



News Release

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WESTERN HOSTS INTERNATIONAL GUITAR FESTIVAL

St. Joseph, Mo. —April 14, 2006—Missouri Western State University will host the fourth annual St. Joseph International Guitar Festival May 17-21. This year the competition includes over \$7,000 in prizes. There are no required pieces and no age limit. All events are open to the community.

The festival includes headliner concerts featuring Alieksey Vianna, Christopher Berg and Tango Lorca. Vianna, a Brazilian guitarist, will perform on May 18; Berg, a guitarist from the United States, will perform on May 19; and Tango Lorca, one of the leading tango dance and music ensembles featuring musicians and dancers from Eastern Europe, and North and South America, will perform on May 20. All performances will be held at 8 p.m. The competition final round will be held May 21 in the Kemper Recital Hall, and is free and open to the community.

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There will also be masterclasses and seminars on career development. Free jam sessions will be held every evening hosted by Western alumnus Jason Riley, rock and jazz guitarist. Translators and free home hosting (room/board) will be provided for competitors, and free airport pick-up and delivery for festival attendees, including auditors and audience members will be provided.

In past years, performers, competitors and audience members have come to the festival from Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Costa Rica, Cyprus, France, Germany, Holland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nicaragua, Poland, Serbia, Uruguay and throughout the United States.

The 2006 competition judges are Anthony Glise, head of the classical guitar program at Western and festival coordinator; Isaac Bustos, Nicaraguan guitarist; Roger Allen Cope, guitarist from the United States; Andrew Dickenson, guitarist from the United States, and president of the New York City Classic Guitar Society; Marie-Caroline Lebriez, French guitarist and president of Cord'accord Guitar Society in France; and Dr. Jeffery George, guitarist from the United States.

For more information or for an application, visit www.missouriwestern.edu/guitarfestival/ or call Glise at 816-271-4420.

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Missouri Western State University is a four-year public institution providing a blend of traditional liberal arts and professional degree programs. The university offers student-centered, high quality instruction that focuses on experience-based learning, community service, and state-of-the-art technology. Western is located in St. Joseph, Mo. and is committed to the educational, economic, cultural and social development of the region it serves.