

## **BIOGRAPHY**

### **CHACONNE KLAVERENGA**

International classical guitar champion Chaconne Klaverenga (b. 1992) was named for J.S. Bach's Chaconne BWV 1004, which is one of her favorite pieces to play. She began studying piano at age 2 and guitar at age 6 with her parents, James and Julia Klaverenga, both professional musicians.

She began entering international competitions at age 14 in 2007, landing three first place awards that year: the Society of American Musicians Classical Guitar Competition, Senior Division in Chicago, IL (17 and under); the Rantucci International Classical Guitar Competition, Youth Division in Buffalo, NY (15 and under); and the East Carolina University Classical Guitar Competition, Youth Division in Greenville, NC (14 and under). She performed before the concert and during intermission for the Chicago Symphony's Opening Night concert in Chicago in 2007. "We requested a graduate student, and your teacher said, 'No, I'll send you Chaconne – if she can't perform THEN I'll send you a grad student'" was the comment from the symphony's staff. Chaconne was a featured soloist for the Chicago Classical Guitar Society concert in Evanston, IL and featured soloist for the Tippecanoe Chamber Music Society concert in Lafayette, IN.

In 2008, at age 15, Chaconne continued to compete in older divisions, winning three more international competitions that year: the Appalachian State University International Classical Guitar Competition (ages 15-18) in Boone, NC; Boston Guitarfest Classical Guitar Competition (18 and under) in Boston, MA; East Carolina University Classical Guitar Competition in Greenville, NC (15 – 18); and 2<sup>nd</sup> place at the Columbus State University, Columbus, GA International Guitar Symposium (15 - 18). In 2008 she performed as featured soloist for numerous events including the St. Thomas Aquinas Spring Concert Celebration in Lafayette, IN, the Chicago Classical Guitar Society Holiday Concert in Chicago and the Indiana Classical Guitar Society Holiday Concert in Indianapolis.

In Feb, 2009 Chaconne won the collegiate division (18-24) of Chicago's Society of American Musicians Classical Guitar Competition, making her at age 16 the youngest winner of that division in the competition's history. She was allowed to compete at the collegiate level since she had won the high school division as an 8<sup>th</sup> grader. She has been selected as one of ten international semi-finalists for the Christopher Parkening Classical Guitar Competition, 18 and under division, in Malibu, California and will compete in May. She performed a solo concert for the New York City Classical Guitar Society's Second Sunday Series in March in New York City at the Roger Smith Hotel. Also in March she performed the Allegro Section of the Vivaldi Double Mandolin Concerto in G, transcribed for classical guitar, with JoAnn Falletta and the Buffalo NY Philharmonic Orchestra. This featured Maestro Falletta as her duet partner for NPR Radio's live taping for broadcast of FROM THE TOP. This marked the first time that Maestro Falletta had stepped down from the podium to play with her orchestra.

On March 28, 2010 she will perform a solo concert for the Discovery Series at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana.

Klaverenga is frequently recognized for her challenging performance choices, commanding stage presence and superior execution. Judges, professional musicians and the press have cited her "strong and dynamic playing," "great intensity," "technical clarity," "unlimited potential" and for having "a symphony in her fingers." "She proves that you don't have to be a big man to get ALL the notes out of a guitar," and "outstanding dynamic range!"

Chaconne lives in Lafayette, IN. She studies privately with Denis Azabagic and Anne Waller in Chicago and is homeschooled. She has had master classes or studied privately with Eliot Fisk, Adam Holzman, Lorenzo Micheli, Jason Vieaux, Andrew Zohn, Stephen Robinson, David Tanenbaum, Stanley Yates, Mary Akerman, Paul Reilly, Ana Vidovic and many others.

Klaverenga's concert-quality classical guitars include a 2004 Thomas Humphrey Millennium Thunderbolt and a 2004 Tom Blackshear. She released her first recording entitled Debut in 2007, featuring her favorite selections that she has performed in competition and concert on guitar, and several favorite piano classics. She enjoys teaching piano and classical guitar privately in her parents' music store in Lafayette, great science-fiction (particularly Doctor Who), and keeps busy with numerous concert engagements.