:

Patti Weiss; Alan Tower; Mariah Parker

Resp. Artística:

Matthew Montfort, produção.

Elenco:

Matthew Montfort, scalloped fretboard guitar; Com: Mariah Parker, santur; Patti Weiss, violino eléctrico, violino; Alan Tower, didjeridu.

Publicação:

[Kentfield] : Ancient Future, p2008

ISRC:

AF 2008

Aquisição: Oferta Ancient Future

Descrição Física: 1 disco (CD) (56 min.) : stereo; 12 cm

Notas:

Área: Pop / Rock

Cota: 200.MON.23515

URL: www.matthewmontfort.com

www.ancient-future.com

**CATALOGO**

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**Título:** Seven serenades for scalloped fretboard guitar  
**Autor:** [Matthew Montfort](#)  
**Outros Responsáveis:** [Patti Weiss; Alan Tower; Mariah Parker](#)  
**Resp. Artística:** Matthew Montfort, produção.  
**Elenco:** Matthew Montfort, scalloped fretboard guitar; Com: Mariah Parker, santur; Patti Weiss, violino eléctrico, violino; Alan Tower, didjeridu.  
**Publicação:** [Kentfield] : Ancient Future, p2008  
**ISRC:** AF 2008  
**Aquisição:** Oferta Ancient Future  
**Descrição Física:** 1 disco (CD) (56 min.) : stereo; 12 cm  
**Notas:**  
**Área:** Pop / Rock  
**Cota:** 200.MON.23515  
**URL:** [www.matthewmontfort.com](#)  
[www.ancient-future.com](#)

FAIXAS / DESCRIÇÃO	Áudio
1. Gaudi the golden.	01
2. Sarguna.	02
3. Soul serenade.	03
4. Michael's star.	04
5. Lullaby night.	05
6. Purple night.	06
7. Lullat.	07

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2/22/2009



**Serge Kozlovsky**

**MATTHEW MONTFORT**  
Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar  
(c) 2008 Ancient-Future.Com Records



*With godlike sounds  
You're carried away  
Where the East and West are met  
Without a collision*

Matthew Montfort is a true guitar master. His instrument conveys the smallest nuances of the artist's emotions. Also, Matthew Montfort's manner of playing scalloped fretboard guitar is very diverse. He masterfully combines a perfect performance with Eastern meditative approach. As a result his music sounds very unique. And it is filled with the delicate flavor of the East.

The artist is not afraid to improvise and to blend various genres in his guitar music. His "Purple Raga" is adorned with the captivating drones of an Australian didgeridoo. I could name this composition as world raga rock. In general Matthew Montfort's music goes beyond any boundaries. He is truly one of the best world's guitarists.

The first solo effort of Matthew Montfort is a real handbook for guitarists and a great pleasure for the ears of all guitar music lovers!

Serge Kozlovsky  
<http://sergekozlovsky.com>

Visit Matthew Montfort's web site at <http://www.matthewmontfort.com>

## MATTHEW MONTFORT/Seven Serenades

MATTHEW MONTFORT

Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar

With godlike sounds

You're carried away

Where the East and West are met

Without a collision

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Serge Kozlovsky

<http://sergekozlovsky.com>

Visit Matthew Montfort's web site at <http://www.matthewmontfort.com>

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Webzine  
Monthly  
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## IMPROVIJAZZATION Nation

DICK METCALF

2/18/2009



### Issue # 88 REVIEWS: Matthew Montfort - Seven Serenades

Matthew Montfort - SEVEN SERENADES FOR SCALLOPED FRETBOARD GUITAR:

I reviewed a CD (a long time ago, in issue #57) called "Planet Passion", not realizing that it was Matthew who had pulled that effort together. While talking with him recently, he mentioned this release, so (of course) I asked him to send it my way... when he titles it "serenades", he isn't kidding. Even if you've never been totally attracted to music labeled "New Age" or "World", you will find something you can enjoy on this magical sonic journey; it is full of rich and totally engaging compositions that easily capture you and keep you listening. My particular favorite was his improvised piece titled "Soul Serenade", track 3... I'm assuming that is because it is in E minor, with a distinctive feel of blues combined with hope. My other favorite piece was "Purple Raga"... Montfort's willingness to let the music just "flow", without forcing it to move in a particular direction, shows more skill at improvisation than many self-proclaimed improv "masters" have. A wonderful musical excursion that is all based on the moment as the motive... this gets a MOST HIGHLY RECOMMENDED, as well as our "PICK" of this issue for "best guitar improvisation". Get more information at [www.ancient-future.com/serenade.html](http://www.ancient-future.com/serenade.html) – Rotcod Zzaj

#### IMPROVIJAZZATION Nation

##### Issue # 88 REVIEWS

**Matthew Montfort - SEVEN SERENADES FOR SCALLOPED FRETBOARD GUITAR:** I reviewed a CD (a long time ago, in issue #57) called "Planet Passion", not realizing that it was Matthew who had pulled that effort together. While talking with him recently, he mentioned this release, so (of course) I asked him to send it my way... when he titles it "serenades", he isn't kidding. Even if you've never been totally attracted to music labeled "New Age" or "World", you will find something you can enjoy on this magical sonic journey; it is full of rich and totally engaging compositions that easily capture you and keep you listening. My particular favorite was his improvised piece titled "Soul Serenade", track 3... I'm assuming that is because it is in E minor, with a distinctive feel of blues combined with hope. My other favorite piece was "Purple Raga"... Montfort's willingness to let the music just "flow", without forcing it to move in a particular direction, shows more skill at improvisation than many self-proclaimed improv "masters" have. A wonderful musical excursion that is all based on the moment as the motive... this gets a MOST HIGHLY RECOMMENDED, as well as our "PICK" of this issue for "best guitar improvisation". Get more information at [www.ancient-future.com/serenade.html](http://www.ancient-future.com/serenade.html) – Rotcod Zzaj



Radio-Public  
Weekly  
Belgium (Radio)/Worldwide (Webzine)  
www.radiocentraal.be/psychevanhetfolk

## Psyche van het Folk Radioshow & Webzine

Gerald Van Waes

2/14/2009



## Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar (US,2009)\*\*\*\*

Ancient-Future.com Rec. Matthew Montfort :  
Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar (US,2009)\*\*\*\*

Matthew Montfort cooperated for a long time (since 1978) with Ancient Future, a World Fusion group with now its own label and organizing talent. He studied with gamelan director K.R.T.Wasitodiporu, with North Indian sarod master Ali Akhbar Khan, with vina master K.S.Subramanian. He performed with his scalloped fretboard guitar with people like tablaist Zakir Hussain, Chinese zither master Zhao Hui and so on, this is in fact his first solo release showing his improvised skills on guitar. Some other members from the label and friends helped him well for a texturing background or for some interactive idea.

On the first track, Alan Tower provided a didgeridoo drone replacing the Indian tampura, while Patty Weiss played an electric violin passage. On the second track we hear a great interaction between a musical theme composition on santur by Mariah Parker, in 7/8 improvising with guitar to it mixing styles perfectly. The most wonderful thing also is that Matthew Montfort fluently and colourfully paints his compositions of improvisation, without really becoming entirely one specific traditional style. That way, he more moodily touches the colours of an Indian raga, remains in between the conditional explorative and moodiness. Very interesting for instance is his "Celtic Raga": "This improvisation applies Indian melodic exploration techniques to a prominent scale used in Celtic music, commonly known as the Greek mixolydian mode, which corresponds to Khammaj"...from the North Indian classification system. On "Purple Raga" he created a raga based upon "the Jimi Hendrix chord" (D7#9). The music sounds pure and not too complicated, while remaining explorative creative all the time. Very nice.

Audio on [http://www.jukeboxalive.com/music\\_listen\\_1854087.html](http://www.jukeboxalive.com/music_listen_1854087.html)  
& info on <http://www.purevolume.com/matthewmontfort>  
Release info with audio : <http://www.ancient-future.com/serenade.html>  
Info on Matthew : <http://www.ancient-future.com/matt.html>



Webzine  
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TheCelebrityCafe.com

**TheCelebrityCafe.com**  
Dominick A. Miserandino  
  
2/12/2009



**Matthew Montfort - 7 Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar**

On Matthew Montfort's release, "7 Serenades For Scalloped Fretboard Guitar," one finds what seems to be an instructional course from an undoubtedly masterful acoustic guitar player. However, equally of note is what we do not hear as palpable emotion and spiritual gravitas are conspicuously absent from this recording.

"7 Serenades..." starts strong, and certainly has its original and inventive moments, but fails to capitalize on these by holding the listener's attention for the duration of the album. One can only speculate as to what might have been, had the songs herein had a more cohesive vision and atmosphere.

Although songs such as "Gauri the Golden" and "Lilalit" seem to have some measure of depth and richly expressive layers, other tracks such as "Michelle's Star" just seem redundant, and after a while, the listener begins to feel as though the songs are all starting to sound alike.

While fans of the genre may find this album to their liking, it lacks the universal elements of emotion and seriousness necessary to give it a broader appeal.

Reviewer: JC Chute



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## Folk & Acoustic Music Exchange

David N. Pyles

2/12/2009



## Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar

Matthew Montfort. Ancient Future Records - AF 2008

A review written for the Folk & Acoustic Music Exchange by Mark S. Tucker (progdawg@hotmail.com).

Matthew Montfort resides on the same label as Mariah Parker, the Ancient Future impress, but is far more exotic, further dug into the essence of what composes the sinew and soul of the musics of other cultures. Like Parker, he has a pronounced affinity for Indian musics (and I aver that Carnatic is the most difficult and masterful form of music on the planet); thus, like so many Indian ensembles, he keeps the personnel roster low on each cut in order to carve out slices from the living heart of the form.

The lead cut, Gauri the Golden, is a long song with Patti Weiss on violin for interludes and Alan Tower taking the didjeridu to bridge between Australian and Indian drone accompaniment. Montfort chose the unusual scalloped fretboard guitar in order to best execute a South Indian vina method of note bending, obtaining a perfect cross between sitar and guitar. Like much of Alice Coltrane's work, another musician deeply informed by Indian schools, the song is an unceasing build-up without release, something Western musics rarely even contemplate, forcing the listener to experience art in a different way.

Any perplexity at that unorthodox environment is resolved in his take on Parker's (Mariah, not Charlie) Sangria, which she wrote for this CD then transported over to her own for a completely different read. Parker plays the santur, with Weiss appearing again on violin and Montfort on guitar for a very expressive recital, Montfort waxing a bit Gabor Szabo-ish after the McLaughlin-esque refrains of the previous cut. That song's followed by a completely solo piece that carried me back to when John Stowell and others were initiating this sort of work but also to the CDs and cassettes one finds in Indian markets, where players are encouraged to trot out their chops in culturally classical airs. Here, not a second or a note is wasted.

If you saw the Monterey Pop Fest film with Ravi Shankar, who blew all the most talented rockers off the stage with his mind-bending chops and then completely entranced The Master (Jimi Hendrix), you know why Montfort was inspired by a photo of Jimi sitting gape-mouthed in the presence of such galactic artistry. The pure astonishment on Hendrix's face prompted him to compose the Purple Raga as tribute to rock's greatest guitar player and to the singularity of the music that stunned him. None of this, I hasten to add, is rock and roll, nor should it be, because it's important that more of the American culture hear what Indian musicians have been producing for hundreds of years, a sound and discipline that can enrich us as much as it has them.

- \* Gauri the Golden
- \* Sangria
- \* Soul Serenade
- \* Michelle's Star
- \* Celtic Raga
- \* Purple Raga
- \* Lilalit

All songs written by Matthew Montfort except Sangria (Mariah Parker).

**Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar**

**Matthew Montfort**

Ancient-Future.com Records - AF 2008

Available from Ancient-Future.com

A review written for the Folk & Acoustic Music Exchange by **Mark S. Tucker** (progdawg@hotmail.com).

Matthew Montfort resides on the same label as Mariah Parker (here), the Ancient-Future.com impress, but is far more exotic, further dug into the essence of what composes the sinew and soul of the musics of other cultures. Like Parker, he has a pronounced affinity for Indian musics (and I aver that Carnatic is the most difficult and masterful form of music on the planet); thus, like so many Indian ensembles, he keeps the personnel roster low on each cut in order to carve out slices from the living heart of the form.

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- \* Gauri the Golden
- \* Sangria
- \* Soul Serenade
- \* Michelle's Star
- \* Celtic Raga
- \* Purple Raga
- \* Hlalt

All songs written by Matthew Montfort except Sangria (Mariah Parker).

Edited by David N. Pyles (dnpvaw@sonataonline.com)

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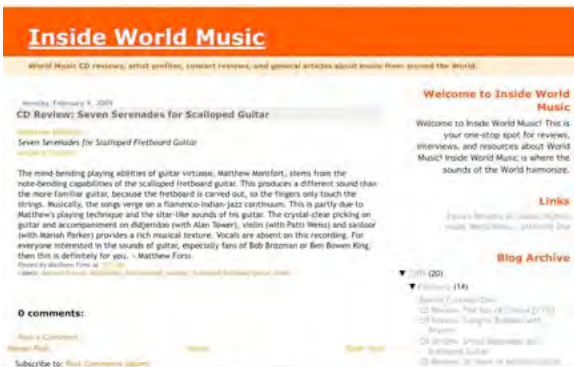


Webzine  
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### Inside World Music

Matthew Forss

2/9/2009



### CD Review: Seven Serenades for Scalloped Guitar

Matthew Montfort  
Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar  
Ancient-Future.Com

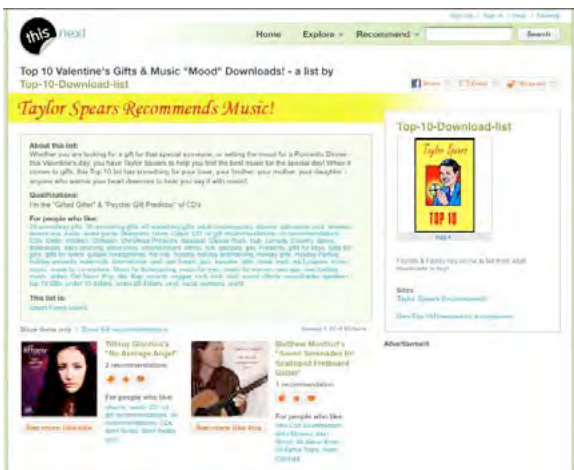
The mind-bending playing abilities of guitar virtuoso, Matthew Montfort, stems from the note-bending capabilities of the scalloped fretboard guitar. This produces a different sound than the more familiar guitar, because the fretboard is carved out, so the fingers only touch the strings. Musically, the songs verge on a flamenco-Indian-jazz continuum. This is partly due to Matthew's playing technique and the sitar-like sounds of his guitar. The crystal-clear picking on guitar and accompaniment on didgeridoo (with Alan Tower), violin (with Patti Weiss) and santoor (with Mariah Parker) provides a rich musical texture. Vocals are absent on this recording. For everyone interested in the sounds of guitar, especially fans of Bob Brozman or Ben Bowen King, then this is definitely for you. ~ Matthew Forss

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Top 10 Lists

2/2/2009



### No. 2 Top 10 Valentines Gifts & Mood Music Downloads

Taylor Spears Recommends Music!

About this list:  
Whether you're looking for the perfect Valentine's music for your special loved one, or the right music to set the mood for a romantic evening you'll find it here as Taylor Spears Recommends gives you the best tips for CD's for your lover, your mother, your daughter, your son, your brother - or anyone on your list.

Matthew Montfort's 'Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar'  
1 recommendation

For people who like:  
Afro-Celt Soundssystem, Airtro Moreira, Alan Stivel, Ali Akbar Khan, Ali Farka Toure, Altan, Clannad

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Folknik  
Lisa Hubbell  
2/1/2009



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### Reviews

Latest free CDs available to review writers--this could be you! Contact the Club to get your very own copy, and see below for where to send the review when you're done.

1. Jerry Ashford, Beth McNamara, Joe Ross, Always/Yes: Oregon band plays jazz and swing standards, trading vocal leads and harmonies with bass, guitars, mandolin, fiddle, fife. Samples at [www.sffmc.org/af](http://www.sffmc.org/af)
2. Matthew Montfort: *Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar*. Luthier Ervin Somogyi carved into the wood between the frets of a Gibson SJ Deluxe "that lets him get the bends of an Indian sitar." Streaming audio at [www.ancient-future.com/pdf/serenades\\_1sheet\\_dig.pdf](http://www.ancient-future.com/pdf/serenades_1sheet_dig.pdf)
3. *The Greenfields of America*: Songs and tunes from Irish music supergroup featuring Mick Moloney, John Doyle, Robbie O'Connor, Bill McCanniskey, and former SF fiddler Arthur Tenig. Samples at [www.sffmc.org/af](http://www.sffmc.org/af)

A couple of "Treasures from the Vault" are also offered for review:

4. Allison Lee Freeman: *Chaucer Singer and Chaucer Singer 2*. A capella harmony in guitar, mostly traditional plus her original car-towing shanty "Allison's Sash Story" as heard on "Car Talk." Samples at [www.sffmc.org/af](http://www.sffmc.org/af)

- Send reviews of books, CDs, and other publications to Lisa Hubbell, [lhubbell@sffmc.org](mailto:lhubbell@sffmc.org), with a copy to Phyllis Hartree at [lhubbell@afrecords.net](mailto:lhubbell@afrecords.net). 250 words is a good length for a review.
- Send anything you would like reviewed to the SFFMC, 885 Clayton Street, San Francisco, CA 94117

## Reviews Jan/Feb 2009:

**MATTHEW MONTFORT, *Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar*.**

Luthier Ervin Somogyi carved out the wood between the frets of a Gibson SJ Deluxe "that lets him get the bends of an Indian sitar."

Streaming audio at:  
[http://www.ancient-future.com/pdf/serenades\\_1sheet\\_dig.pdf](http://www.ancient-future.com/pdf/serenades_1sheet_dig.pdf)

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Features  
2/1/2009



Recommended by Top-10-CD-List (20 recommendations)

Matthew Montfort's "Seven Serenades for Scalloped Guitar"

Beautiful Valentine's serenades - woo your loved one with this beautiful collection. Any fan of world music, international music, ethnic music, or these bands: Dead Can Dance, David Byrne, Ry Cooder, David Lindley, Peter Gabriel, Carlos Santana, Sinéad O'Conner, Enya, The Chieftains, Clannad, Altan, Alan Stivell, Mickey Hart, Diga Rhythm Band, Ravi Shankar, Anoushka Shankar, Ali Akbar Khan, Zakir Hussain, Tabla Beat Science, Shakti, John McLaughlin, Oregon, Shadowfax, Jai Uttal, Harry Manx, Prem Joshua, Sheila Chandra, Deepak Chopra, Biddu Orchestra, Transglobal Underground, Afro-Celt Soundsystem, Gipsy Kings, Mustafa Sandal, Zap Mama, Steve Reich, Terry Riley, Khaled, Ali Farka Toure, Toumani Diabate, Habib Koite, Youssou NDour, Salif Keita, Angelique Kidjo, Oliver Mtukudzi, Yoshida Brothers, Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, Susheela Raman, Okan Murat Öztürk, Kamil Alipour, Egberto Gismonte, Airtó Moreira, Nana Vasconcellos, Buena Vista Social Club, Mama Keita, Black Uhuru, Haiti Twoubadou, Anastasia Moutsatsou, Ozomatli, Sukay, Queen Ida, will love this record.

Its also a shoe-in perfect gift for for music students, yoga, dance, belly dance, meditation, peace activists, social change activists, environmentalists, dead heads (Ancient Future is an offshoot of the Grateful Dead)

This debut recording by Ancient Future leader Matthew Montfort showcases his pioneering work on the scalloped fretboard guitar, a special modified instrument able to produce ornaments more characteristic of the sitar. While previously known more for his compositions for the trendsetting world music group Ancient Future, this first solo effort features his improvisational music.

As leader of the world music group Ancient Future, Matthew Montfort has devoted himself to the scalloped fretboard guitar since 1978. He spent years of study with some of the world's best musicians, such as gamelan director K.R.T. Wasitodipuro, North Indian sarod master Ali Akbar Khan, and vina master K.S. Subramanian, with whom he did an intensive study of South Indian note-bending techniques. He has performed concerts worldwide, from the Festival Internacional de la Guitarra on the golden coast of Spain to the Festival of India in Mumbai. He has worked with many world music legends, including tabla phenomenon Zakir Hussain and Chinese zither master Zhao Hui. Montfort wrote the book "Ancient Traditions – Future Possibilities: Rhythmic Training Through the Traditions of Africa, Bali, and India," which has been used by many musicians to improve their rhythm skills. (via amazon)



Magazine  
Bi-Monthly  
Tampa Bay, Florida  
www.ampubs.com



**SEVEN SERENADES FOR  
SCALLOPED FRETBOARD  
GUITAR**, the debut recording by  
**MATTHEW MONTFORT** show-

cases his work on  
the scalloped  
fretboard guitar,  
a special modi-  
fied instrument  
able to produce  
ornaments more  
characteristic of



the sitar. Montfort is a pioneer  
among guitarists who have had  
their fretboards scalloped in order  
to play various forms of world  
music that require intricate note-  
bending ornaments while still  
being able to play chords. This first  
solo effort features his improvi-  
sational music. [www.ancient-future.com](http://www.ancient-future.com)

## ACCENT

Melissa Wolcott Martino

2/1/2009



## SEVEN SERENADES FOR SCALLOPED FRETBOARD GUITAR

SEVEN SERENADES FOR SCALLOPED FRETBOARD GUITAR, the debut recording by MATTHEW MONTFORT showcases his work on the scalloped fretboard guitar, a special modified instrument able to produce ornaments more characteristic of the sitar. Montfort is a pioneer among guitarists who have had their fretboards scalloped in order to play various forms of world music that require intricate notebending ornaments while still being able to play chords. This first solo effort features his improvisational music. [www.ancient-future.com](http://www.ancient-future.com)

Magazine

Monthly

Australia

[www.nexusmagazine.com](http://www.nexusmagazine.com)**MUSIC**  
Reviewed by Richard Giles**SEVEN SERENADES**  
by Matthew Montfort

Ancient Future Music, 2008 (56mins)  
Distributor: USA—Ancient Future  
Music, tel (415) 459 1892,  
<http://www.Ancient-Future.com>

Matthew Montfort is part of the Ancient Future world music group, and this is his first solo recording with his wondrous work on the scalloped fretboard guitar. Back in 1978, he had the wood between the frets carved out so that his fingers would only touch the strings, allowing a more intricate, note-bending style. He was trained in the *gamaka* (note-bending) technique in India. His album has a soulful Indian sound with a beautiful fusion effect. Highly recommended.

**NEXUS**

Richard Giles

2/1/2009

**Music Reviewed by Richard Giles**

SEVEN SERENADES

by Matthew Montfort

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Distributor: USA - Ancient Future Music, tel (415) 459 1892,

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Webzine  
Weekly  
Worldwide  
www.midwestrecord.com

Midwest Record  
Chris Spector  
12/6/2008



MATTHEW MONTFORT/Seven Serenades:

Label head and and leader Montfort continues with his free thinking guitar man ways on this outing of improvs that don't fit into any of his other guises but need to be heard nonetheless. At it now for 30 years, he's a throwback to the kind of great underground 70's guitarists currently being unearthed by labels like Tompkins Square and Numero Group except this is no reissue, he's carrying the torch here and now. Working with a like minded crew that's as open minded as he is, this is music for people that remember what music was like and how much fun it was to find something rather than have it force communicated upon you. Tasty throughout. ANCIENT FUTURE.COM 2008

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FILE UNDER: Classical Guitar

FROM THE ARTIST: As leader of Ancient Future, Matthew Montfort has devoted himself to scalloped fretboard guitar since 1978.

Listen:  
http://music.download.com/matthewmontfort



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Eduard Antoniu

11/30/2008



## Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar

Matthew Montfort

Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar  
8/10

About thirty years ago, Ervin Somogyi, a Hungarian-born luthier from California, carved out the wood between the frets of Matthew Montfort's guitar, making it sound more like a sitar when played. On his official web site, Somogyi mentions he knows four rules of success. He only lists three, the last of which being not to reveal everything one knows.

Four tracks on this 56-minute debut album of Ancient Future's leader are solo pieces for this modified instrument: "Soul Serenade", "Michelle's Star", "Celtic Raga", and "Lilalit", which, at over 14 minutes, is the longest. There are also: didjeridu ("Gauri the Golden" and "Purple Raga"), violins ("Gauri the Golden" and "Sangria") and santur ("Sangria"). "Purple Raga" sounds almost like Pink Floyd "Shine On You Crazy Diamond" part I but is, in fact, inspired by Jimi Hendrix's guitar solo on "Purple Haze" (hence the title). The only non-Montfort original composition, "Sangria", is slightly shorter than the version on Mariah Parker's eponymous album (please see the review).

This album is recommended for fans of Ravi and Anoushka Shankar music, for classical guitar aficionados, and for those into meditation. Elaborate liner notes enrich the listener's experience. For those interested in the origins, sources of inspiration and the making of the Serenades, there is even more information on the Ancient Future's website.



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11/20/2008

FlyFi Top 15

Michelle's Star  
Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar  
Matthew Montfort

#3 on Top Downloads and Most Played Week of 11/20/2008



The screenshot shows the FlyFi website interface with a sidebar on the left containing genre filters like 'What's Up / What's Down', 'Search', 'Alternative', 'Blues', etc. The main content area displays two charts: 'This Week's Top Downloads' and 'Most Played This Last Week'. Both charts list 13 items, with Matthew Montfort's 'Seven Serenades for Michelle's Star' at rank 3 in both.

Rank	Artist	Album	Track
1	Cory Chisel and The	Live @ Lawrence Chas A Change is Gonna	
2	Ernan Barron-Cohen	Ernan Barron-Cohen Ph Credits featuring jazz	
3	Matthew Montfort	Seven Serenades for Michelle's Star	
4	Deer Tick	War Elephant	An isn't Road (City of Sin)
5	The Audry's Seaxions	Walk #2 (Six)	Walk #2 (Six)
6	Frontier Rockers	The Orion Songbook	Dark Autumn Hour
7	Benji Wilson	Benji Wilson	Wade Brown Here
8	Gonzalo Yanes	Gonzalo Yanes	Se
9	Dum Kabboum	Takethi Leth	Takethi Leth
10	The Mind Children	The Mind Children M Four Track	
11	Tones	Dreamtale	The Movement
12	steary hawks	AVICIA	last hope
13	Jill Johnson	Tul Stranger	Park

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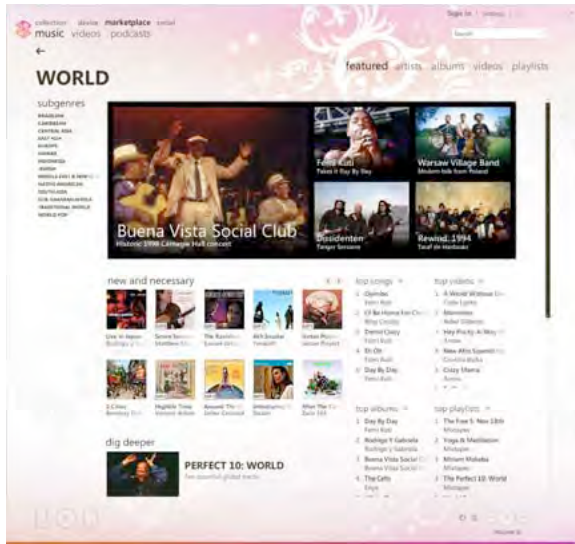
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11/18/2008



Featured WORLD: new and necessary

Seven Serenades  
Matthew Montfort





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### Synthesis Magazine Blog

[re]fresh Often

11/14/2008



### What Jello Biafra is listening to these days

Author: H. Anne Lightly 166 views

14 Nov

Scalloped fretboard guitar anyone?

"The sparkling presence and sustain you hear is not an amplified acoustic with a lot of reverb, but a scalloped fretboard guitar. Matt's the only person I know who can play one. Most rock musicians I've mentioned it to seem shocked that it even exists." – Jello Biafra, (seminal punk rock singer, Dead Kennedy front man turned spoken word activist, politician, mail recycler) ALTERNATIVE TENTACLES RECORDS

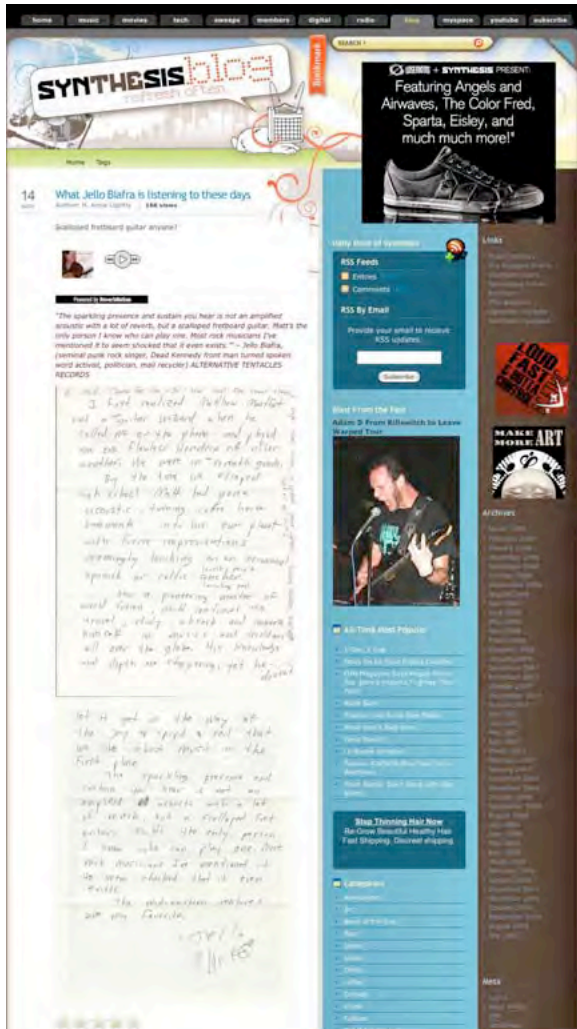
Full text of Jello Biafra's handwritten letter:

"I first realized Matthew Montfort was a true guitar wizard when he called me on the phone and played me one flawless Hendrix riff after another. We were in the seventh grade. By the time we escaped high school, Matt had gone acoustic, turning coffee house basements into his own planet with fierce improvisations touching on an occasional Spanish or Celtic launching pad.

Now a pioneering master of world fusion, Matt continues to travel, study, absorb and immerse himself in musics and traditions all over the globe. His knowledge and depth are staggering, yet he doesn't let it get in the way of the joy and spirit and soul that we like about music in the first place.

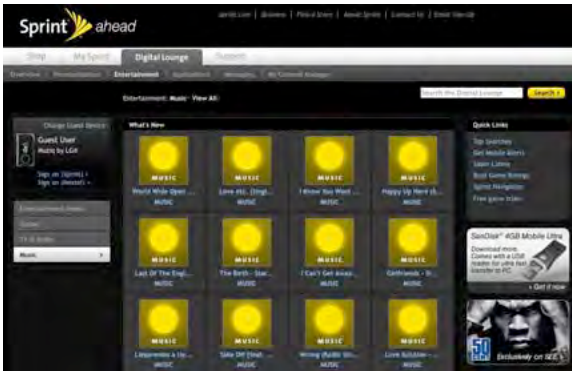
The sparkling presence and sustain you hear is not an amplified acoustic with a lot of reverb, but a scalloped fretboard guitar. Matt's the only person I know who can play one. Most rock musicians I've mentioned it to seem shocked that it even exists.

The Mid-Eastern ventures are my favorite."



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11/11/2008



**Top 100 Download: Week of 11/11/2008**

Top 100	Track	Artist	Volume
#53	Michelle's Star	Matthew Montfort	931

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**EMUSIC.COM**  
Yancey Strickler  
11/2/2008



**Daily Download**

Michelle's Star  
Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar  
Matthew Montfort

Review by Amelia Raitt

Matthew Montfort, leader of the world fusion group Ancient Future, steps out solo here with a set of carefully crafted ragas. Montfort uses a scalloped fretboard guitar (as the title makes pretty clear) and gives the album a distinctly Indian feel. A gentle reverb coats the tracks here, to beautiful effect.

Web Music Discovery  
Weekly  
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[www.almightyjukebox.com](http://www.almightyjukebox.com)



**Almighty Jukebox**

10/21/2008

**Feature: Seven Serenades for Scalloped Fretboard Guitar**

Known best as part of the trendsetting world music group ANCIENT FUTURE, Matthew Montfort's first solo effort showcases his improvisational work on the scalloped fretboard guitar.



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7/23/2008

**MATTHEW MONTFORT ON WORLDSTREAMS**

Matthew Montfort  
Ancient Future Music Ensemble  
Hosts: Said & Dari  
Aired: Wednesday 7.23.08 - 10:00-11:00 PM EST

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Matthew Montfort is the leader of the world fusion music ensemble Ancient Future. An award-winning guitarist (Louis Armstrong Jazz Award, Colorado Outstanding Young Guitarist Award), he is a pioneer of the scalloped fretboard guitar (an instrument combining qualities of the South Indian vina and the steel string guitar). Montfort spent three months in intensive study with vina master K.S. Subramanian in order to fully apply the South Indian gamaka (note-bending) techniques to the guitar. He is also known for his work on electric guitar, flamenco guitar, sitar, charango, mandolin, and gamelan, and as Ancient Future's main composer.

Over the years, Ancient Future has expanded its musical vision through collaborations with master musicians from more than two dozen countries, cultures, and musical traditions who are now an integral part of what is today more than just a band. Ancient Future has grown to become a large multinational music ensemble with many smaller ensembles within it, enabling Ancient Future to realize its core mission of creating world fusion music. Through cross cultural exchange, Ancient Future has created a musical world without borders.

Visit his website: [Ancient-Future.com](http://Ancient-Future.com)



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Ron J. Pelletier

6/1/1997



## Interview with Matthew Montfort

In 1978 Matthew Montfort moved to Marin County in Northern California from his home in Boulder Colorado. His musical background was not so different from the rest of his peers who all grew up listening to guitarists Jimi Hendrix, Jimmy Page, and later John McLaughlin. But it was he and his long-time friend Benjy Wertheimer who made the trip together to study at the Ali Akbar College of Music. He studied sitar, his buddy studied tabla, and this was the beginning of the group he still leads, Ancient Future. This was recorded in 1997 in my home studio in Northern California.

"...I came out to the Ali Akbar College of Music in Marin County to study Indian music with my best friend...Once we got there, we formed Ancient Future with two people that we met at the College..."

The band Ancient Future may have gone through a few personnel changes in the past 20 years, but Matthew's focus remains steady. The number of recordings for Ancient Future is now a half-dozen, and they have sold well around the world, into the hundreds of thousands. The Ali Akbar College of Music is still in operation in Marin, and even though his studies there ended long ago there is no doubt that his guitar style is influenced by his study of the sitar, a majestic and beautiful instrument that was first brought to prominence in the Western world by Ravi Shankar in the 1960's.