

Recognized as one of America's finest classical guitarists, William Kanengiser won First Prize in the 1987 Concert Artists Guild International Competition, as well as top awards in major guitar competitions in Toronto (1981) and Paris (1983). He has recorded four solo CD's for the GSP label, ranging from classical to jazz to Caribbean to Near Eastern styles. In 2005 he released a live concert DVD, "Classical Guitar and Beyond," for Mel Bay Recordings. A member of the Guitar Foundation of America Board of Trustees for many years, he is deeply committed to the GFA mission, and has taught, performed and conducted at numerous GFA conventions and symposia.

He is Associate Professor of Classical Guitar at the USC Thornton School of Music, where he has taught since 1983. His deep interest in biomechanical, medical and psychological concerns of musicians led him to co-found the Thornton Wellness Committee in 2013, and he recently developed a new course entitled "Musician's Health and Wellness." He has served as featured performer and curator of the New York Guitar Marathon, as Artistic Director of the Laguna Beach Music Festival, and has given solo recitals across the U.S., Mexico and Canada, as well as Japan, Australia, China, New Zealand, and throughout Europe.

As a founding member of the Los Angeles Guitar Quartet, Mr. Kanengiser has toured throughout Asia, Europe, and North America and recorded over a dozen CD's. LAGQ was awarded a GRAMMY for Best Classical Crossover Recording in 2004 for "LAGQ's Guitar Heroes." Their most recent CD, "New Renaissance," was released in March 2015. It features Mr. Kanengiser's arrangements of Spanish Renaissance music, created for the stage production "The Ingenious Don Quixote." Premiered by LAGQ with John Cleese (of Monty Python), the show now tours with comedian Phil Proctor of the Firesign Theater, and was released as a live DVD on Mel Bay Recordings.

[April 2017]