

### **Brendan Evans, Winter Term 2006: “Performance Outreach”**

Starting on December 23rd I played my senior recital program, either in full or in part, at twenty different venues. I played in seven states, at churches, homes, schools, assisted living facilities, and a prison. After my junior recital last year I realized that I wanted more mileage out of the music I was learning, and it seemed a little odd to me that I could graduate with a degree in guitar performance having given only a few solo recitals. I needed experience performing for different audience types, and working on my stage presence as well as how I talk about the music to a crowd. Performance is also the best practice, so this was a great way to prepare for my senior recital, which occurred early in the Spring semester.

The grant money I received from the winter term office was spent on food, gas, parking, strings, equipment, and tolls. The tour was very rewarding – I made contacts, learned about PR, played for hundreds of people, exposed people to the classical guitar, grew more and more comfortable on stage, and—perhaps most importantly—got an idea for a nonprofit organization that would pay musicians to play concerts for people in institutions. Nursing homes, schools, assisted living facilities, prisons, all have people in them that do not get nearly enough (if any) exposure to live music played by people who love what they do. I realized on this tour that these people need music more than any paying audience. At every institution I played it was evident that my presence was out of the ordinary, and the way the audiences received the music I was playing was very rewarding, and telling. I will follow up on this idea throughout this spring.

Finally, I also raised nearly \$1,000 for the Pass the Music foundation, a fund dedicated to the rebuilding of the music program in the public school system of Pass Christian, Mississippi, which was completely devastated by hurricane Katrina.