

## CHRISTOPHER PARKENING BIO

(272 words)

Christopher Parkening is one of the world's preeminent virtuosos of the classical guitar. For over 40 years his concerts and recordings have received the highest worldwide acclaim, and he is recognized as heir to the legacy of the great Spanish guitarist Andrés Segovia. The *Washington Post* proclaimed him as "the leading guitar virtuoso of our day, combining profound musical insight with complete technical mastery of his instrument."

Parkening's performances, recordings and collaborations have included many of the world's greatest artists, orchestras, and composers of our time, and his recordings have received two Grammy® nominations in the category of Best Classical Recording. In July, 2012 Parkening was inducted into the Guitar Foundation of America's "Hall of Fame" and given their "Artistic Achievement Award," presented to "performers who have made monumental contributions to the development of the art and life of the classical guitar."

Currently, Parkening is Distinguished Professor of Music and Chair of the Guitar Department at Pepperdine University in Malibu, California, where the world's preeminent guitar competition, The Parkening International (named in his honor) takes place every three years.

He is also a world class fly-fishing and casting champion who has won the International Gold Cup Tarpon Tournament (the Wimbledon of fly-fishing) held in Islamorada, Florida.

But at the heart of Parkening's dedication to performance, recording, and teaching is a deep commitment to the Christian faith. He comments, "Through the years I have tried to play my guitar for the purpose defined by J.S. Bach, who said, *Soli Deo Gloria*—to God alone the glory."

Christopher Parkening, his wife, Theresa, and their son, Luke, reside in Malibu. For more information, visit [www.parkening.com](http://www.parkening.com).