

March 2025

**CARNEGIE  
HALL**

**PLAYBILL®**

Presented at Carnegie Hall by  
The Artist

Saturday, March 22, 2025 at 7:30 PM  
Judy and Arthur Zankel Hall

## **Jason Ji: Finger Pickin' Good! with Charles Berthoud, Bernth, and Lucas Tchen**

**Jason Ji**, Acoustic Guitar  
**Charles Berthoud**, Bass Guitar  
**Bernth**, Electric Guitar  
**Lucas Tchen**, Crossover Classical Guitar  
**Stephen Bennett**, Harp Guitar

**Annie McDougall** and **Reed Cullen**, Violins  
**Cedrick McCafferty**, Viola  
**Daniel Chouinard**, Cello and Arrangements  
**Zak King**, Drums

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All string arrangements by Daniel Chouinard.

JASON JI	The Standoff
JASON JI	Fisherman's Dream
JASON JI	The Lonely Clown
HENRY MANCINI	Moon River (arr. Jason Ji)
BUSTER B. JONES	Buster Groovin
TOMMY EMMANUEL	The Hunt (arr. Daniel Chouinard)

**Jason Ji**, Acoustic Guitar

This evening's program is continued on the following pages.

# The Artists



## Jason Ji

Jason Ji is an Australian-Chinese fingerstyle guitarist and composer specializing in acoustic fingerstyle guitar. Ji's narrative-based fingerstyle guitar draws from the Romantic-era tradition of program music, transforming solo guitar into a storytelling experience full of intrigue and surprises. He combines percussive guitar with Travis thumb-picking, building his own band on one acoustic guitar. Originally classically trained, Ji mixes classical techniques with folk, pop, and rock influences—serving up this unique cocktail of sounds tonight on his return to Carnegie Hall.

A graduate of Berklee College of Music (2021) with summa cum laude honors, Ji is a finalist at the 2024 International Finger Style Guitar Championships. He has captivated audiences worldwide with performances at prestigious venues all over the globe such as Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall in New York City, Agganis Arena in Boston, Massachusetts, the Ellington Jazz Club and the Perth Concert Hall in Perth, Australia, as well as being the only person sent from the US to participate in season six of *China's Got Talent*, where he received unanimous four yeses from the judges.

As an endorsed artist of Godin Guitars, LR Baggs, and Mono Cases, he seeks new heights and possibilities in his finger pickin' journey. Stay connected with Ji's musical journey @jasonjimusic.



## Charles Berthoud

British bassist Charles Berthoud is changing the way we think about the bass guitar. As one of the most exciting and versatile new bass players on the world stage, his compositions are both moving and beautiful, showing off a technique that he is helping to bring to the mainstream. Already being recognized as one of the masters of the two-handed tapping technique, he plays the bass like a piano, accompanying himself with multiple parts as well as using contemporary guitar techniques to play astonishingly fast, almost flamenco-like passages. Mastering his

instrument through the years, Berthoud's compositions range from the drama of a film score to the peaceful tranquility of a piano sonata.

Berthoud graduated from Berklee College of Music with highest honors and studied under New England bass impresario Jim Stinnett. There, Berthoud co-authored an instructional book, *Two-Handed Tapping*, with Stinnett during his studies.

Berthoud has performed at prestigious venues in all four corners of the US including the Capitol Center for the Arts, the Palace Theater, and the Agganis Arena in Boston. After touring and recording as a sideman on a dozen records and tours, Berthoud released two solo albums. While *New Age of Solo Bass* introduced his technical skills to the world, his follow-up, *Don't Look Back*, is a compositional tour de force. The songs are beautiful and moving, reminding the listener that there are still new frontiers to be explored in popular music.

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## Bernth

Globally renowned guitarist and YouTube sensation with more than 1.2 million subscribers, Austrian shred virtuoso Bernth has established himself as one of the most influential and innovative guitarists of his generation. His skills have taken him across the globe, where he has played to audiences in Europe, Canada, the US, and South America and even led to him performing with Grammy winners, Tool, in Prague in 2022. In 2025, Bernth co-headlined the *Escape the Internet* European tour with Charles Berthoud and Ola Englund.

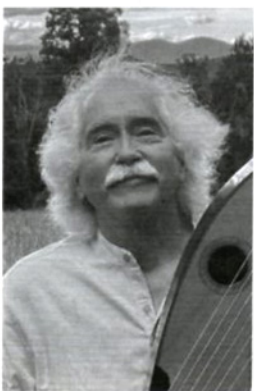


As lead guitarist in the Austrian pop act Seiler and Speer, Bernth also delivers electrifying guitar solos to millions of spectators in Europe's biggest stadiums. His influence extends beyond the stage as Bernth leads the world's largest music account on Patreon, where he teaches his signature guitar techniques to over 40,000 aspiring guitarists. An accomplished musician, Bernth holds two degrees with honors from the esteemed Vienna Music Institute. His academic achievements and professional accolades underscore his dedication to the art of guitar playing and music education.



### **Lucas Tchen**

Lucas Tchen is a French Parisian musician of Chinese descent. Drawing inspiration from his background in classical guitar repertoire and roots in percussive fingerstyle techniques, he bridges both playing approaches and blends musical influences from folk, blues, gypsy swing/jazz manouche, flamenco, and bossa nova styles. Endorsed by Godin Guitars and Martinez Guitars, he graduated from Berklee College of Music with magna cum laude honors with a scholarship and has shared the stage with former CandyRat Records guitarist Andy McKee.



### **Stephen Bennett**

Stephen Bennett has been playing guitar for nearly six decades. He's won awards, including the 2024 International Finger Style Guitar Championship and the 1987 National Flatpicking Guitar Championship, and is the only person to have won both of these awards. He's released more than 30 albums on his own, several in collaboration with others, and appeared on various compilations. Bennett has played a significant role in the renaissance of the harp guitar and is the founder of the annual Harp Guitar Gathering. The 23rd gathering will take

place in November 2025 in Little Rock, Arkansas.

He's performed throughout the US and in many other countries, both as a solo artist and alongside notable guitarists such as Lulu Reinhardt, Andy McKee, and Tommy Emmanuel. The Toronto Fingerstyle Guitar Association once called him the "Jedi Master of Fingerstyle Guitar." While he doesn't fully agree with that title, he admits that sometimes he's not entirely unhappy with his playing either.

Born in Oregon, raised in the Hudson Valley of New York, and a Virginia resident for over 30 years, Bennett moved to Connecticut in 2010. He and his wife Nancy now reside in the beautiful northwest corner of the state, alongside the Housatonic River.

EASTERN  
MEDITERRANEAN  
FOLK SONG

Misirlou

STEPHEN BENNETT

The Black Gunners

STEPHEN BENNETT

Elephant's Dance

**Stephen Bennett**, Harp Guitar

BOB THIELE /  
GEORGE DAVID WEISS

What a Wonderful World

**Stephen Bennett**, Harp Guitar  
**Jason Ji**, Acoustic Guitar