

Contemporary Music, Guildford, The Leeds College of Music, The London College of Contemporary Music, the Academy of Popular Culture, Leeuwarden, Holland, The Rotterdam Conservatorium, The Utrecht Conservatorium and The Universtate d’Roma.

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Notes from Francesco Buzzurro’s latest release, *L’Esploratore*

When, as an explorer, I started this new artistic voyage, I was utterly confident that it would bring my classical guitar and me to those places where music underlines the living rhythms of a broad range of people, expressing their distinct cultural lives, day by day. It is a matter of intense curiosity for me. I’ve always been interested in the diversity of musical forms that contain pure ethnic elements, often influenced by jazz or Afro-American music. I am convinced that the true essence of contemporary music can be found in the music of the people from which it derives its forms, rhythms and harmonies.

I wanted to record pieces that I am deeply linked to because of my experiences with my own intensely personal folk music. This connection is like the air I breath and the wine I drink and the family around me. It is the key to why I am the musician that I am. Recording *Libertango*, *Hava Nagila*, *Yi Dance* (an ancient Chinese tune, written for their *lute*) and others has given me the opportunity to think about the fundamental, perhaps therapeutic task of music to provoke our true feelings. Music must be kept far away from man’s selfish manipulation, and only provoke emotions, never tempting its listeners to follow ideology or trade.

Making music is a source of pure joy for me. I am an omnivorous devourer of any piece of music that excites my explorer nature. I am convinced that music is a powerful way to connect people, too often divided by the immense range of disputes that we all face everyday, and this kind of power is very evident for example when music suggests a way to dance together on a melody, new to all of us. It’s the mystery of music. This work is like the metaphor of a global embrace; it symbolically represents stories of life, races, sounds and colours interweaving themselves and confirming that the language of music doesn’t need any translation and knows no borders.

— *Francesco Buzzurro*

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110th Season, 81st program



SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND DANCE

Beall Concert Hall
8:00 p.m.

Friday evening
April 2, 2010

THE GUEST ARTIST SERIES

presents

TWO GUITARS, TWO WORLDS:
An Evening of International Guitar

featuring

Francesco Buzzurro

with special guest

Richard Smith



UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

PROGRAM

To be selected from the following:

Amazing Grace	John Newton
Beyond the Mountains	Richard Smith
Bahia Do Sol	Francesco Buzzurro
Blue Ch Cha	Francesco Buzzurro
Cielito Lindo	Quirino Mendoza y Cortez
Dance of the Yi People	Wang Hui-Ran
First Kiss	Richard Smith
Human Nature	Michael Jackson
Isn't She Lovely	Stevie Wonder
L.A. Chillharmonic	Richard Smith
Libertango	Astor Piazzolla
Mercy, Mercy	Joseph Zawinul
Spain	Chick Corea
Mi Votu e mi Rivotu	Traditional
Tico Tico	Zequinha Abreu

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PROGRAM NOTES

Sicilians are the most conquered people in the world. In 4000 BC, Proto-Sicilians invented the wheel, they were conquered by the Sicels of Italy, then the Asian Elymians, soon after that, the Greeks (1100 BC), followed by the Carthaginians, Romans, Vandals, Goths, Byzantines, Arabs, Vikings, Normans, Crusaders, the Plague, the Spanish, the Italians, Germans and Allied forces of World War II. The Sicilians are a culture of deep diversity and cultural flexibility. The imposition of ancient cultures was absorbed and is now reflected in the food, dance, art and the music of the region. In a way, this echoes esthetically, the current revolution going on in communication and information, where access to a diversity of ideas is becoming the norm in global discourse and creativity. The influences that were absorbed and integrated over thousands of years in one context, are now applied between flights on a laptop in an airport and find their way to the pop charts. Francesco Buzzurro of Sicily and Richard Smith of Los Angeles indulge in some of these concepts in real-time. Tonight's performance will include jazz, classical, tarantella, tango, samba, flamenco, cha-cha, rhythm and blues and more, in solo and duet settings.

ABOUT TONIGHT'S ARTISTS

Francesco Buzzurro is considered a top virtuoso of classical and multi-cultural guitar in Europe, while **Richard Smith** is an award-winning contemporary jazz studio guitarist, recording artist and professor at The USC Thornton School of Music. Together they have toured the United States, Italy, Greece and Crete over the last 6 years, and were awarded the Sicilian Presidential Medallion for their 2008 concert and master class tour there. Now Smith has brought Buzzurro to the U.S. for a West Coast concert and guitar clinic tour, promoting Buzzurro's latest release, *L'Esploratore*. As educators, Buzzurro and Smith strive to find the connections between classical, jazz and popular music styles, and teach this important inclusive style in their classes. Just as the music world is diversifying, the world of teaching and learning must expand with it. Buzzurro is an award-winning classical clinician and teacher, while Smith coaches his students to work in the industry—his recent USC students are working with Michael Buble, Mylie Cyrus, Christina Aguilera, Snoop Dog, American Idol, The Manhattan Transfer, Franky Vally, Alcatraz and The L.A. Philharmonic.

Born in Taormina in 1969, **Francesco Buzzurro** started to play guitar at the age of 6. He graduated from the Conservatory of Trapani following the lessons of Stefano Palamidessi and took part in master classes of David Russell, Hopkinson Smith, John Duarte and Alberto Ponce at the The International Arts Academy in Rome. As a classical guitarist, he won three national competitions in Savona, Alassio and Caccamo in Sicily. Buzzurro's passion for classical music is also strongly linked to a deep activity of research in the field of jazz. He has developed on his own a technique on the nylon-string guitar, mixing the elements of bossa-nova, flamenco and latin music. He is a member of the Sicilian Jazz Orchestra and the Contemporary Music Orchestra in Palermo, and has played with Toots Thielemans, Arturo Sandoval, Diane Schurr, Bob Mintzer, Joe Bowie, Frank Foster, Bill Russo, Mickey Howard and many others.

Richard Smith is a full professor and former chair of the studio/jazz guitar department at the renowned Thornton School of Music at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, and is a Distinguished Alumnus of the University of Oregon School of Music and Dance. His 10 solo recordings have established him as a veteran of the contemporary jazz world in the United States. His albums have garnished praise such as "Best Contemporary Jazz Guitar Album" Tune Up Magazine, a nomination for "Record of the Year", Ad Lib Magazine, Tokyo, and "Best New Artist", Radio & Records Magazine. 2004's 'SOULIDIFIED' spent 17 weeks in the top 10 for radio airplay of American contemporary jazz radio, and 3 weeks at number 1 for satellite and cable airplay. His latest recording, *L.A. Chillharmonic*, features Vinnie Colaiuta, Jeff Lorber, Alex Acuna, Eric Marienthal, Greg Adams, and members of the Tower of Power horn section. The touring ensemble won a nomination for best International group of the year from the Canadian Smooth Jazz Awards. Smith has performed masterclasses at the Institute for Contemporary Music Performance, London, The Academy of

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word should
just be "To-
night's"