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Donor Profile: A Tribute to a Teacher

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A TRIBUTE to a TEACHER

The best-known name in classical guitar is Andrés Segovia, the Spanish concertizer and teacher who exposed the wider world to the guitar as a legitimate concert instrument. While classical guitar musicians owe Segovia a great debt, a contemporary of his has had perhaps a more lasting influence: Richard Pick, founder of the classical guitar program at DePaul's School of Music.

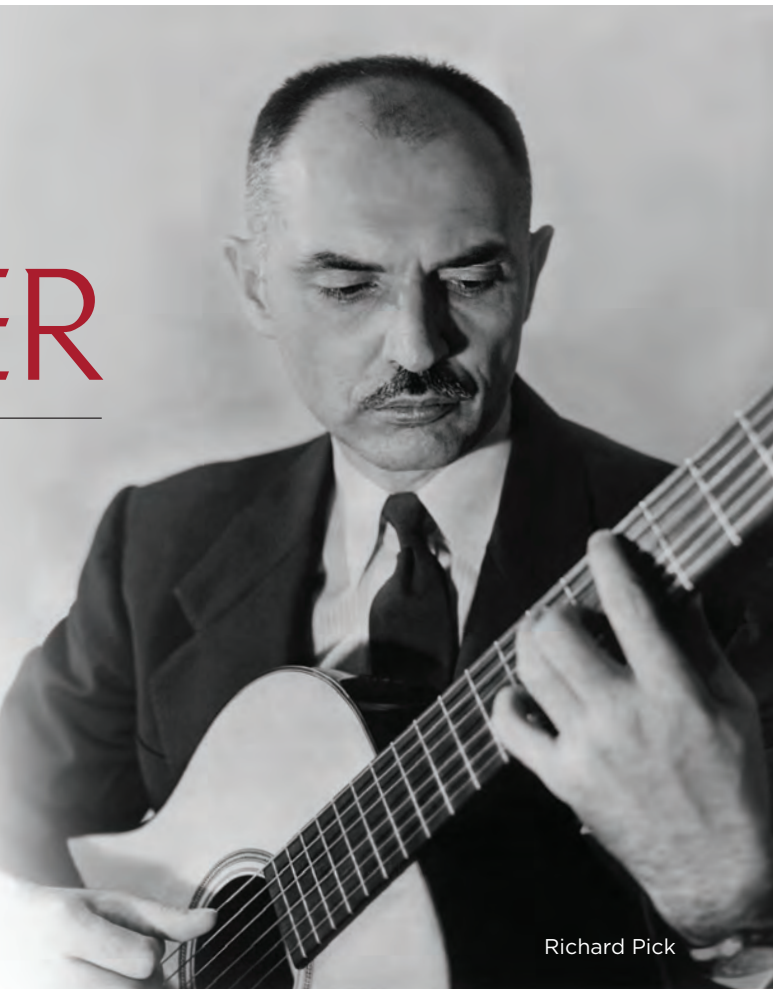
Pick, who was also a composer who produced works for the instrument, published "First Lessons for Classic Guitar" in 1952 and created transcriptions for solo and ensemble guitar, as well as harmony and theory studies. In 1992, he produced the influential "Richard Pick School of Guitar," a tool in pedagogy, practice and performance for both students and teachers of classical guitar that is still in use today.

Chris Mlynarczyk (MUS '78), who studied with Pick privately and at DePaul, remembers him as one of the few individuals in the United States who helped establish classical guitar as a serious music discipline at the college level.

"I have nothing but the best memories of working and studying with Richard Pick," says Mlynarczyk. "He established a comprehensive approach to music theory and how it specifically applies to the guitar fingerboard, and he was very motivational. He really worked on your mindset on how to study the instrument."

When Mlynarczyk was in a position to turn his attention to philanthropic causes, he thought immediately of honoring his former teacher. With the assistance of Ron Caltabiano, dean of the School of Music, he and his wife established the Richard Pick Endowed Scholarship for Classical Guitar. The first scholarship was awarded to Miriam Calderon, a double major in guitar performance and music education, beginning with the 2019–20 academic year.

The scholarship, which is awarded annually and renewable for four years, is designed to give talented first-year students who have already been studying guitar a chance to continue their studies at a



Richard Pick

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—Chris Mlynarczyk (MUS '78)

high level. Now, in the second year of the scholarship, the number of students from all over the world who have auditioned for it has more than doubled. Heightened interest in the scholarship and DePaul's guitar program is exactly what Mlynarczyk hoped for.

"I'm so grateful for what the School of Music provided to me during the four years I was there," he says. "I hope that the guitar department at DePaul will continue to be viewed as a destination for the study of classical guitar."