



Grammy-winning Guitarist Jason Vieaux is soloist with New Mexico Philharmonic Performing Concertos by Jonathan Leshnoff and Vivaldi



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

Saturday, January 25, 2020 at 6:00pm
Popejoy Hall | 203 Cornell Dr. NE | Albuquerque, NM
Tickets starting at \$35 available at www.nmphil.org or 505.925.5858

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

Albuquerque, NM – Grammy-winning classical guitarist **Jason Vieaux** returns as soloist with the New Mexico Philharmonic on **Saturday, January 25, 2020 at 6pm** in **Popejoy Hall** (203 Cornell Dr. NE). Vieaux will perform **Vivaldi**’s Concerto in D Major, RV 93 and **Jonathan Leshnoff**’s Guitar Concerto on a program entitled “**Mozart and Beyond**” under the direction of **Roberto Minczuk**. The program opens with Mozart’s overture to *The Marriage of Figaro* and concludes with Mozart’s Symphonies No. 25 and No. 35. The performance is preceded by a pre-concert talk at 5pm by KHFH’s Brent Stevens.

For the center of the program, Vieaux presents Vivaldi’s Concerto in D Major, RV 93, originally written for lute in the 1730s. Taking a leap into the 21st century, Vieaux reprises Jonathan Leshnoff’s Guitar Concerto, which was premiered in January 2014 by the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra with guitarist Manuel Barrueco.

Vieaux performed and recorded Leshnoff’s Concerto live with the Nashville Symphony and conductor Giancarlo Guerrero in 2018 for a May 2019 release on Naxos Records. The album received a 2020 Grammy nomination for Best Classical Compendium. *Classical Voice America* asserts, “The Guitar Concerto (2013)... is an attractive piece with lively interplay between the guitar and the wind section and a particularly vivacious final movement... Jason Vieaux, the acoustic guitar soloist, plays brilliantly.” *Classical Guitar Magazine* also raves that Vieaux “provides the virtuosity and sensitivity required for this wonderful new addition to the burgeoning pantheon of guitar concertos taking the instrument forward into truly glorious pastures.”

Of the piece, Vieaux says, “I am very pleased to have encountered this piece of music. It is quite beautiful, and I am confident that this will be a major addition to the guitar concerto repertoire.” Leshnoff echoes, “I am thrilled to have such a fine artist as Jason Vieaux sharing my dear Guitar Concerto with the Nashville community. This is a work that I put a lot of my soul into, and I know Jason has the technique and musicality to pull it off beautifully.”

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.

About the New Mexico Philharmonic: Founded in 1932, the New Mexico Philharmonic has consistently been one of the most innovative symphony orchestras in the country, starting with the appointment of Grace Thompson Edminster as the first woman to conduct an ensemble of this sort in the country. Since its inception, it has been described as a “top rate” symphony orchestra, rebranding itself as the New Mexico Philharmonic and recommencing its operations in the 2011-12 season. Since that time, Albuquerque Mayor Richard J. Berry stated, “I cannot imagine Albuquerque, a city that strongly supports the arts, without a top-rate orchestra. For nearly eight decades, Albuquerque's residents and visitors have enjoyed live classical music and I am pleased to learn of the formation of the New Mexico Philharmonic that will keep that tradition going. We support them in creating a new and exciting option for music lovers and look forward to their great success.”