

An artistic illustration of a man with dark hair, wearing a blue turtleneck and a blue jacket, sitting on the ground in a forest. He is playing an acoustic guitar. To his right are two large teddy bears; one is sitting upright and the other is lying down. In the foreground, a small red squirrel is visible. The background features a tree trunk and dense foliage. The entire scene is bathed in a warm, golden-yellow light.

Gregg Nestor

# Sarabande

Premiere recordings of favourite Evergreens  
arranged for guitar





All arrangements by **Gregg Nestor**

Album Produced by **Gregg Nestor**

Album Supervised for Release by **Ford A. Thaxton**

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Engineered and Mixed by **Michael Freeman and Julian Del-Curto**  
at **Denmark Street Studios, London**

A Musical Ventures Production.

Special Thanks to Lynda M. King, Ed and Jessica Bertolio,  
Victoria De Mare and Beth Krakower.

The American guitarist, **Gregg Nestor**, Although on the International scene for a comparatively short time, has built up a strong following in Great Britain and Europe for his abilities as a soloist, accompanist and arranger. Born in San Diego, California, he very early on received encouragement and support from his family and friends, attending and participating in master classes under John Duarte, Michael Lorimer, Alirio Diaz and Pepe Romero.

In 1978, he achieved the dubious distinction of presenting his London debut at the Wigmore Hall the same evening as Maestro Andrés Segovia was playing at the Royal Festival Hall. Nonetheless he was greeted by a large responsive audience and equally enthusiastic reviews in the National Press. Joan Chissell of THE TIMES commented: 'Not often do I deplore lack of space when writing about guitarists. But the young American GREGG NESTOR... struck me as uncommonly communicative, a real artist in timing and shading, in stylish fluency and tact besides wholehearted identification with his composers.

Gregg feels that an important future for the guitar lies in a largely untapped field with chamber or vocal ensemble. Wishing to expand the resources for voice and guitar which remains his first love, and inspired by meeting in 1978 and working with the mezzo-soprano Joy Hyman, Gregg has arranged over 350 songs for this combination.

Gregg was one of 16 finalists (from a field of 2,800 competitors) in the 1981 New York Concert Artists Guild Competition, held in Carnegie Hall, and was a semifinalist in the 1981 International Segovia Competition, held in Leeds Castle, Kent. He has broadcast on BBC radio and on the ITV network with principals of the Royal Ballet.

*The selections chosen, arranged and recorded here for the first time bridge the gap between the miniature world of the classic guitar and evergreens of the popular world of Broadway.*



John Bratton (1867-1947)  
Composed many Broadway shows in the early years of the 20th century., but few of the songs achieved much popularity outside of their context. One

that did, however, is **The Teddy Bears Picnic**, composed in 1907. There are a number of instrumental versions, and Bing Crosby made a recording of it.

In 1884, Edvard Grieg (1843-1907) was asked to contribute a work for the Bi-Centenary of Ludwig Holberg who, though born in Norway like Grieg, is considered the father of modern Danish literature. (It is said that before Holberg settled in Denmark, the Danish language was seldom heard in polite society!) Grieg responded with a Suite of piano pieces "in the old style", which he also arranged for string orchestra. The **Sarabande** remains one of his most popular movements.

Percy Grainger (1882-1961), who was born in Australia, played the guitar although he

was primarily known as a composer and concert pianist. His love of folk music was to some extent kindled by no less a person than Grieg, whom he met in 1906. To commemorate his centenary, two of Grainger's most popular pieces have been chosen by Gregg Nestor from a group of four, entitled *Country Gardens Suite*. The first, **Country Gardens** (1913) is based on an English Morris Dance collected by Cecil Sharp. In an NBC broadcast in



published and you have been afflicted with it ever since." **Shepherd's Hey** (1911) is a setting of another English Morris Dance. It is 'lovingly and reverently dedicated to the memory of Edvard Grieg'. Both pieces have been arranged for two guitars.

Rodgers and Hammerstein's "*The King and I*" Had its first performance in New York in 1951, and its debut in England two years later. Along with "*South Pacific*" and "*Oklahoma*" it has remained a top favorite



musical from this famous partnership. **The March of Siamese Children** occurs in the first act., when Anna is presented to the King's many offspring.

It was in 1945 that Irving Berlin (b. 1888) was approached by Richard Rodgers (b. 1902), who wanted him to compose the music for a stage show that would be a western with a difference. It was to be the story of Annie Oakley, the pistol-packing girl who had shown the early pioneers that she could shoot as well as any man. At first, Berlin was reluctant to take it on, but as he gradually warmed to his task, those nearest to him soon realized that he was turning out hit after hit - and this was before the show had got as far as casting! Such numbers as "*Doin' What Comes Natur'llly*", "*I Got the Sun in the Morning*" and "*There's No Business like Showbusiness*" rolled off his pen. The last named, now





considered as the “National Anthem of The Theater”, was almost left out of the show, because erroneously, Berlin thought that Hammerstein didn’t like it. **Annie Get Your Gun** opened in Broadway in 1946 and was a resounding success. The Herald Tribune summed it up in its headline review: “Bull-eye.”

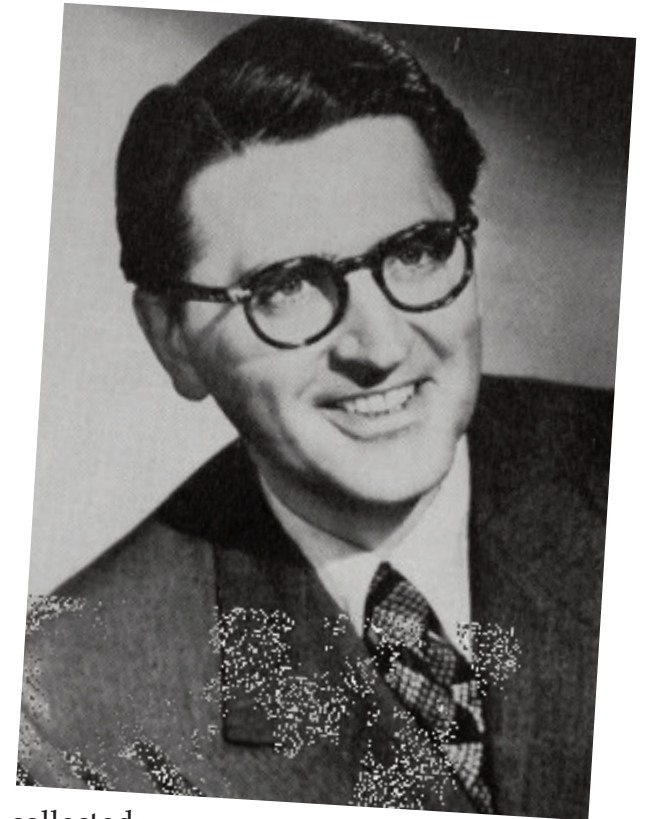
**The Oceana Roll**, a piano rag by Lucien Denni (1886 - 1947) cast in the tradition of Scott Joplin, was composed in 1911, and tells the story of Billy McCoy, “a musical boy on the cruiser ‘Alabama’ . He was there on that “piana” like a fish down in the sea, when he rattled off some harmony.” It was featured in the 1952 M.G.M. picture **TWO WEEKS WITH LOVE**, starring Jane Powell and Ricardo Montalban.

Nacio Herb Brown (1896-1964), one of the

great songwriters of Hollywood, is represented on this album with two numbers, both written in the twenties. **Singin’ In The Rain** and **Make ‘em Laugh** both appeared as separate songs in 1929, but in the M.G.M. film of 1951 called **SINGIN IN THE RAIN** they were featured together. The stars were Gene Kelly, Donald O’Conner and Debbie Reynolds.

The haunting **Send In The Clowns**, originally sung by Glynis Johns, is probably the most popular song from the show **A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC**, first produced on Broadway in 1973. It ran for over six hundred performances. Its composer, Stephen Sondheim (b. 1930), brought to Broadway a new approach to the musical. He has been referred to as “The only non-opera writer of true theater music today.”

**The Music Man**, written and composed by Meredith Willson (1902 - 1984) was first staged in New York in 1957. The story broadly concerns a ‘con man’ (Professor Harold Hill) who, after a promise to organize and train a town band, sells the townsfolk uniforms and instruments, then promptly departs leaving them equipped but untutored. When questioned about teaching the instruments, he evasively explains that he uses the “think’ method. A young librarian, Marian, becomes highly suspicious, but in spite of learning his secret, she falls in love with him. The time has come when, money having been



collected, instruments and uniforms about to be handed out, he usually beats a hasty retreat. But for the very first time he remains, as he has fallen in love - with Marian. Exposed, he is musically vindicated when the young people of the town successfully struggle through Minuet in G using the “think” system, much to everyone’s surprise and delight.

Notes by  
**Anthony Friese-Greene**



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1. **The Teddy Bears Picnic** (John Bratton) (1:48)
2. **Sarabande Op. 40, No. 2** (Edvard Grieg) (4:47)
3. **Country Gardens** (Percy Grainger) (2:24)
4. **Shepherd's Hey** (Percy Grainger) (2:12)
5. **The March Of The Siamese Children** (Rodgers) (3:52)
6. **Suite: Annie Get Your Gun** (Irving Berlin) (6:45)  
*Doin' What Comes Natur'ly • I Got The Sun In The Morning • Moonshine Lullaby  
Who Do You Love, I Hope • They Say It's Wonderful • There's No Business like Showbusiness*
7. **The Oceana Roll** (Lucien Denni) (2:46)
8. **Singin' In The Rain** (Nacio Herb Brown) (2:37)
9. **Make 'Em Laugh** (Nacio Herb Brown) (1:18)
10. **Send In The Clowns** (Stephen Sondheim) (3:22)
11. **Suite: The Music Man** (Meredith Willson) (11:07)

*Seventy-Six Trombones • Goodnight, My Someone • Gary, Indiana  
Marian The Librarian • Till There Was You • Seventy-Six Trombones Reprise*



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