
Michael Lawrence Films

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**An hour documentary celebrating the life and work of
Aaron Shearer – the most influential classic guitar
author and teacher of the 20th Century.**

Featuring Mr. Shearer's former student:

Manuel Barrueco



Also featuring:
David Tanenbaum
David Starobin
Julian Gray
Franco Platino



While a guest at Manuel Barrueco's master guitar class, Aaron Shearer tells his extraordinary life journey. His story is interspersed with exquisite performances and insightful comments by some of the finest guitarists of our time.



Join Aaron Shearer in a front row seat as internationally renowned concert and recording artist Manuel Barrueco instructs talented master class students from around the world. In a private recital for the class, Maestro Barrueco performs Scarlatti, Nazareth and Rodrigo.

“Ultimately it may not be the methods you write but the players that you create after a lifetime of teaching that really defines what you have done. No one has created anywhere near the kind of players that Shearer has.”

David Tanenbaum
Concert/Recording Artist
Guitar Chair, San Francisco Conservatory

A fascinating look inside the world of the classic guitar with electrifying performances of **Bach, Scarlatti, Vivaldi, Cimarosa, Boccherini, Tarroba, Tarrega, Albeniz, Barrios, Villa-Lobos, Rodrigo, Nazareth, Bizet and Brouwer**. The exceptional quality of the sound recording and magnificent photography create a memorable tribute to Aaron Shearer.



“What Mr. Shearer gave me, above everything else, was helping me to learn how to think. Running into him was like running into a wall. Suddenly everything was very rational and explanations were necessary and that in my mind was exactly what I needed.”

Manuel Barrueco

Concert/Recording Artist

Professor of Guitar, Peabody Conservatory



“Shearer had a very profound impact on pedagogy for the guitar. In the 1960s, he began three of the only six active guitar departments in the United States. Today, there are over a thousand.”

David Starobin

Concert/Recording Artist and

Guitar Chair, The Manhattan School of Music

**Filmed at Manuel Barrueco's summer master class
At the Peabody Conservatory of Music where Aaron
Shearer established the first conservatory-level
guitar program in the United States.**



“Aaron Shearer’s work over the last 50 years has truly revolutionized the study, teaching and performance of the classic guitar. The methods, innovations and approaches which he pioneered now affect two-plus generations of guitarists in America and around the world. A brilliant original thinker who changed the guitar world forever.”

Ray Chester

Guitar Chair, Peabody Conservatory of Music

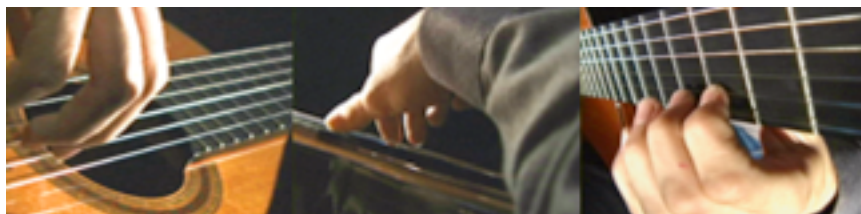
Aaron Shearer’s guitar departments were models for the many hundreds of university-level guitar departments that now cover the nation. In addition to private lessons, he initiated classes in guitar literature, ensemble and pedagogy as well as performance and repertoire classes.

“I well remember one rep class in which he started the class by saying there are people in this room that will change the guitar world — and he was right.”

David Tanenbaum

Concert/Recording Artist

Guitar Chair, San Francisco Conservatory



Aaron Shearer



Born in a log cabin in the Blue Ridge Mountains of the rural Northwest, Aaron Shearer traded three white geese for his first guitar. He was only 11 years old when he first heard Andres Segovia on a neighbor's radio and immediately fell in love with the classic guitar. Frustrated with the lack of information about learning to play the classic guitar, he began a lifelong journey that would lead him to write the most popular classic guitar methods ever written. Aaron Shearer is the most widely recognized and respected classic guitar teacher in America.



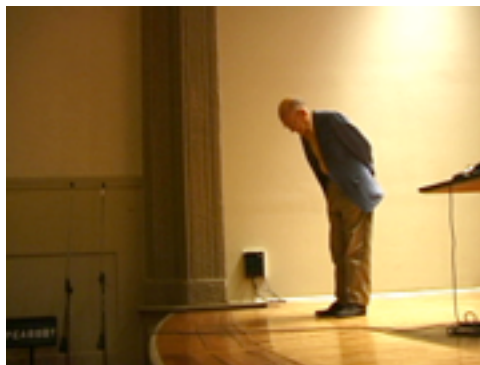
On the suggestion of Andres Segovia, Aaron Shearer moved his family from Seattle, Washington, to Washington, DC, to study with Sophocles Pappas. Dissatisfaction with his first and only teacher was a powerful motivation. Mr. Shearer became determined to invent a sensible approach to learning the guitar. In 1959, Mr. Shearer published his first landmark series of books, Classic Guitar Technique. Within a few years, they were the most widely used classic guitar method books in the world and remain so today.



Aaron Shearer created three of the first college level guitar programs in America — at American University, Catholic University and then at the Peabody Conservatory of Music. Mr. Shearer’s highly successful program at Peabody was a model for the many university and college guitar departments that now span the nation. Since retiring from the North Carolina School of the Arts, Aaron Shearer has been revising his most recent *Learning the Classic Guitar* publications.

Aaron Shearer’s former students include an increasing number of extraordinary performers like Manuel Barrueco, Ricardo Cobo, David Tanenbaum and David Starobin. His former students now chair university and conservatory guitar departments around the world.

Aaron Shearer: A Life With the Guitar is a stimulating exploration of the life and work of one of the most important figures in the history of the classic guitar with comments and performances by some of today’s finest classic guitarists.



Aaron Shearer

A Life With The Guitar

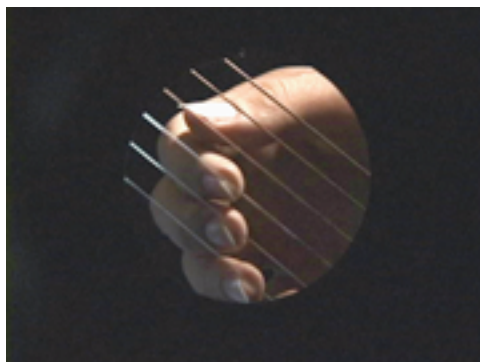
**Produced, Directed and Edited by
Michael R. Lawrence**

Michael Lawrence was a student of Aaron Shearer and a member of the first graduating guitar class at The Peabody Conservatory of Music. On Mr. Shearer's referral, Mr. Lawrence auditioned for Oscar-winning filmmaker Julian Krainin, who was looking for a composer/guitarist for his current production. Michael Lawrence was hired and composed the soundtrack for Mr. Krainin's Emmy-award-winning documentary, The Other Americans.

Intrigued by the filmmaking process, Michael Lawrence began composing music scores for a number of documentaries and eventually began making his own films. He purchased his first 8mm motion picture camera from Mr. Shearer in 1969.

Michael Lawrence soon turned to filmmaking as a profession and later joined into a partnership with Julian Krainin that has lasted for over a dozen years. Mr. Lawrence has produced and directed numerous documentaries for HBO, PBS, CNN and has won dozens of national and international awards for his work.

For thirty years, Mr. Lawrence has wanted to make a film on his former teacher and mentor. That dream has finally been realized in this hour documentary on the extraordinary life and work of Aaron Shearer.



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