



Michael Ward, D.M.A.

Dr. Michael Ward is active as an educator, composer, arranger, solo performer, and chamber musician. A National Finalist in the MTNA Collegiate Artist Guitar Competition (2002), his performance activity has taken him across the United States, with notable concerts in Los Angeles, New York, Boston, New Jersey, Florida, Ohio, North Carolina, West Virginia, and at the Embassy of France in Washington, D.C. Ward has studied with some of the finest educators in the profession, including Frank Koonce at Arizona State University (D.M.A.), and guitarists Leo Welch (M.A.) and Elliot Frank (B.M.). He has also performed in many masterclasses for such artists as Jason Vieaux, Julian Gray, and David Leisner. Ward is a former member of *Crossing 32<sup>nd</sup> Street*, an award-winning experimental music ensemble in Phoenix, Arizona (2003-2006). He has also been an active performer with *Classical Revolution D.C.*, the *Ward-Sayle Guitar Duo*, and is presently embarking on a new ensemble project, the *Erudio Quartet*.

Ward has enjoyed an extensive teaching career, having been on the faculty at Paradise Valley Community College, Chandler-Gilbert Community College, and the Herberger College for Kids at Arizona State University. Since 2006, Ward has served as Director of Guitar at South County High School in Lorton, Virginia (Fairfax County Public Schools). There, he has built and maintained a celebrated Guitar program for hundreds of students that provides instruction for beginning, intermediate, and advanced levels. He also serves as Department Chair for Fine and Performing Arts, and has hosted/chaired the Mid-Atlantic Guitar Festival for three years, which offered world-class guitar performances by Andrew York, Ana Vidovic, and Michael Chapdelaine.