¡Guitarra! Series

Adam Cicchillitti

Saturday, November 5, 8 p.m.
About the program

Contrasts is a program that celebrates the richness of the modern guitar repertoire. From the delicate intimacy and lyricism of twentieth century impressionist composers to the complex counterpoint of the baroque greats, and culminating in the powerful exuberance of progressive rock, the concert presents 300 years of music for classical guitar. Carefully curated by Adam Cicchillitti and consisting mainly of original transcriptions and commissions, Contrasts demonstrates the versatility of the guitar as an instrument capable of sublime subtlety, a panoply of colors, and a bridge between classical and popular music.

About the artist

Media accolades have piled up in recent years for Montreal-born guitarist Adam Cicchillitti. Prominent among them, renowned American magazine Classical Guitar called Cicchillitti “a virtuoso at the top of his game.” And CBC Music described him as an “ardent ambassador for classical guitar.”

Cicchillitti has commissioned more two dozen new works since 2019 and recorded three albums with the Analekta record label. His album Focus, dedicated to new Canadian music for two guitars, was named Classical Recording of the Year at the East Coast Music Awards in 2021. Cicchillitti’s album Intimate Impressions was nominated in the same category in 2022.

Cicchillitti regularly collaborates with guitarist Steve Cowan. Cicchillitti and Cowan have performed across Canada with the Prairie Debut and Debut Atlantic touring agencies. In 2022, the duo commissioned and premiered six new concerti for two guitars and the chamber orchestra Thirteen Strings, a project that was financed by the Canada Council for the Arts and the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec. The ensemble was also awarded third prize at the world’s most prestigious international guitar ensemble competition with the Guitar Foundation of America in 2021.

Cicchillitti is only the second guitarist to win the grand prize of the Canimex concerto competition in Sherbrooke, Québec, and has been a finalist and multiple-prize winner in more than a dozen national and international competitions. He regularly collaborates with many of Canada’s most esteemed soloists and orchestras, including flutist Lara Deutsch, baritone Philippe Sly, bandoneon-player Denis Plante, the Orchestre classique de Montréal, and Forestare. Cicchillitti is a specialist in child pedagogy, is the founder of the guitar school at Ottawa Suzuki Strings, and is currently completing a doctorate in music performance at McGill University supported by les Fonds de recherche de Québec. Cicchillitti is sponsored by Augustine Strings and plays a guitar by Sergei de Jonge.
Support ¡Guitarra!

The ¡Guitarra! concert series was created in 2014 to bring the wonderful sound of the classical guitar to as broad an audience as possible. In order to keep ticket prices reasonable and bring top quality performers to Amherst for your enjoyment, the concerts have been underwritten by a local supporter.

As we continue our mission, we are pleased to announce the ¡Guitarra! Classical Guitar Concert Series Endowment Fund.

If you share our passion for the music showcased in this series, we invite you to join us and make a tax-deductible contribution to the fund.

Contributions accepted online at http://www.Fineartscenter.com/GiveGuitarra

For more information contact Anna Robbins, 413-545-3671 or anna.robbins@umass.edu.

This program is made possible by the Fine Arts Center and the ¡Guitarra! Classical Guitar Concert Series Endowment.

Thank you for your attendance this evening. Enjoy the music.

Next up from ¡Guitarra!

William Kanengiser: Diaspora
Saturday, February 25, 8 p.m.
Old Chapel

A founding member of the Grammy-winning Los Angeles Guitar Quartet, William Kanengiser is one of the country’s leading classical guitarist and music educators. He has recorded classical, jazz, Caribbean, and Near Eastern music, created multiple stage productions, and performed worldwide. In his ¡Guitarra! performance, Kanengiser will present a fascinating multicultural program, Diaspora, featuring works for classical guitar from Irish, Armenian, Serbian, Persian, Cuban, and Tibetan composers that reflect the immigrant experience.

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