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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Classical Guitarist Peter Fletcher Performs Free Concert at Library

Award-winning classical guitarist Peter Fletcher will present a free concert at the Bay County Public Library on Saturday, February 21, 2015 at 6 p.m. This concert is part of a nationwide tour to promote Fletcher's *Edvard Grieg* CD, released in February 2014 by Centaur Records. Fletcher will perform selections from this CD, an all-Grieg album in which he himself wrote the guitar transcriptions. CDs will be available for purchase at the concert.

Peter Fletcher is a true stand-out in the classical guitar world. In demand as a performer in cultural venues throughout the country, Mr. Fletcher made his New York debut at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall in February 2007, and returned in 2008, 2009 and in 2010 to a completely sold-out house. He will again perform at Carnegie Hall in April 2015.

His performance at the library will also include Bach's *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*, *Courante* from the Third Cello Suite, and *Prelude in C minor and Fugue in G minor*, BWV 999 and 1000. Fletcher will also perform music from Michael Praetorius's *Terpsichore; Prelude No. 1* by Villa-Lobos; a Fandango by Spanish composer Joaquín Rodrigo; and two Catalan folk songs, arranged for guitar by Miguel Llobet. In addition he will perform a very special version of the traditional Shaker Hymn, *Simple Gifts*, transcribed by John and B.J. Sutherland. The last half of this guitar setting modulates down a step to C major. To accommodate this key change, the bass string of the instrument must be tuned down one whole step in performance, producing a sound reminiscent of a country fiddler. The final work on the program will feature Fletcher's transcription of Paganini's dazzling *Caprice no. 24*.

Peter Fletcher began guitar study at the age of seven under classical guitar instructor John Sutherland. In 1980 classical guitarist José Tomas, Andres Segovia's teaching assistant in Spain, held a week long master class in Atlanta. Peter Fletcher was the youngest student to perform in the class, playing music by Bach and Carcassi.

In December 1983, he made his formal debut at the age of fifteen under the auspices of The Brasstown Concert Association in North Carolina. Fletcher furthered his studies in Master Classes with David Leisner, David Russell, Oscar Ghiglia, and Pepe Romero. As a performer in the Christopher Parkening Master Class he was chosen to play in the student recital two consecutive years and, in 1988, the class was broadcast on National Public Radio. In 1990, the Music Teacher's National Association awarded Fletcher a prize at its National Level Competition, performing Mario Castelnuovo *Tedesco's Concerto in D*. In 1995, he received the Master of Music degree from the Eastman School of Music under Nicholas Goluses, and was twice the recipient of an Eastman Graduate Award.

Peter Fletcher's three early recordings, *The Art of Classical Guitar*, *A Peter Fletcher Recital*, and *Federico Mompou: Guitar Works* (Centaur Records), received critical acclaim. In 2007, *Music of Four Centuries* was released featuring music of Jean-Baptiste Besard, Jean- Philippe Rameau, François and Louis

Couperin, Fernando Sor, Francisco Tarrega, Antonio Lauro, Jorge Gomez Crespo, and Alexandre Tansman's entire *Suite 'in modo polonico.'* In 2008, he released *Peter Fletcher Plays Baroque Music for Guitar* on the Tower Hill Records label.

Peter Fletcher believes in carrying on the Segovia tradition of expanding the comparatively small classical guitar repertoire. He plans to do this by transcribing from other instruments (mainly the piano) and also by commissioning new music.

Mr. Fletcher's interests outside of music include reading and cross-country running. He lives in New York City.

The Bay County Public Library is located at 898 West 11<sup>th</sup> Street in Panama City. For more information, please call 522-2100 or visit [nwrls.com](http://nwrls.com) or [peterfletcher.com](http://peterfletcher.com).

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