

ROGER ALLEN COPE

As classical guitarist Mr. Cope has served as orchestral soloist, concert performer, recitalist, lecturer, recording artist, and college/university instructor since 1978. He is widely regarded for successes as curriculum builder and for motivating young musicians. As musician he has toured throughout the United States, Canada and Spain including Mallorca for both solo and ensemble performances. Writing for the LAKELAND LEDGER, Steve Turner wrote, "Cope is an artist of impressive technical ability...selections convinced me, moved me, came alive! - in particular the pieces by Bach, Villa-Lobos and Albeniz." Ann Ker writing in the STATE JOURNAL-REGISTER (IL) said, "Cope played with a sensitivity that I have never heard on any recording. His phrasing and dynamics were exquisite, and his tone quality absolutely breathtaking...This man can play a musical line!"

Mr. Cope is a graduate of the Florida State University College of Music where his teacher was Bruce Holzman (1950-2023). He has had additional study with Eliot Fisk and numerous master class performances for Christopher Parkening, Oscar Ghiglia (1938-2024), Michael Lorimer and Angel Romero. Further activities include interpretive studies from a broad range of specialists including guitarist and composer Leo Brouwer, mezzosoprano Beverly Wolf (1925-2005) and pianist Paul Badura-Skoda (1927-2019).

He is a Fellow of the NEA Arts Journalism Institute in Classical Music and Opera, Graduate School of Journalism, Columbia University, New York, and co-founder and President Emeritus of the Classical Guitar Society of the Western Carolinas Inc. In 2005 he coached students at the New York Guitar Seminar at Mannes School of Music in NY. For five years he was a staff member of Classical Voice of North Carolina writing over seventy reviews of major regional concerts. He later became Editor of CVNC.org. As freelance writer on the arts he has written scholastic articles and critical reviews for *GuitART*, *Guitar Review*, and *GFA Soundboard*.

As guitarist he has collaborated with modern composers for performance and premiers of new ensemble works for guitar. In 2003 he premiered Paul Elwood's *ALBRECHT DURER 2: MELENCOLIA I* for alto saxophone, guitar, and percussion, during the World Saxophone Congress in Minneapolis, MN with the composer and Jon Gudmunson; then performing it at Brevard College, Brevard, NC in 2004 with Todd Tucker, saxophone, Laura Franklin, percussion. Also at Brevard College he performed on "A Little Now Music," a Contemporary Music Concert, Porter Center for Performing Arts, in works by Mark Applebaum and Lucas Foss.

His discography includes five recordings with Seattle flutist Lise Mann, two for the SONARI label that includes new music by Peter Schickele and Roupén Shakarian, and a disc of holiday music. Cope has premiered new music for guitar by Karen Thomas, David Leonard, Paul Elwood, and Bertil Van Boer. He is in demand for adjudicating International

Classical Guitar Competitions, most recently in Boone and Charlotte, NC, and the Florida Guitar Festival in Tallahassee, FL.

An award winning teacher he was named Outstanding Musician of Henderson County by the Hendersonville Times-New in 1995. He is the only adjunct instructor to win the Graue Extra Mile Award for "positively impacting the lives of students". His major teaching posts include Florida Southern College in Lakeland FL where he created the classical guitar curriculum in 1976, nine years at Blue Ridge Community College and Brevard College in North Carolina, and for California State University beginning in 2009 where he joined jazz guitar legend Jim Scully in developing the region's major guitar curriculum. With the addition of frequent guest artist performances and creation of the regional Guitar Day high school outreach program CSUB soon became the hub of Central Valley guitar activity.

In 2016 Cope relocated back to Florida where he has established Island Classical Guitar, a private teaching and consulting studio at Merritt Island. His guitar students include regional competition winners advancing to undergraduate study at the major U.S. guitar centers. Mr. Cope is in demand as lecturer and adjudicator for guitar competitions. He is Director of CiHR Media at Merritt Island, Florida, the publishing and promotional arm of his studio.