

Hart Wells - Bio

Originally from Kings Mountain, NC, William Hart Wells' initial classical guitar studies were under Dr. Douglas James at Appalachian State University. A North Carolina Teaching Fellow scholarship recipient, Wells graduated in 1999 with his Bachelor's in Music Education and began teaching K-5 general music at Granite Falls Elementary School in Granite Falls, NC and directing the guitar program at Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute in Hudson, NC.

In 2004, Wells accepted a teaching position with Loudoun County Public Schools and has since served as the Director of Guitar for Potomac Falls High School (PFHS) in Sterling, VA. With an annual enrollment of approx. 120 guitar students, the program at PFHS continues to be at the forefront of pre-college guitar education. The program has received much acclaim with invitational performances at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts (Washington DC), the Department of Education (Washington DC), the Virginia Music Educator's Association Convention at the famed Homestead Resort (Hot Springs, VA), the Cathedrals of Saint Paul the Apostle and Saint John the Devine (New York City, NY), the Peabody Conservatory (Baltimore, MD), as well as adjudicated performances in Chicago, Philadelphia, and Orlando, among other engagements. Hart Wells' private studio and public school students have gone on to pursue guitar studies with Jason Vieaux at the Cleveland Institute of Music, Dr. Douglas James at Appalachian State University, Julian Gray of Shenandoah Conservatory and Peabody Conservatory, Dr. Robert Trent at Radford University, John Patykula at Virginia Commonwealth University, Dr. Thomas Patterson at the University of Arizona, among others. Wells' private studio and public school students have won top prizes at the Beatty Music Scholarship Competition at the Catholic University of America, the East Carolina University Guitar Festival Competition, the Appalachian State University GuitarFest Competition, the Charlottesville Guitar Festival, and the Aguado Guitar Concerts Competition in Sterling, VA.

In 2013, Wells completed his Master's of Music in Guitar Performance at the Shenandoah Conservatory in Winchester, VA studying under the direction of Dr. Glenn Caluda. Mr. Wells has performed in masterclasses with Oscar Ghiglia, Eduardo Fernandez, Jason Vieaux, Bruce Holzman, Julian Gray, Matteo Mela, Stanley Yates, Raphaella Smits, Andrew Zohn, among others. In 2015, Mr. Wells appeared on a cd produced by Les Productions d'Oz celebrating the solo and ensemble compositions of noted performer, educator, and composer, Miroslav Loncar. Wells recorded the composition entitled "Lullaby with Variations" that he commissioned from the composer in late 2012.

Widely regarded for his work with young musicians, Wells has given presentations on implementing the Loudoun County Public Schools pre-college guitar curriculum to music education and guitar majors at James Madison University (2011) and East Carolina University (2015). The spring of 2015 also saw Wells serve as the guest conductor for the Chesterfield County All-County Guitar Ensemble. For the past three years, Mr. Wells has also served as the guest conductor for the guitar ensemble at the East Carolina University (ECU) Summer Guitar Festival. More information on the ECU Summer Guitar Festival concerts, masterclasses, workshops, and competition can be found on the ECU School of Music website.

Mr. Wells also is an active member of the Guitar Foundation of America, the Virginia Music Educator Association, and serves on the Board of Directors for the Aguado Guitar Concerts of Sterling, VA. Hart resides in Leesburg, VA with his wife, Kelly, their daughter Kennedy, and their dogs, Maggie and Max.