

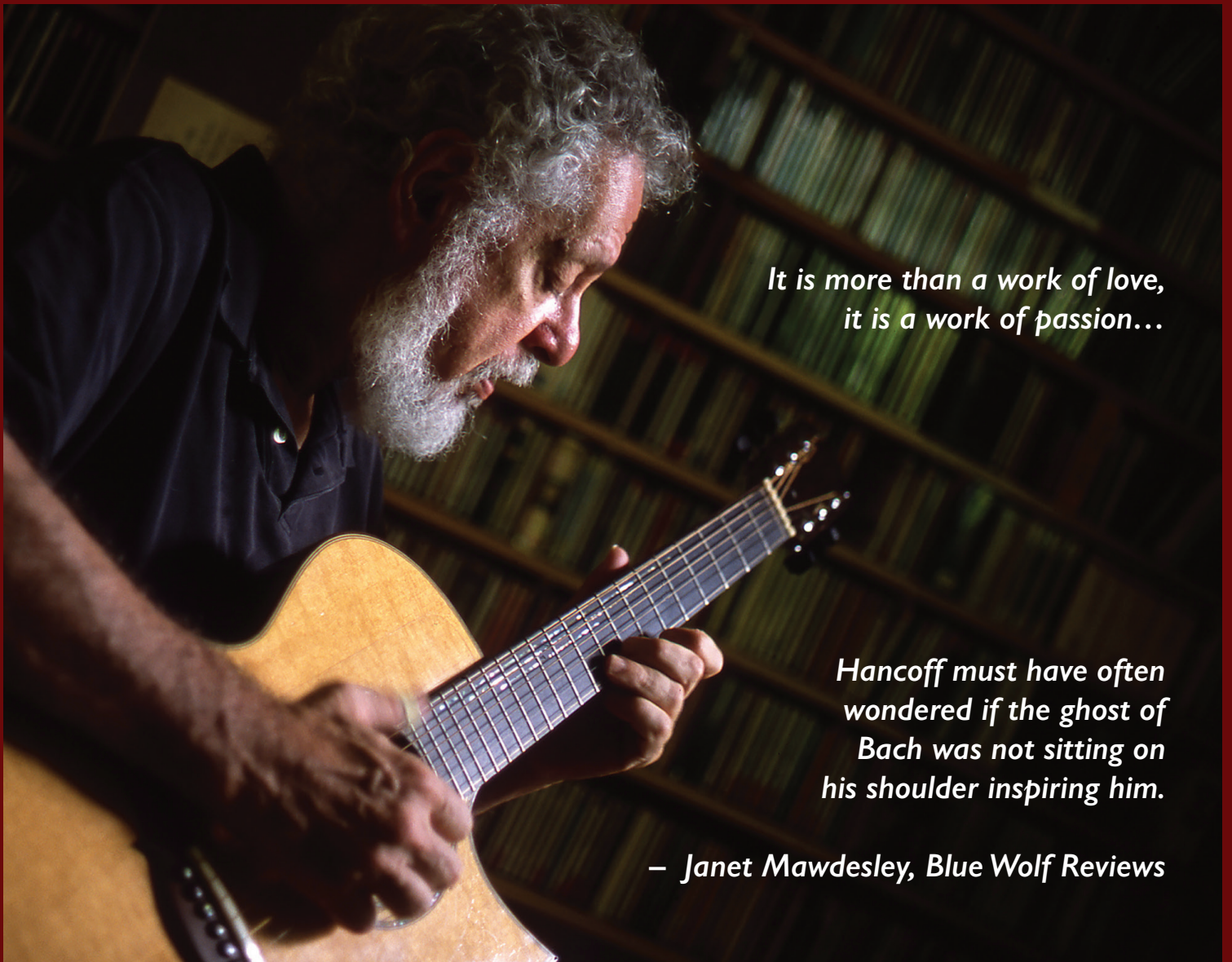
The Life & Legacy of J. S. Bach ...  
A multimedia – music, art, video – telling  
of the pre-eminent and most profoundly  
serendipitous legend of Western culture



# From Tragedy to Transcendence

## Bach, Casals & The Six Suites for Cello Solo

BY STEVEN HANCOFF



*It is more than a work of love,  
it is a work of passion...*

*Hancoff must have often  
wondered if the ghost of  
Bach was not sitting on  
his shoulder inspiring him.*

*– Janet Mawdesley, Blue Wolf Reviews*



Cherie Smith JCC שבוע הספר

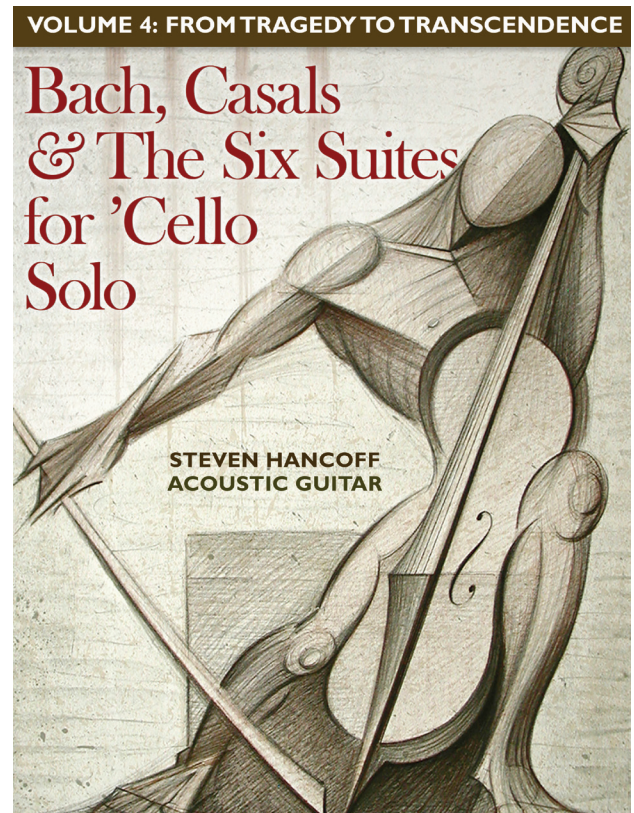
# Jewish Book Festival

[www.jewishbookfestival.ca](http://www.jewishbookfestival.ca)

I would like to warmly recommend the **multimedia presentation** *From Tragedy to Transcendence: Bach, Casals and the Six Suites for Cello Solo* by wonderful guitarist Steven Hancoff.

Steven has transcribed and recorded, for the first time, Bach's *Cello Suites* for acoustic guitar, and created **an amazing inter-disciplinary project** in the process! His book + CD, released on iBooks in June, tells the story of the suites as well as his own explorations and discovery.

The 2015 JCC Jewish Book Festival in Vancouver had the privilege of premiering Steven's presentation within the JCC world, and it turned out to be **a major highlight of our festival. A spellbound audience** took in the multi-layered stimulation of verbal presentation, combined with a **visual feast** that included historical elements as well as purely emotional art choices. To top it all, of course, the **sublime music** of the suites, **achieves a whole new dimension** when transposed for acoustic guitar. The balance of the intellectual and the emotional aspects of the presentation is **exquisite**, information as well as ideas flow naturally and at the end **Steven performed live** the *Prelude* from the first *Suite*. No wonder that he received a **prolonged standing ovation!**



Lithograph by José Maria Subirachs

**This presentation can become a highlight of any literary or performing arts festival and can be part of a cultural series in many an artistic institution.**

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