

Old Dominion University's
F. Ludwig Diehn Concert Series



Brasil Guitar Duo

João Luiz, guitar
Douglas Lora, guitar

Concert: Nov. 7, 8 p.m.
Master Class: Nov. 8, 12:30 p.m.

Wilson G. Chandler Recital Hall
F. Ludwig Diehn Center for the Performing Arts



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Program

Les Cyclopes

J.P. Rameau*
1683–1764

Prelude and Fugue

Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco
1895–1968

Sonata de Los Viajeros

Leo Brouwer
b. 1939

INTERMISSION

Madriñeñas (Suite)

Federico Moreno Torroba
1891–1982

Tirana
Copla
Bolero

Selected pieces

Egberto Gismonti*
b. 1947

Bate-Coxa

Marco Pereira
b. 1950

*arranged by João Luiz



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An endowment established at the Hampton Roads Community Foundation, made possible by a generous gift from F. Ludwig Diehn, funds this program.

Program Notes

Jean Philippe Rameau (1683–1764)

Les Cyclopes (Pièces de clavecin, 1724)

Little is known about Rameau's early years, and it was not until the 1720s that he won fame as a major theorist of music with the publication of his "Treatise on Harmony" (1722). He later became known for his harpsichord works, which circulated throughout Europe.

Rameau was almost 50 before he embarked on the operatic career on which his reputation chiefly rests today. His debut, "Hippolyte et Aricie" (1733), caused a great stir and was fiercely attacked for its revolutionary use of harmony. His reputation in the field of French opera was soon acknowledged, though he was later persecuted as an "establishment" composer by those who favored Italian opera. Rameau's music had gone out of fashion by the end of the 18th century, and it was not until the 20th that serious efforts were made to revive it. Today, he enjoys renewed appreciation with performances and recordings of his music ever more frequent.

Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco (1895–1968)

Prelude and Fugue, No. 7, Op. 119

Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco's "Les Guitares bien tempérées," Op. 199, for two guitars (1962) is a set in four volumes, and its title is a takeoff on J.S. Bach's seminal work, "The Well-Tempered Clavier." The score remained unpublished until several years after his death in 1968, and has since earned favor with the world's concert guitarists. Castelnuovo-Tedesco moves up around the circle of fifths, alternating between the major and minor modes, and the two guitars act as the two hands of a keyboardist.

Leo Brouwer (b. 1939)

Sonata de los Viajeros (2009)

Composer, guitarist and music director, Leo Brouwer was born in Havana and studied composition with Isaac Nicola at The Juilliard School and at The Hartt School. Brouwer has conducted orchestras around the world including the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, the Scottish National Symphony Orchestra, the BBC Concert Orchestra and Mexico's National Symphony Orchestra. His discography comprises over a hundred recordings by such artists as John Williams, Julian Bream, Frans Bruggen and Harry Sparnaay, in venues such as the Toronto Festival, the London Sinfonietta and the Liège festivals. He has served as general manager of the Cuban National Symphony Orchestra for 10 years and has conducted the Córdoba Orchestra in Spain since 1992.

Program Notes

"Sonata de Los Viajeros" ("Sonata of the Travelers") represents an international voyage in four movements. The first journey is to the high Andes: slow and frigid, with chilling harmonics; the second movement travels to the statue of Venus by Praxiteles of Athens, believed to be one of the first life-sized representations of the nude female body. The next movement visits Bach in Leipzig, and the final movement, the Caribbean Sea, takes us back to Brouwer's homeland for a rhythmic and virtuosic finale, which celebrates the music of Cuba.

Egberto Gismonti (b. 1947)

Selected pieces (arr. João Luiz)

Egberto Gismonti is world-renowned as a multi-instrumentalist and composer. He was profoundly influenced by Brazilian master Heitor Villa-Lobos, his works reflecting the musical diversity of Brazil. From the Amazon Indians' batuque to the Carioca samba and choro, through the Northeastern frevo, baião, and forró, Gismonti captures the true essence of the Brazilian soul in a way that is primitive, yet sophisticated, and reflects it through his personal vision, elaborated by years of classic training and literacy in a wealth of musical languages in which jazz plays a significant role.

Marco Pereira (b. 1950)

Bate-Coxa

Brazilian guitarist Marco Pereira began his studies with Isaías Savio and obtained his master's degree at the Sorbonne (thesis on Villa-Lobos' guitar works). He has taught harmony, arranging, composition and improvisation at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro.

Marco has released several solo albums, including *Dança dos Quatro Ventos* (GHA Belgium); *Elegia* (Channel Classics - Netherlands); and *Brasil Musical* (Tom Brasil - Brazil). His pedagogical writings include *Ritmos Brasileiros*, *Cadernos de Harmonia*, and *Brazilian Seven-Stringed Guitar - technique and style*.

Bate-Coxa was adapted for two guitars by the composer, from the original version for solo guitar. The piece is based on a traditional rhythm from the Northeast of Brazil known as "coco."

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Biography

Brasil Guitar Duo

Brasil Guitar Duo, a 2006 winner of the Concert Artists Guild International Competition, and hailed by *Classical Guitar* magazine for its "maturity of musicianship and technical virtuosity," is equally at home on a classical or a world-music series. Its innovative programming features a seamless blend of traditional and Brazilian works, resulting in a full global touring schedule and a growing catalog of critically acclaimed recordings. The Duo has appeared internationally on major concert series and at festivals in Cuba, Germany, England, South Korea, Colombia, Brazil, Austria, Panama, Poland, and Bermuda. Recent and upcoming U.S. engagements include recitals at venues in New York, Austin, Dallas/Fort Worth, Minneapolis/St. Paul, San Antonio, and St. Louis.

Committed to performing new chamber music employing the guitar, the Duo joined cellists Yo-Yo Ma and Carlos Prieto in the October 2014 world premiere of "El arco y la lira," a work for two cellos and two guitars by the esteemed Cuban composer Leo Brouwer. On the same program—a highlight of the sixth annual Festival Leo Brouwer in Havana—the Duo gave the Cuban premiere of Brouwer's "Sonata de Los Viajeros," which they had presented in its U.S. premiere the previous month and recorded for a NAXOS CD of Brouwer's complete works for two guitars.

Eager advocates for both traditional and new concerti for two guitars and orchestra, the Duo premiered Brazilian composer Paulo Bellinati's "Concerto Caboclo" for two guitars and orchestra with the São Paulo Symphony Orchestra in June 2012, under the direction of Giancarlo Guerrero, and gave the work its U.S. premiere in April 2013. In January 2016, the Duo performed Bellinati's concerto with the Sphinx Symphony Orchestra as part of the Sphinx Organization's SphinxCon 2015 in Detroit.

In February 2016, Brasil Guitar Duo traveled to Wilmington, Delaware, to give the historic U.S. premiere performance of Leo Brouwer's "El libro de los signos" for two guitars and orchestra with the Delaware Symphony Orchestra, David Amado conducting. Prior to giving his blessing to the Duo and the Delaware Symphony, Brouwer had denied all performances of this concerto on U.S. soil for political reasons. In addition to the Brouwer concerto, the Duo also joined the Delaware Symphony for a performance of Bellinati's "Concerto Caboclo." The performances of both works were recorded for a 2017 release on the NAXOS label.

The Duo's first CD, in 2007, was *Bom Partido*, a CAG Records release featuring all Brazilian repertoire that prompted Steve Marsh to write in *Classical Guitar*, "The maturity of musicianship and technical virtuosity displayed on this debut

Biography

recording by João Luiz and Douglas Lora is simply outstanding... The original compositions by Douglas Lora comfortably stand alongside the 'big names' on the rest of the programme and are well crafted and very appealing new works." Two critically acclaimed albums on the NAXOS label, released in 2008 and 2009, contain the complete works for two guitars by Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco. The Duo has also won praise for its 2010 collaboration with flutist Marina Piccinini that features all of J.S. Bach's sonatas for flute and harpsichord, as arranged by the Duo for flute and two guitars.

The Duo's most recent album showcases the complete works for two guitars by Leo Brouwer. The album spans a six-decade period, from the composer's days as a student at the Juilliard School to the present day. The album has received critical acclaim both within the guitar community and beyond, as Jed Distler writes for *Classics Today*, "Brasil Guitar Duo offers vivacious, sensitive, clear, carefully balanced, and splendidly engineered performances that are technically impeccable and stylistically right on the money. A most enjoyable and stimulating release, and not just for guitar fans." The album was released in fall 2015 on the NAXOS label.

Brasil Guitar Duo actively strives to expand the repertoire for two guitars, with Lora contributing works of his own and Luiz arranging both classical and Brazilian music. Appearing frequently in diverse non-traditional spaces, the Duo combines a broad repertoire of classical guitar duos (Bach, Sor, Scarlatti, Debussy, etc.) with such traditional Brazilian dance forms as choro, samba, maxixe, and baião.

Duo members João Luiz and Douglas Lora met in São Paulo as teenage guitar students and have been performing together for more than 15 years. The Duo's primary studies were with Henrique Pinto, Fabio Zanon, Paulo Martelli, Sergio Abreu, and Alice Artz. Douglas Lora earned his master's degree from the University of Miami's Frost School of Music as a student of Rene Gonzalez. João Luiz received his master's degree from Mannes College the New School for Music under Michael Newman, and with sponsorship from the Augustine Guitar Scholarship Fund, he is pursuing a doctoral degree at Manhattan School of Music as a student of David Leisner. He is head of the guitar department at the State University of New York at Purchase, and also teaches guitar at New Jersey City University.

www.brasilguitarduo.org

Follow Brasil Guitar Duo at @BrasilGuitarDuo.

Brasil Guitar Duo appears by arrangement with Sciolino Artist Management, www.samnyc.us.

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