

# Benjamin Riley

**Musician, Educator, Writer**

**Website: [benguitarmusic.com](http://benguitarmusic.com)**

Classical guitarist, musician, writer, and music educator. Performs his unique blend of folk-rock tunes and classical music at cafes, farmers markets, restaurants, churches, and other venues throughout the Hudson Valley and beyond. Teaches private music lessons on a variety of instruments at Rivertown Music and privately. Currently an intern with the College Music Society, focusing on content editing for their academic journal *College Music Symposium*.

## Education

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### **Bachelor of Music in Classical Guitar Performance**

*Nyack College, Nyack, New York 2014-2018*

- Private Teacher: Professor Glenn Sparks
- Graduated Summa Cum Laude (3.96 GPA)
- First Prize winner of Invitational Music Scholarship Competition (2015)
- Recipient of Music Ensemble Achievement Grant (2014)

### **Master Guitar Certificate Program**

*Berklee College of Music, Boston, Massachusetts 2012-2014*

- GPA: 3.96

## Professional Experience:

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- Performs solo and ensemble concerts at cafes, restaurants, farmers markets, churches, and other venues (2012 - present)
- Teaches guitar, bass, mandolin, ukulele, beginner piano, and music theory at Rivertown Music and privately (2017 - present)
- Intern for The College Music Society as Content Editor of their academic journal, *College Music Symposium* (May 2018 - May 2019)
- Writes articles on topics relating to music and education that have been published by *Life Learning Magazine*, *Grey House Publishing*, *Tipping Points magazine*, and *The Fine Print* (2015 - present)
- Presented on music, musicology, and education at the Nyack College Scholars Symposium and the Alternative Education Resource Organization (AERO) Conference (2017)
- Advanced Music Theory Tutor at Nyack College Tutoring Center (September 2017 - May 2018)
- Classical Guitar and Music Theory Blog: <https://classicalguitaranalysis.wordpress.com/>

## Performances:

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- Featured Performer at St. Thomas Concert Series, Nyack NY (October 2018)
- Featured Performer at Nyack College School of Education Graduation, Nyack NY (2015-present)
- Frequent Performer at The OUTSIDE IN, Piermont NY (May 2018-present)

- Frequent Performer at The Art Café, Nyack NY (2015-present)
- Frequent Performer at River Vale Community Church, River Vale NJ (2016-present)
- Frequent Performer at Montvale Evangelical Free Church, Montvale NJ (2017-present)
- Handbell Ensemble and Classical Guitar Performer at the Nyack College Carol and Candlelight Tour (2014-2018)

### **Media & Press:**

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- Nyack College Radio: WNYK (May 2017, February 2019). *Interview and Radio Play.*
- Nyack News and Views: Local Arts Index: Meet Ben Riley  
<http://nyacknewsandviews.com/2015/08/local-arts-index-ben-riley/>

### **Professional Memberships:**

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- Rockland County Music Teachers Guild
- The College Music Society
- Nyack College Honor Society
- Alpha Chi National College Honor Society
- Handbell Musicians of America