

# Debbie Burford

Arranger of Leroy Anderson's music for Guitar Quartet

Debbie Burford is an amateur guitarist and pianist whose love of light music began as a child – she remembers listening in wonder to The Syncopated Clock and realising that instrumental music could make you smile.

In 1992 she joined an amateur guitar quartet playing at the newly formed West Sussex Guitar Club in Bognor Regis. She was soon trying her hand at arranging and one of her first pieces was of course The Syncopated Clock. This went down so well that she was encouraged to arrange other Leroy Anderson compositions, always aimed at the intermediate guitarist, with the musical interest split fairly between the parts to make them fun to play.



Debbie has now completed over 100 arrangements for guitar quartet, guitar duo and guitar ensemble and has been known to win trophies at local music festivals where her arrangements have been described as: “inspired, highly imaginative, well-considered and cleverly-constructed with a good sense of what works in guitar ensembles”

Already in her forties when she began arranging music, it has come as somewhat of a surprise to her to receive praise for her arrangements. She is a self-taught guitarist and her main career was designing landscape schemes for major new highways. She is currently secretary of the West Sussex Guitar Club and her other passion apart from music is encouraging wildlife into her garden.

Debbie would like to thank her fellow guitarists in the Gala Quartet for so willingly trying out all her new arrangements and West Sussex Guitar Club which gives guitar players of all ages and abilities a platform to perform.

*Debbie Burford*  
*May 2023*