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Dear Mr. Gilardino:

It is with great admiration and respect that we write to you. Your brilliant, diverse and legendary career in classical guitar has affected the entire world of classical guitar, which has matured immensely thanks to the work you have done throughout your career.

It is with this in mind that we write to inform you that the Board of Directors of the Guitar Foundation of America has voted to honor you at the 2009 International Convention with the Artistic Achievement Award. This award is part of a newly created "GFA Hall of Fame" which has awards in three categories: the Industry Leadership Award (for entrepreneurs, artisans and businesses that have made significant or visionary contributions to the advancement of the classical guitar and its community), the Distinguished Service Award (for past GFA board members, officers, staff, and others who have served the GFA in outstanding, critical and longstanding fashion), and finally, the most prestigious, the Artistic Achievement Award. This award is reserved for performers, composers, pedagogues, and scholars who have made monumental contributions to the development of the art and life of the classical guitar. The first Artistic Achievement Award was issued in 2008 to Julian Bream, and we can think of no greater person to continue in the tradition of this honor than yourself.

The Hall of Fame has a significant presence on our newly developed website. We would also like to feature your biography and photo in a spread in the Convention program book, as well as in our quarterly publication, *Soundboard*, announcing the honor.

Finally, and most publicly, we would like to honor you at the Awards Ceremony at the 2009 Guitar Foundation of America International Convention in Ithaca, New York. We would be deeply honored if you would be able to attend in person to accept the honor. As our guest, we will pay for your round trip flight and hotel, as well as of course a complimentary registration pass for the convention. The dates of the convention are June 16-21, 2009, with the closing Awards Ceremony being held on June 21.

I look forward to hearing from you, and answering any questions you may have.

Very Best Wishes,

Brian Head, President, Guitar Foundation of America
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