



**Michael Nix**

**Offering Three Concert Programs as full concerts or 1 hour programs:**

**I. Banjar: The Art of the Modern 7-String Banjo**

**Michael Nix** performs a concert of solo music for the Banjar, a modern seven-string classical banjo of his own design, which combines elements of the five-string banjo and the classical guitar. The first part of the program "From Bach to Bluegrass" explores influences on and music of the classical banjo in traditional banjo tunings. The second part features Nix's compositions and arrangements in various tunings that express the wealth of texture and timbre of the instrument.

*"Michael Nix takes the listener along on a new voyage with a completely different musical vessel. Listeners will discover a shimmering versatility." --Ritchie Davis, The Recorder*

**II. Classical Guitar and Banjar, a Seven-string Classical Banjo**

**Michael Nix** performs a concert of solo music for the Classical Guitar and the Banjar, a modern seven-string classical banjo of his own design. The first part of the program features Nix's compositions and arrangements in a wealth of musical styles for Classical Guitar. The second part "From Bach to Bluegrass" explores music of the classical banjo

*"Thank you for presenting such a stunning concert..."* Brick Church Series, Old Deerfield, MA

**III. From "Banza" to "Banjar", A Lecture-Concert**

**A history of the banjo and its music from the 1600's to modern times.**

Michael Nix presents a short history of the banjo in America in a lecture-concert, featuring three types of historical banjos and the Banjar, a modern seven-string classical banjo of his own design which combines elements of the five-string banjo and the classical guitar.

*"What an amazing concert. Your repertoire and skill held us enthralled. Thank you for an extraordinary evening."*

–Genevieve Fraser, Village Lyceum Series, First Congregational Parish, Unitarian, Petersham, MA

## Michael Nix Biography

**Michael Nix** performs on Banjar, classical guitar, banjo, lute, and mandolin, throughout the United States and Asia; has recorded for the PBS series "American Experience", several independent documentaries, numerous CD projects; and his compositions are performed internationally. His music has been heard "Weekend Edition", and other NPR programs.

**Michael Nix** plays on the **seven-string Banjar**, an instrument he has designed, which combines elements of the classical five-string banjo and the classical guitar. The Banjar's seven high-tension nylon strings sound somewhat like a cross between the banjo and guitar or lute. Nix combines lyrical expression with an insatiable musical curiosity to forge an **intriguing performance style** incorporating various musical genres and textures drawn from banjo, classical guitar, jazz, blues, and folk. His **repertoire** includes **original compositions, classical, jazz, ragtime, folk music** and pieces from the **classical banjo and classical guitar** canon.

Nix is currently on the New England States Touring Program. He participated in Seegerfest 2014, and other concerts commemorating the life of banjo player Pete Seeger. In 2012 Nix performed at the Surin International Folkore Festival in Thailand.

Nix toured as a member of the Monadnock Classical Guitar Duo, and as a soloist he was on the New Hampshire Touring Program for four years from 1979-1983. From 1977 to 1992 he toured and performed at folk and bluegrass festivals with singer and songwriter Rick Fiske playing 5-string banjo. Throughout the 1980's he was a featured performer for the Connecticut Classical Guitar Society's Andres Segovia outreach program "The Guitar About Town. In 1988, he performed at the Bushnell Hall in Hartford CT, commemorating a 1931 Andres Segovia performance with Madam Emilita Segovia as the honored guest. Nix was member of The Moser/Nix Duo, which formed in 1995, performing music and recording for mandolin and guitar. He founded The NixWorks Ensemble in 1999, a flexible chamber ensemble, to explore multiple creative influences and genre. Nix formed The Pioneer Consort in 2005, with violinist Chris Devine, and cellist Greg Snedeker to play World Chamber Music. He currently performs with Chris Devine as the Devine-Nix Duo.

**Michael Nix's concerts** have been described as "touching" and "transcendent":

*"Michael Nix takes the listener along on a new voyage with a completely different musical vessel. Listeners will discover a shimmering versatility."* --Ritchie Davis, The Recorder

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*"... breathtakingly beautiful to hear."* --Peter Mix, "Acoustic Musician" Magazine

### Booking information:

Fee support for Michael Nix may be available to nonprofit organizations through the New England States Touring (NEST) program of the New England Foundation for the Arts. Visit [www.nefa.org](http://www.nefa.org) for more information.

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### Websites:

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

[www.creativeground.org/profile/nixworks](http://www.creativeground.org/profile/nixworks)



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# Banjar: The Art of the Modern 7-String Banjo Program Repertoire

Michael Nix

## Original compositions:

Wintersong	Michael Nix
Greensleeves Variations	Michael Nix
Barton Cove	Michael Nix
Choro	Michael Nix
Spanish Fandango Variations for classical banjo	Michael Nix

## Guitar inspired instrumentals:

Nao me toquas	Zequina Arbeu
Tico Tico	Zequina Arbeu
Dallas Rag (1927)	Dallas String Band
Summertime	Gershwin
Canarios	Gaspar Sanz
Lord Inchequin/Carolan's Concerto	Turlough O'Carolan, arr. Nix
Prelude from Cello Suite No. 1 (G)	J.S. Bach
Sarabande from Bm Violin Partita	J.S. Bach
Bouree from Em suite	J.S. Bach
Asturias	Isaac Albeniz

## Classical and folk banjo inspired instrumentals:

Precious Memories (1925)	J.B.F. Wright
Zarana (Oriental Quick Step)	Joe Morley

## Songs:

Somewhere Over the Rainbow	Arlen (arr. Nix)
Summertime	Gershwin (arr. Nix)



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# Michael Nix CD Discography

**"Barton Cove"** Michael Nix, solo Banjar

Original compositions, and arrangements of music from many disciplines including: ragtime, Stephen Foster, O'carolan, classical banjo pieces, Beatles, and baroque guitar dances>

**"Preludes, Airs, and Dances"** Michael Nix, solo Classical Guitar,

Original compositions, Spanish classical guitar favorites, dances from Brazil, New England contra dances

**"World View"** The Pioneer Consort, with Michael Nix Banjar, guitar, and mandolin

"World Chamber Music" Original compositions, and arrangements of music from many disciplines including folk music from Brazil and Ireland, classic jazz, Tangos, and colorful arrangements of classics

**"Noel"** Pioneer Consort, with Michael Nix Banjar, guitar, and mandolin. Holiday Season favorites.

**"East & West"** The Moser/Nix Duo,  
Michael Nix Guitar; Charlie Moser, Mandolin.

Russian dances, Irish fiddle tunes, Brazilian Choro, Bartok Rumanian Folk Dances, Rags, and the Third Man Theme.

**Streaming audio and video** on [www.NixWorks.com](http://www.NixWorks.com), [www.PioneerConsort.com](http://www.PioneerConsort.com), [YouTube.com](http://YouTube.com), and [CD Baby.com](http://CD Baby.com)



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# Michael Nix Performance Venues

## Recent Performances

SeegerFest 2014, Bardovan Theater, Poughkeepsie, NY  
Surin International Folklore Festival, Surin, Thailand  
Memorial Hall Museum, Pocumtuck Valley Association, Deerfield, MA  
Newton Rotary Series, Newton, MA  
Belknap Mill Society, Laconia, NH  
The Linda, WAMC's Performing Arts Center, Albany, NY  
First Night Northampton, Northampton, MA  
Pika Radio, Manitou, CO  
Iron Horse Music Hall, Northampton, MA  
WGBY TV 57 Pete Seeger evening, Springfield, MA  
Pioneer Valley Folklore Society, Amherst, MA  
Tuesday Morning Music Club, Springfield, MA  
Banjo Camp North, Charlton, MA  
Franklin County Fair, Greenfield, MA  
Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse, Wendell, MA  
Loring-Greenough House series, Jamaica Plain, MA  
North Quabbin Garlic and Arts Festival, Orange, MA  
Barrington Stage Company, Pittsfield, MA  
Pioneer Valley Symphony, Greenfield, MA

## Concert Series

The Bushnell, Hartford, CT  
Bankside Festival, Shakespeare & Co., Lenox, MA  
Sundays on the Hill Concerts, Weston, VT  
Lely Presbyterian Church, Naples, FL  
Town Hall, Kowloon, Hong Kong  
Phillipine Cultural Center, Manila, Philipines  
St. Lukes Church Concert Series, Fort Meyers, FL  
Old Deerfield Concert Series, Deerfield, MA  
Stratton Summer Series, Swanzey, NH  
Grace Church Music Series, Manchester, NH  
Swanzea Community Concerts, Swanzea, MA  
New Britian Museum of Art, New Britain CT

## Colleges and Schools

Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH  
Keene State College, Keene, NH  
Vermont Academy, Saxton's River, VT  
University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA  
L.A. Valley College, Los Angeles, CA  
Amherst College, Amherst, MA  
New Hampshire College, Manchester, NH  
Central Connecticut State University, CT  
Northfield-Mount Hermon School, Northfield, MA  
Greenfield Community College, Greenfield, MA  
University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT



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# Michael Nix Technical Requirements

Size of Group:1 (Solo Banjar and/or guitar)

Space Requirements: Michael Nix performs a program, which requires space for solo Banjar and/or guitar, seated. At times he will use a small guitar amplifier, or a PA system. A raised stage, platform, or, stage with unobstructed sightlines are preferable.

Set Up and Rehearsal Requirements:

Space: 6' x 6' set up space at minimum.

Technical:

-Sponsor should provide one (1) chair with flat seats and no arms or one adjustable piano bench set at a height of 19" from the floor, or 1 tall stool with seat approx. 29" from floor. In some cases the artist can provide seating.

-If PA is provided:

PA: 1 vocal mic (SM 58 or SM 58 Beta); 1 highest quality instrument mic (SM 57, or AKG 1000s for example).

Reverb

-If NixWorks provides sound reinforcement, one (1) 120 volt 20 amp source at the site will be needed for the sound system. A GROUNDED THREE PRONG SOCKET is required

Lighting:

-General warm to neutral stage lighting, sufficient to read music.

-House up enough for performers to be able to see the audience, with the ability to dim and darken lighting.

Set up time:

-Set up time is 1.5 hours.

-If Sponsor provides PA a sound check of 30 min. will be added to set up time.

-If NixWorks provides sound reinforcement please allow 1.5 hour for set up and warm up time. (Shorter set ups are possible for festival and First Night settings if we can work with your tech people ahead of time.)



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## Michael Nix, NixWorks Technical Requirements, p. 2

### Sale of Recordings

NixWorks would like to offer recordings, books, scores, and other merchandise at the performances. This will require a small table in a suitable public place-lobby or rear of concert hall. NixWorks can provide the table if necessary.

### Dressing Room

- One (1) room or storage area for cases and equipment must be secure while performers are on stage. Dressing room should be within easy access to washroom facilities. Temperature of room should be from 68-72 degrees.

### Lodging (Optional)

-Lodging and breakfast may be provided by sponsor at times. Lodging may be in a hotel/motel, or a room provided by the sponsor, with access to a hot shower.

### Food and Drink

-Two 8 oz. bottles of bottled spring water, and two cups of hot herbal (non caffeinated) tea should be available in the dressing room.

-(Optional) A light sandwich fare (turkey) should be available before the performance, and a meal provided following the performance.

### Tobacco, Drugs, Alcohol

-No smoking tobacco, drugs, or alcohol back stage, or in dressing room in presence of performers before performance, or while performance is in progress. Alcohol may be present at any reception following the performance.



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