



NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Emily Everett at 413-545-4482 or emilyeverett@admin.umass.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 5, 2015

- WHAT:** MUNICH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Philippe Entremont, Honorary Conductor
Pepe Romero, Guitar Soloist; The Romeros Guitar Quartet
- WHEN:** Thursday, November 5 at 7:30 p.m.
- WHERE:** Fine Arts Center Concert Hall
University of Massachusetts Amherst
- TICKETS:** Call 1-800-999-UMAS or 545-2511 for tickets or go online to <http://www.fineartscenter.com/>
- IMAGES:** To download images relating to this press release please go online to <https://fac.umass.edu/Online/Pressimages>

Guitar Masters the Romeros Join the Munich Symphony Orchestra for a Program of Spanish and French Music

Joining forces with renowned guitarist Pepe Romero, and the timeless Romeros Quartet, the Munich Symphony Orchestra will perform at the UMass Fine Arts Center Concert Hall on Thursday, November 5 at 7:30 p.m. Conducted by Phillippe Entremont, and with Spain as the locale or inspiration, the concert features Spanish and French music by Rodrigo, Massenet and Bizet. Local hero and arch guitar master Peter Blanchette will offer a pre-concert talk in the lobby starting at 6:30 p.m.

The program opens with Bizet's Excerpts from Carmen Suites No. 1 and No. 2, followed by Rodrigo's infamous Concierto de Aranjuez, featuring Pepe Romero as guitar soloist. The Concierto de Aranjuez was responsible for bringing the composer great acclaim and overnight fame, as it immediately became internationally popular – something that no other guitar concerto has ever achieved. It's popularity remains unsurpassed.

Then the rest of the Romeros join the orchestra for Rodrigo's Concierto andaluz. The Concierto andaluz, was commissioned by Celedonio Romero for the Romeros, and premiered with the San Antonio Symphony on November 18, 1967. And so began a long and intimate friendship and musical collaboration between the composer and the Romeros.

The program closes with Massenet's ballet music from the 1885 opera *Le Cid*. Set in 12th century Spain, *Le Cid's* plot revolves around the famous knight known as "El Cid," who stopped

the advance of the Moors. The ballet occurs in Act 2, on a lovely spring day when townspeople celebrate with a series of dances from the various regions of Spain.

One of the most celebrated and versatile musicians of his generation on any instrument; the Spanish-born guitarist Pepe Romero has enjoyed a varied and illustrious career. Together with his father, the legendary Celedonio Romero, and his brothers Celin and Angel, Pepe established the Romeros Quartet – the “Royal Family of the Guitar” – as the leading guitar ensemble in the world. Known for classical performances of dazzling virtuosity, compelling interpretations, and flawless technique, Pepe is also a passionate advocate of the traditional flamenco of his native Andalusia. He has appeared as featured soloist with the world’s greatest orchestras and ensembles, in collaboration with the most celebrated conductors and composers.

The Romeros were founded by the legendary Celedonio Romero with his sons Celin, Pepe and Angel in 1958. The Quartet went through natural transformations, and today consists of the second (Celin & Pepe) and third generations (Lito & Celino). To have so many virtuosi of the same instrument in one family is unique in the world of musical performance, and in the realm of the classical guitar it is absolutely without precedent. *The New York Times* has said: “Collectively, they are the only classical guitar quartet of real stature in the world today; in fact, they virtually invented the format.”

Acclaimed worldwide for the elegance and virtuosity of his playing, as well as his outstanding interpretive abilities on the podium, the pairing of Philippe Entremont with the Munich Symphony Orchestra proves to be a stunning collaboration. The Orchestra is one of Munich's four symphony orchestras and developed in 1990 out of the former Graunke Symphony Orchestra, which was founded by Kurt Graunke in 1945. Under his direction the orchestra quickly achieved a high standard of perfection, not only winning favor with the general public, but also being held in high esteem among experts and in the media. For more than half a century the orchestra has made a considerable contribution to the cultural life of Munich with an extensive repertoire which includes symphonic concert pieces, performances of opera, light opera, musicals and ballets as well as oratorios and church music. Regular concerts in Bavaria and numerous tours throughout Germany as well as in Europe, Asia and the Americas have firmly established the reputation of the Munich Symphony Orchestra.

Tickets for the Munich Symphony Orchestra are \$50, \$45, \$20; Five College, GCC and 17 & under \$15, \$12, \$10. For tickets call the Box Office at 545-2511, toll-free at 800-999-UMAS, or purchase online at fineartscenter.com. This event is sponsored by Applewood/Loomis Retirement Communities, El Sol Latino. Funded in part by the Vidda Foundation.

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PHOTOS: Hi-res photos are available at www.fineartscenter.com/pressroom

PRESS PASSES: A limited number of press passes are available. Please contact Shawn Farley at 413-545-4159 or sfarley@admin.umass.edu.

Calendar Listing:

UMass Fine Arts Center presents:

MUNICH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Pepe Romero, Guitar Soloist; The Romeros Guitar Quartet

Thursday, November 5 at 7:30 p.m., Fine Arts Center Concert Hall, Chamber Seating

Joining forces with renowned guitarist Pepe Romero and the timeless Romeros Quartet, the acclaimed Munich Symphony Orchestra performs a repertoire of Spanish and French music, including Bizet, Rodrigo and Massenet. Pre-performance talk at 6:30 p.m. in the Concert Hall lobby. For tickets call the Box Office at 545-2511, toll-free at 800-999-UMAS, or purchase online at fineartscenter.com.