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Harpist Yolanda Kondonassis and Guitarist Jason Vieaux Presented by Mesa Arts Center



Photo by Laura Watilo Blake available in high-res at www.jensenartists.com/yolanda-kondonassis

Thursday, April 11, 2019 at 7:30pm
Mesa Arts Center | 1 E Main Street | Mesa, AZ
Tickets (\$38 / \$46) and information available at www.mesaartscenter.com or 480.644.6500

“conversing with an almost rapturous sense of cohesion” – *Gramophone*

Watch their NPR Tiny Desk Concert: <http://bit.ly/YolandaJasonNPR>

www.yolandaharp.com | www.jasonvieaux.com

Mesa, AZ – On **Thursday, April 11, 2019 at 7:30pm** Grammy-nominated harpist **Yolanda Kondonassis** and Grammy-winning classical guitarist **Jason Vieaux** join forces for a performance presented by **Mesa Arts Center** (1 E Main Street), culminating the 2018-2019 Classical Music Inside Out Series, led by Artistic Director Zuill Bailey.

The program includes selections from their 2015 album, *Together*, (Azica Records) including **Alan Hovhaness’** Sonata for Harp and Guitar, Op. 374 “Spirit of Trees,” **Gary Schocker’s** *Hypnotized* (commissioned by Kondonassis and Vieaux), **Máximo Diego Pujol’s** *Suite mágica*, and **Xavier Montsalvatge’s** Fantasy for Harp and Guitar. In addition, Kondonassis and Vieaux will each perform a solo work: **Carlos Salzedo’s** *Chanson dans la nuit* for harp and **Antônio Carlos Jobim’s** *A Felicidade* (arr. Dyens) for guitar.

Since 2012, Kondonassis and Vieaux have performed together to critical acclaim in cities across the United States. Their **NPR Tiny Desk Concert** was unprecedented in that it was both artists’ second time performing on the series. *The Cleveland Plain Dealer* has praised the duo's as “a joy from top to bottom,” adding that “Kondonassis and Vieaux deserve to be termed magicians for the way they shaped phrases with natural fluidity, grace and, when required, fiery drama.” *The Buffalo News* describes, “Their diverse expressive capabilities and intimate sonorities suggest that they are interchangeable parts of one whole . . . it was difficult to hear where one instrument ends and the other begins - the mystical effect of one great intangible apparent throughout the program: the intuitive synchronicity of Kondonassis and Vieaux.”

In addition to their 2015 album *Together*, Vieaux also recorded Ginastera's Sonata for Guitar for a Ginastera Centennial album, *Ginastera: One Hundred*, co-produced by Kondonassis, released in fall 2016 on Oberlin Music. The album also features performances of Ginastera's music by violinist Gil Shaham, pianist Orli Shaham, and Kondonassis, whose career has been powerfully influenced by Ginastera, and estimates that she has performed his Harp Concerto nearly 200 times.

Yolanda Kondonassis is celebrated as one of the world's premier solo harpists and is widely regarded as today's most recorded classical harpist. With "a range of colour that's breathtaking" (*Gramophone*), she has been hailed as "a brilliant and expressive player" (*Dallas Morning News*), with "a dazzling technique unfailingly governed by impeccable musical judgment" (*Detroit News*). She has appeared around the globe as a concerto soloist and in recital, bringing her unique brand of musicianship and warm artistry to an ever-increasing audience. Also a published author, speaker, professor of harp, and environmental activist, her many passions are woven into a vibrant and multi-faceted career.

The first harpist to receive the Darius Milhaud Prize, Kondonassis is committed to the advancement of contemporary music for the instrument, with recent premieres including works by Bright Sheng, Keith Fitch, and Gary Schocker. Current projects include a Harp Concerto commission with Jennifer Higdon.

With hundreds of thousands of discs and downloads sold worldwide, Kondonassis' extensive discography includes twenty titles and her 2008 release, *Air* (Telarc), was nominated for a Grammy Award. Her latest album, *Ginastera: One Hundred*, celebrates Ginastera's 2016 centennial and was released in October 2016 on Oberlin Music. Her many albums have earned universal critical praise as she continues to be a pioneering force in the harp world, striving to push the boundaries of what listeners expect of the harp.

The recipient of two Solo Recitalists Grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and a 2011 recipient of the Cleveland Arts Prize, Kondonassis has been featured on CNN and PBS as well as Sirius/XM Radio's *Symphony Hall*, NPR's *All Things Considered* and *Tiny Desk Concerts*, *St. Paul Sunday Morning*, and *Performance Today*. In addition to her active solo, chamber music and recording schedule, Kondonassis heads the harp departments at Oberlin Conservatory of Music and The Cleveland Institute of Music, and presents masterclasses around the world. For more information on Yolanda Kondonassis, visit www.YolandaHarp.com.

Grammy-winner **Jason Vieaux**, "among the elite of today's classical guitarists" (*Gramophone*), is the guitarist that goes beyond the classical. His most recent solo album, *Play*, won the 2015 Grammy Award for Best Classical Instrumental Solo.

Jason Vieaux has performed as soloist with over 100 orchestras in the U.S. and abroad. Additional recent and future highlights include performances at Caramoor Festival as Artist-in-Residence, Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Philadelphia Chamber Music Society, the National Gallery of Art, San Francisco's Herbst Theatre, Buenos Aires' Teatro Colon, Amsterdam's Concertgebouw, New York's 92Y, Ravinia Festival, and many other distinguished series. A first-rate chamber musician and programmer, he frequently collaborates with artists such as the Escher Quartet, harpist Yolanda Kondonassis, and accordion/bandoneon virtuoso Julien Labro. His passion for new music has fostered premieres by Jonathan Leshnoff, Avner Dorman, Jeff Beal, Dan Visconti, David Ludwig, Vivian Fung, José Luis Merlin, and more. Vieaux's latest CD release is a performance of Jeff Beal's "Six Sixteen" Guitar Concerto with the Norrköping Symphony Orchestra (BIS). He has upcoming releases on Azica and Naxos, and recent recordings include *Infusion* (Azica) with accordionist/bandoneonist Julien Labro; Ginastera's Guitar Sonata, which is featured on *Ginastera: One Hundred* (Oberlin Music) produced by harpist Yolanda Kondonassis; and *Together* (Azica), a duo album with Kondonassis.

In 2012, the Jason Vieaux School of Classical Guitar was launched with ArtistWorks Inc., an 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. He has received a Naumburg Foundation top prize, a Cleveland Institute of Music Distinguished Alumni Award, GFA International Guitar Competition First Prize, and a Salon di Virtuosi Career Grant. His primary teachers were Jeremy Sparks and John Holmquist. Vieaux was the first classical musician to be featured on NPR's "Tiny Desk" series. Jason Vieaux plays a 2013 Gernot Wagner guitar with Augustine strings. For more information, visit www.jasonvieaux.com.

The **Mesa Arts Center**, owned and operated by the City of Mesa, is a unique, architecturally stunning, international award winning facility located in the heart of downtown Mesa. Arizona's largest arts center is home to four theaters, five art galleries, and 14 art studios. Guests, patrons, and students come to Mesa Arts Center to enjoy the finest live entertainment and performances, world-class visual art exhibitions, and outstanding arts education classes. The facility is an architectural showpiece and a destination for visitors to the Phoenix area. The Mesa Arts Center mission is to inspire people through engaging arts experiences that are diverse, accessible, and relevant.