

GRAINGER REIMAGINED

The Percy Grainger Society presents three virtual meetings celebrating how Percy Grainger has influenced music beyond his time

1. Reimagining Grainger through **Arrangement**

Professor Chalon Ragsdale

Thursday, October 26, 2023, 4 pm (Eastern) via Zoom

2. Reimagining Grainger through **Performance**

James Chirillo

Thursday, February 22, 2024, 4 pm (Eastern) via Zoom

3. Reimagining Grainger through **Composition**

Michael Markowski

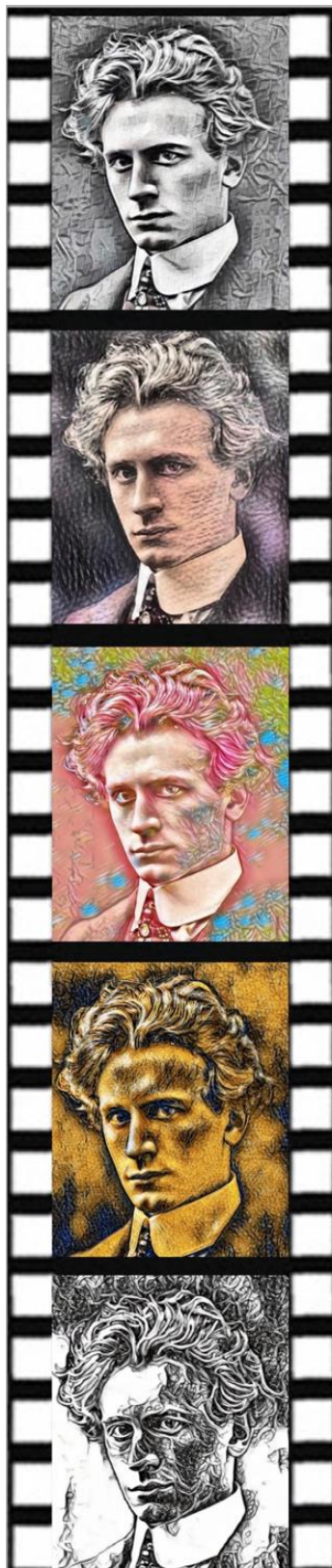
Thursday, May 16, 2024, 4 pm (Eastern) via Zoom

While not a product of any particular school of composition, the ideas that underpinned Grainger's open approach to performing, composing and arranging have continued to influence musicians long after his death. Indeed, many of the approaches that Grainger advocated that were so unusual in the first half of the twentieth century – the infusion of the spirit of democracy in his work, the embracing of amateur and group music-making, the wholesale use of instruments beyond those contained in the standard symphony orchestra, and an openness to learn from music from around the world – have since become central touchstones in the practice of many composers and performers.

Grainger Reimagined explores the ways in which Grainger's outputs as composer, arranger, and performer have been recast in the contemporary moment. Such reimaginings as *Alright Jack*, Home Service's folk rock version of *Lincolnshire Posy*, George Shearing and Mel Tormé's lounge jazz-inflected performance of *Brigg Fair*, and experimental composer Jon Rose's *Perks and Skeleton in the Museum* have all continued to facilitate the crossing of musical borders, enabling and promoting cross-genre music making, and acting as a refreshing alternative to prevailing musical discourses.

Each of the three online presentations in the **Grainger Reimagined** series is given by leading musical practitioners who will explore their individual responses to Grainger's influence in the fields of arrangement, performance, and composition.

Information and registration details for all of the events in the **Grainger Reimagined** series are available via the Percy Grainger Society website at www.percygrainger.org/events.



Reimagining Grainger through **Arrangement**

Chalon Ragsdale

The first session in the series is given by **Chalon Ragsdale**, Professor of Percussion at the University of Arkansas, and owner of Aux Arcs Music. Professor Ragsdale's presentations for the Grainger Museum, the Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic, the Japan Grainger Festival, and for numerous College Band Directors National Association meetings have all carried the title "Percy Grainger: In His Own Words". In this presentation, Professor Ragsdale will use Grainger's words to provide insights and advice on arranging his music, as well as his advice on arranging music in general.



Reimagining Grainger through **Performance**

James Chirillo



Jazz guitarist and composer **James Chirillo** has worked with many of the swing era's greats, including Buck Clayton, Eddie Durham, Eddie Barefield, Earle Warren, Frank Wess, and Joe Wilder. A member of Benny Goodman's last band, he has recorded with Tony Bennett, Joe Lovano, and Cécile McLorin Salvant, and has played on the soundtracks of Woody Allen's *Sweet and Lowdown* and *Everyone Says I Love You*, on Sam Mendes' *Revolutionary Road* and on Martin Scorsese's *The Aviator*. Between 2016 and 2023 he headed the jazz guitar studio at New York's Juilliard School. A charter member of the Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra, he now works with the Jazz At Lincoln Center Orchestra, directed by

Wynton Marsalis. In 1995, he gained a National Endowment for the Arts Jazz Composition Grant for his *Homage Concerto for Clarinet and Jazz Orchestra*, written for clarinetist Ken Peplowski. He also wrote for and conducted cornetist Warren Vaché with the Scottish String Ensemble for the CD *Don't Look Back*, which included his adaptation of Grainger's *Molly On the Shore*. In this presentation James Chirillo will introduce his *Grainger Suite*, commissioned by the US Military Academy Jazz Knights at West Point, and will speak to what was involved in integrating and translating Grainger's *Sussex Mummers' Christmas Carol* and *Hill Song No. 2* to allow for improvisation in a jazz context.

Reimagining Grainger through **Composition**

Michael Markowski

In the final session, composer **Michael Markowski** will explore Grainger's love for folk songs and share how his philosophies have affected his own compositions. In particular, we will take a deep dive into *Desert Sage*, a four-movement suite inspired by field recordings of early American "cowboy songs." Michael Markowski has received commissions from a number of organizations, including the College Band Directors National association, the Consortium for the Advancement of Wind Band Literature, the Lesbian and Gay Band Association, the Durham Medical Orchestra, and the Florida College Music Educators Association. His music has been performed around the world, and by such groups as the United States Air Force bands, the United States Army Band "Pershing's Own", the Phoenix Symphony, the Memphis Symphony, and the Arizona Musicfest Symphony Orchestra.

