

Dear Guitarists,

Thank you for your interest in the Great Lakes Guitar Society Orchestra (GLGSO)! What is a guitar orchestra? It is a group of guitarists each playing one out of 4-5 parts of a piece of music. These are usually divided into three categories: melodies, bass and chords; or high notes, middle notes and lower notes. If you've ever sung in a choir, think soprano, alto, tenor, and bass.

Playing in a guitar orchestra is both easy and difficult, but not in the way you might think. First, the music is generally easy! Each part is usually a collection of simple chords or a singly line melody. The harder part comes from making your melody (part) fit with everyone in your group (section) and then making that fit with the larger group (orchestra). The reward comes when it works, and you hear anywhere from 20-100 guitarists all sounding like one HUGE guitar. AND it sounds as if you were in that huge guitar!

Here are a few examples:

1. [Africa](#) by Toto
2. [La Paloma](#) by Yradier (piece begins at 3:10)
3. [Malaguena](#) by Trad. (piece begins at 11:00)
4. [Spanish Romance](#) by Anon.
5. [Eleanor Rigby](#) by Lennon/McCartney

The goals of this guit-orchestra (or guitar-maggedon) are simple. We will rehearse twice per month (usually the first and third weekends) and perform once each winter and spring. Our first scheduled performance is for the December meeting or our local Guitar League.

Please explore the [Music Folder Link](#) to check out some of the pieces we will be working on. Included are La Paloma, Malaguena, and the Spanish Romance mentioned above. Most of the pieces are a multi-page .pdf file containing a score (all parts together) and then each part in tab. Check out the parts and pick one that feels appropriate for your skill level. There is no need to print everything, simply print the pages of the part you would like to play. And if you can't decide, I'll have parts with me, and we can choose one together. Please also plan to bring a [fold-up music stand](#).

Rehearsals will rotate between the [Liverpool Library Community Rooms](#) and Room 214 of the [Marren Studio Theatre](#) at Le Moyne College with parking at 200 Springfield Rd. ([Lot C](#))

And lastly, feel free to reach out to me with any questions. [This is my preferred email](#), and my cell number is 585-261-3921. It was great to meet so many of you at the last Guitar League meeting and I look forward to working with each of you.

Looking forward,
Ken