



Grammy-winning Guitarist Jason Vieaux is Soloist with Elgin Symphony Performing Concertos by Heitor Villa-Lobos and John Corigliano

Saturday, March 2, 2019 at 7:30pm
Sunday, March 3, 2019 at 2:30pm
Hemmens Cultural Center | 45 Symphony Way | Elgin, IL

Tickets (\$30/\$55/\$75 Adult; \$10 Youth) available at
www.elginsymphony.org/concert/guitar-serenade

“perhaps the most precise and soulful classical guitarist of his generation.” – NPR

[Watch Vieaux perform Duke Ellington's *In a Sentimental Mood*](#)

www.jasonvieaux.com



Photo by Tyler Boye available in high resolution at www.jensenartists.com/jason-vieaux

Elgin, IL – On **Saturday, March 2, 2019 at 7:30pm** and **Sunday, March 3, 2019 at 2:30pm**, Grammy-winning classical guitarist **Jason Vieaux** returns as soloist with the **Elgin Symphony** at the **Hemmens Cultural Center** (45 Symphony Way). On this program entitled “Guitar Serenade,” Vieaux performs two works that evoke music from the past: **Heitor Villa-Lobos’ Concerto for Guitar and Small Orchestra** (1951) and **John Corigliano’s Troubadours (Variations for Guitar and Orchestra)** (1993). Led by **Teddy Abrams**, the evening opens with Smetana’s *The Moldau* and concludes with Tchaikovsky’s *Francesca da Rimini*.

Brazilian composer Heitor Villa-Lobos was self-taught, and he absorbed the music of his country’s indigenous cultures in his youth. His **Concerto for Guitar and Small Orchestra**, written for guitarist Andres Segovia, is a great example of his “melting-pot” imagination, combining the urbane melodies and rhythms of Brazilian street music with dark Amazonian undertones.

Troubadours was written by American composer John Corigliano and uses source material from an original Troubadour melody, *A chantar* by La Comtessa (Beatriz) de Dia (late 12th Century). Vieaux notes, “*Troubadours* was commissioned in 1993 and the story goes that John wasn’t that receptive writing a piece for guitar and orchestra, when approached by guitarist Sharon Isbin. But to Sharon’s credit, she was persistent, and gave him reading material on 13th century troubadours, specifically female troubadours. This sparked his musical imagination and inspired the work.”

“This piece has a dark and cinematic style. John Corigliano also wrote the music for the film *The Red Violin*, and he uses a lot of texture, is very adept at creating a visual landscape with orchestra,” Vieaux observes. “The guitar slowly comes in like a wandering troubadour from a distant place.”

Grammy-winner **Jason Vieaux**, “among the elite of today’s classical guitarists” (*Gramophone*), is the guitarist that goes beyond the classical. NPR describes Vieaux as, “perhaps the most precise and soulful classical guitarist of his generation.” Among his extensive discography is the 2015 Grammy Award winning album for Best Classical Instrumental Solo, *Play*, from which the track “Zapateado” was also chosen as one of NPR’s “50 Favorite Songs of 2014 (So Far)”.

Vieaux has earned a reputation for putting his expressiveness and virtuosity at the service of a remarkably wide range of music, and his schedule of performing, teaching, and recording commitments is distinguished throughout the U.S. and abroad.

Jason Vieaux has performed as concerto soloist with over 100 orchestras, including Cleveland, Toronto, Houston, San Diego, Buffalo, Auckland Philharmonia, and Orchestra of St. Luke’s. Recent highlights include performances at Caramoor Festival as

Artist-in-Residence, Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Philadelphia Chamber Music Society, Curtis Presents, Phillips Collection, National Gallery of Art, Buenos Aires' Teatro Colon, Amsterdam's Concertgebouw, New York's 92Y, and Ravinia Festival.

Recent and upcoming chamber music collaborators include the Escher Quartet; Grammy-winning mezzo-soprano Sasha Cooke; violinists Anne Akiko Meyers, Kristin Lee, and Tessa Lark; acclaimed harpist Yolanda Kondonassis; and accordion/bandoneon virtuoso Julien Labro. Vieaux's passion for new music has fostered premieres of works by Jonathan Leshnoff, Avner Dorman, Jeff Beal, Dan Visconti, David Ludwig, Vivian Fung, José Luis Merlin, and more. Jason recently premiered Visconti's "Living Language" Guitar Concerto with the California Symphony and recorded Leshnoff's Guitar Concerto live with the Nashville Symphony for a release on Naxos Records.

Vieaux's recordings slated for release in 2018 include a new album with the Escher Quartet featuring Boccherini's Guitar Quintet and Aaron Jay Kernis' *100 Greatest Dance Hits* (Azica) and Jeff Beal's "Six Sixteen" Guitar Concerto with the Norrköping Symphony Orchestra (BIS). In addition to his Grammy-winning 2015 solo release *Play*, his previous albums include *Infusion* (Azica) with accordionist/bandoneonist Julien Labro; Ginastera's Guitar Sonata, on *Ginastera: One Hundred* (Oberlin Music) produced by harpist Yolanda Kondonassis; *Together* (Azica), a duo album with Kondonassis; a recording of Astor Piazzolla's music with Julien Labro and A Far Cry Chamber Orchestra; *Bach: Works for Lute, Vol. 1; Images of Metheny*; and *Sevilla: The Music of Isaac Albeniz*. Vieaux was the first classical musician to be featured on NPR's popular "Tiny Desk" series.

In 2012, the Jason Vieaux School of Classical Guitar was launched with ArtistWorks Inc., an unprecedented technological interface that provides one-on-one online study with Vieaux for guitar students around the world. In 2011, he co-founded the guitar department at the Curtis Institute of Music, and in 2015 was invited to inaugurate the guitar program at the Eastern Music Festival. Vieaux has taught at the Cleveland Institute of Music since 1997, heading the guitar department since 2001.

Vieaux is a member of the Advisory Board of the Guitar Foundation of America, and is affiliated with Philadelphia's Astral Artists. His primary teachers were Jeremy Sparks and John Holmquist. In 1992 he was awarded the prestigious GFA International Guitar Competition First Prize, the event's youngest winner ever. He is also honored with a Naumburg Foundation top prize, a Cleveland Institute of Music Alumni Achievement Award, and a Salon di Virtuosi Career Grant. In 1995, Vieaux was an Artistic Ambassador of the U.S. to Southeast Asia.

Jason Vieaux is represented by Jonathan Wentworth Associates, Ltd and plays a 2013 Gernot Wagner guitar with Augustine strings.

For more information, visit www.jasonvieaux.com.

The Elgin Symphony Orchestra (ESO), Andrew Grams, music director, offers programming unmatched for an entertaining, informative and relaxing cultural experience. The ESO has won Illinois Professional Orchestra of the Year a record-setting four times - in 1988, 1999, 2005 and 2016 - and strives to create an enjoyable entertainment experience that goes beyond the magnificent music performed by some of the best musicians in the country.

There is accessible, free parking around Hemmens Cultural Center and valet service available. The concert event often features musicians performing in the lobby, and patrons can purchase unique, music-themed gifts at the Elgin Symphony League Boutique. Pre-concert chats are given by music director Andrew Grams, guest artists and others one hour before most performances. Saturday night patrons are invited after concerts to meet Grams, guest artists and ESO musicians at *Mingle with the Musicians* held at area restaurants.

Music historian Jim Kendros offers free Listeners Club discussions the Wednesday before ESO Classics Series concert weekends at Greenfields of Geneva and the Gail Borden Public Library. Flex passes are available for choosing concerts at a later date, and if a patron can't make a concert, the ESO offers free exchanges to subscribers and to single ticket buyers for a small fee. The ESO is a world-class orchestra presenting quality musical explorations of some of the greatest music ever written, conveniently located in the western IL suburbs. *The ESO - Transforming the Symphony Experience*. More information at www.ElginSymphony.Org.

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