

Byron Paul Tomingas

Director of Music & Science for the Tomingas Foundation

Byron has led a dual career throughout his life. While pursuing a concert career armed with a degree in Classical Guitar Performance from one of the world's top creative colleges CalArts, plus 20 years working as an embedded computer engineer / spokesperson for the world's leading high tech companies, Byron has developed philosophies and skills that have enabled him to cover a great deal of creative ground. And during all of that, he has always taught and lectured worldwide at colleges, corporations, privately, conventions and on PBS. Look for the 2016 interview with Byron on Wyoming Chronicles PBS.

A naturally inquisitive student of science, as a child he built electronic devices, lathes, wired his house for pervasive music coming from every hall and room, modified and fixed amplifiers. His mother often said that Byron never wanted presents, he wanted science kits that he could build something with. His father was a gifted inventor and was often called by many a genius. Byron has always claimed that his skill in computers came from his father's methods in approaching a technical problem. Byron continues "I fully believe that 'talent' comes from problem solving handed down through generations, my Dad's favorite mantra was 'You have to understand the principle of the thing'."

As a "loner" by choice, he had a lot of time to himself and with his dog to pursue thinking and problem solving of technical things. Byron never said a "first word" in fact, having never said anything suddenly when there was a question to be answered he came out with a complete sentence! He explained, "I just didn't have anything to say before that." He also says "I lived in -40 below zero winters in Jackson Hole and those long, dark, very cold winters in a very small town without radio reception there in the mountains and of course no TV or internet, very few stores and they all closed at 5 pm, essentially no information available. What do you do all evening? I Figure Skated each night until I was bone cold and thought a lot, like my Dad, brother and daughter, I have a hyper mind that analyzes everything. Then in my teens I played guitar a lot, I didn't know much but I polished the little I did know and I would solve my technical problems or expand the knowledge I had by trying to make it bigger or different. **Boredom** is tremendous motivator, it pushes you harder than any other source I know, and as you get proficient, it evolves to passion."

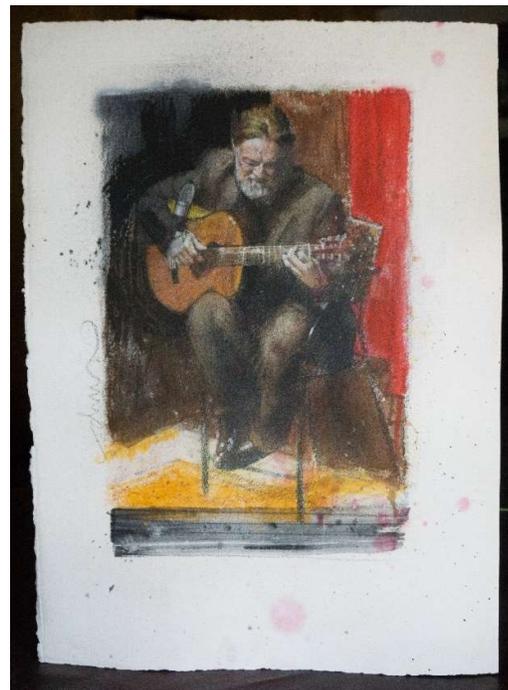
Byron is an avid fan of physics especially as it applies to brain processes. His pursuit of this knowledge is driving by his investigation into creativity for as he says "That creative flow comes from someplace else, because it does not match your moment, mood or energy level, in fact it can be absolutely contrary." This has led him to the Penrose/Hammeroff theory of consciousness but Byron thinks the quantum processes going on at the microtubule level have more to do with creative leaps of thought than consciousness. He believes that Zen meditators, exceptional artists, writers, philosophers and musicians have all learned to quickly connect to that multiplied dimensional resource for inspiration and that's where the brilliant strokes of genius comes from.

Byron has an older brother Henry, they have both led highly industrious lives and accomplished many firsts across the board and achieved a high standard in every pursuit. They both had a single daughter within a year and a half of each other. Their daughters seemed to have also inherited the busy, creative, focused mind syndrome and they too have pushed their endeavors to the max. With a collection of experience, expertise and facilities between the four of them and each loves teaching others how to approach a problem, stay focused and solve it, it was a natural outcome that this family would come together to create an educational foundation to share their success with people from all walks of life.

Byron's teaching skills have been honed over many decades. When he was in High School, he wanted to start a Rock Band, but in that small town, no one else knew how to play bass, rhythm and drums, so Byron taught himself, then showed others how to do it. He would learn each note of each song for each instrument by listening to a record player, hearing the next note he needed, memorize it, then search for it on the instrument. As he says "Long, dark, cold winter boredoms make great task masters".

Byron received a Bachelor's of Music Performance in Classical Guitar from CalArts in 1971 with graduate studies in Sitar (from Ravi Shankar) Electronic Music (from Morton Subotnic, 2001 Space Odyssey fame) and Chamber Music (Cesare Pascarella of the Roth Quartet) and was accepted into classic guitar legend, Segovia's last Master Class in Spain.

Tomingas has performed with Chamber ensembles, Symphonic Orchestras, duo combinations but most often as an instrumental solo performer, on stages, television and radio. There is a video collection on YouTube.com/MusicbyTomingas with performances throughout the years. There is a recent interview with Byron in the home he grew up in on PBS: video.wyomingpbs.org/video/2365752223/

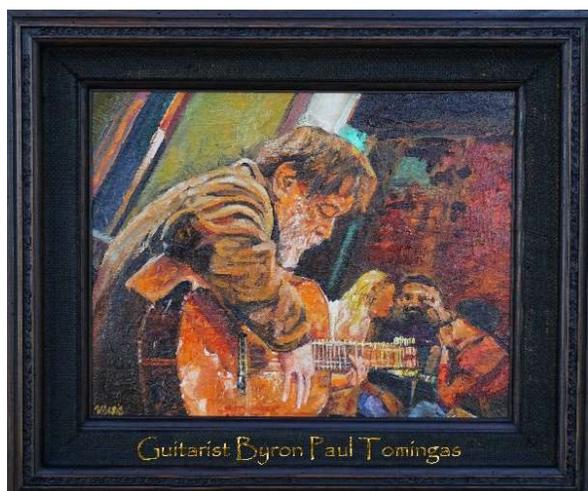
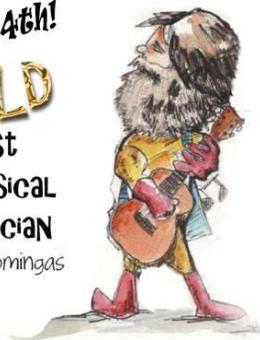


Honorarium: original artwork of Byron playing in concert at a sold out performance at the Center for the Arts by the legendary artist Drew Struzan (Star Wars, Blade Runner, Back to the Future etc.)

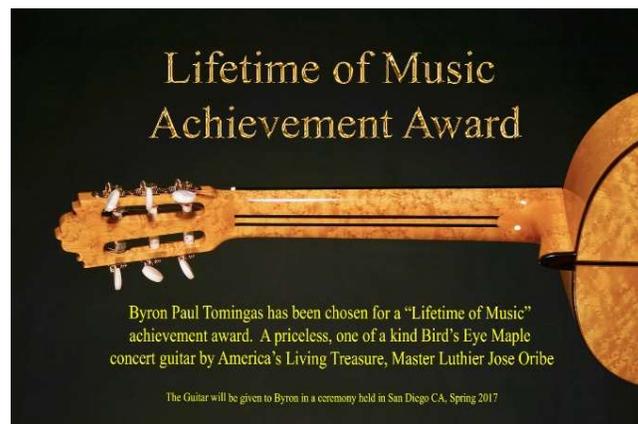
PLANET JACKSON HOLE

Best of Jackson Hole 2018 Readers' Choice

Byron's 4th!
GOLD
 Best
 CLASSICAL
 MUSICIAN
 Byron Tomingas



Honorarium: An oil painting by Volsic playing in the legendary European style café Boheme



"Lifetime Achievement Award in Music" a \$25,000 concert guitar by Master Luthier Oribe, in fact it is his last masterpiece (retired) in Birds Eye Maple, the Golden One and therefore priceless

The Town of Jackson Hole added a video kiosk interview of Byron by Charlie Craighead at the Visitor Center.



The significance about these awards? None can be solicited for, you can't compete for them, you can't sign up for them, you can't pay for them and you can't lobby for them. They are all anonymous donors or popular vote, people find what you do worthy or not. That is the highest compliment!