Guest Artist Recital
2017–2018 Season
520th Concert
Monday 26 March 2018
Dalton Center Recital Hall
7:30 p.m.

GENE BERTONCINI, Guitar
with WMU faculty members
Sunny Wilkinson, Vocals
Tom Knific, Bass

Program to be selected from the following:

Antonio Carlos Jobim
Chega De Saudade
Antonio Carlos Jobim
Corcovado
Duke Ellington
Do Nothin’ Till You Hear from Me
Brooks Bowman
East of the Sun
Lennon/McCartney
Eleanor Rigby
Bruno Martin/Bruno Brighetti
Estate
Antonio Carlos Jobim
Felicidade
Waller/Razaf
Honeysuckle Rose
Antonio Carlos Jobim
Insensatez
Jimmy Van Heusen
It Could Happen to You
Neal Hefti
Li’l Darlin
Michael Moore
The Lilter
Duke Ellington
Mood Indigo
Johnny Mandel
The Shadow of Your Smile
Horace Silver
Strollin’
Raye/de Paul
You Don’t Know What Love Is

Building emergencies will be indicated by flashing lights and spoken announcement within the seating area. If the notification is for fire, please exit the building immediately. The tornado safe area in Dalton Center is along the lockers in the brick hallway to your left as you exit to the lobby behind you. In any emergency, walk—do not run—to the nearest exit. Please turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices during the performance. Because of legal issues, any video or audio recording of this performance is forbidden without prior consent from the School of Music. Thank you for your cooperation.
GENE BERTONCINI is one of the pre-eminent jazz guitarists active today. His fluid technique and lyricism have won him international praise and accolades as the “Segovia of jazz.” An eloquent and versatile improviser, Bertoncini has been heard with an extraordinary range of jazz greats, including performances and recordings with Benny Goodman, Buddy Rich, Wayne Shorter, Hubert Laws, Paul Desmond among others, as well as such distinguished singers as Tony Bennett, Lena Horne, Nancy Wilson, Vic Damone, and Eydie Gorme.

The Washington Post proclaimed his solo appearance in New York City the best jazz concert of the year 1999. Bertoncini’s acclaim is hardly confined to this country. His CD Someone to Light Up My Life features his own arrangements of the compositions of the great bossa nova composer Antonio Carlos Jobim, won international raves. Brazilian critic’s and listener’s polls also named him the best acoustic jazz guitarist. Gene Bertoncini has just released a striking new solo CD, Quiet Now on the heels of his highly successful Acoustic Romance, which reached the top ten of the jazz playlists. Jazziz magazine’s March 2004 issue ranked it no. 1 in their list of the top 20 acoustic guitar CDs.

His newer cds: Concerti features Gene with a string quartet and bass; Reunion with Michael Mainieri, Michael Moore, Joe Corsello and Joy with Clay Jenkins and Ike Sturm. A prolific and popular studio musician, Bertoncini honed his professional chops as a member of the Tonight Show band during Johnny Carson’s tenure, and he has worked with composers and arrangers such as Lalo Schifrin and Michael Legrand and has performed with the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra.

In addition to an active performing and recording schedule, Gene teaches at the Eastman School of Music and William Patterson University. A New York City native, he graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 1959 with a degree in architecture. According to the New Yorker magazine, “Bertoncini is an affecting, highly original guitarist that moves easily back and forth between classical and jazz guitar.”

Gene was just nominated as the best jazz guitarist of the year (2009) by the New York Jazz Press Association. On January 20, 2017, Bertoncini received a distinguished award from the University of Notre Dame honoring his achievements in the performing arts. The Rev. Arthur S. Harvey, C.S.C., Award recognizes Gene’s distinguished work as a jazz musician.