



Grammy-winning Guitarist Jason Vieaux Makes Bakersfield Symphony Orchestra Debut Performing Rodrigo's *Concierto de Aranjuez*



Photo by Tyler Boye available in high resolution at www.jensenartists.com

Saturday, February 1, 2020 at 7:30pm
Rabobank Theater | 1001 Truxtun Avenue | Bakersfield, CA
Tickets starting at \$20-\$45 available at www.bsonow.org or 661.323.7928

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

Bakersfield, CA – Grammy-winning classical guitarist **Jason Vieaux** makes his debut as soloist with the **Bakersfield Symphony Orchestra** on **Saturday, February 1, 2020 at 7:30pm** in **Rabobank Theater** (1001 Truxtun Avenue). Vieaux will perform **Rodrigo's *Concierto de Aranjuez*** under the direction of **Stilian Kirov**. This program, entitled “The Great Romantics,” also includes Rachmaninoff's powerful Symphony No. 2.

Concierto de Aranjuez was one of Joaquín Rodrigo's first compositions and immediately established him as one of the most significant Spanish composers of the twentieth century. The piece was inspired by the Palacio Real de Aranjuez and Rodrigo described the concerto as capturing “the fragrance of magnolias, the singing of birds, and the gushing of fountains” in the gardens – sensations captured beyond his ability to see.

Of the piece Vieaux says, “So many people are familiar with this wonderful work for guitar and orchestra, and there are many others who may not know it by name but certainly know the second movement tune. That theme has been in movies and commercials, interpreted by jazz musicians like Miles Davis and Chick Corea, and even featured during extended improvisations by Led Zeppelin during their 1977 tour. I've probably performed *Aranjuez* nearly 200 times at this point in my career, but the experience of performing it for a live audience only gets richer and more meaningful for me with each concert season. I look forward to making my debut with the Bakersfield Symphony Orchestra and working with Maestro Kirov in sharing this great music.”

About Jason Vieaux: 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*.

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, 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, Nashville, San Diego, Buffalo, Auckland Philharmonia, and Orchestra of St. Luke's. Recent and upcoming 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, San Francisco's Herbst Theatre, Buenos Aires' Teatro Colon, Amsterdam's Concertgebouw, New York's 92Y, Domaine Forget International Festival, and Carmel Bach Festival, and Ravinia Festival.

He has forged his reputation as a first-rate chamber musician and programmer through performances with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Bard Music Festival, Music@Menlo, San Francisco Performances, Cleveland Chamber Music Society, Strings Music Festival, Grand Teton, and many others. 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, Mark Mancina, 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, released in May 2019 on Naxos.

Vieaux's latest CD release, *Dance* (Azica) with the Escher Quartet, includes works by Boccherini, Castelnuovo-Tedesco, and Aaron Jay Kernis. Later this season, he will release a new solo Bach album on Azica. In addition to his Grammy-winning solo release *Play*, his previous albums include Jeff Beal's "Six Sixteen" Guitar Concerto with the Norrköping Symphony Orchestra (BIS); *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 affiliated with Philadelphia's Astral Artists. 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 Distinguished Alumni Award, and a Salon di Virtuosi Career Grant. In 1995, Vieaux was an Artistic Ambassador of the U.S. to Southeast Asia. His primary teachers were Jeremy Sparks and John Holmquist.

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.

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