

## ABOUT TONIGHT'S ARTISTS

**Francesco Buzzurro** is considered a top virtuoso of classical and multi-cultural guitar in Europe, and has been decorated by many achievements. He started to play guitar at the age of 6, and classical guitar at the age of eight. 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 International Arts Academy in Rome. As a classical guitarist, he has won three national competitions and has performed in a multitude of international venues. Throughout his classical studies, Buzzurro continued his interests in jazz and folk styles as well. The accumulation of these interests have now combined to create a musician who's skill allows him to masterfully play in styles not typically associated with one another—a truly unique gift for one to have. 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. With 10 solo releases to his name, Smith has established himself as a veteran of the contemporary jazz world. Collecting accolades such as "Best New Artist and Album of the Year" with his solo debut, Inglewood, his career skyrocketed while simultaneously holding down guitar responsibilities for another smooth jazz icon, Richard Elliott, with whom Richard recorded six #1 albums for the Blue Note label, over ten years. His albums since then have garnered praise including "Best Contemporary Jazz Guitar Album" Tune Up Magazine, and a nomination for "Record of the Year", Ad Lib Magazine, Tokyo. 2004's SOULIDIFIED spent seventeen weeks in the top 10 for radio airplay of American contemporary jazz radio. Before the age of 30, Smith chaired the one and only department of its kind, Studio/Jazz Guitar at the prestigious University of Southern California. Smith has performed master classes at: the Institute for Contemporary Music Performance, London; The Academy of 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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112th Season, 3rd program



## SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND DANCE

Beall Concert Hall  
8:00 p.m.

Friday evening  
October 14, 2011

## THE GUEST ARTIST SERIES

presents

# UN MONDO, DUE CHITARRE: One World, Two Guitars

featuring

***Francesco Buzzurro***

and Distinguished Alumnus

***Richard Smith***

*This concert sponsored in part by the School of Music and Dance  
Office of the Dean and Office of Development*



UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

PROGRAM

To be selected from the following:

<b>Paisaje</b>	Francesco Buzzurro
<b>Cantaloupe Island</b>	Herbie Hancock
<b>Phase Dance</b>	Francesco Buzzurro
<b>Beyond The Mountains</b>	Richard Smith
<b>L'Ottavo Nano</b>	Francesco Buzzurro
<b>Libertango</b>	Astor Piazzolla
<b>The Great North</b>	Richard Smith
<b>SOuLIDIFIED</b>	Richard Smith
<b>Sing A Song</b>	Maurice White
<b>Pinball Wizard</b>	Pete Townshend
<b>Song For Django</b>	Francesco Buzzurro

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PROGRAM NOTES

Chart topping jazz guitarist **Richard Smith** and internationally awarded, classical guitarist **Francesco Buzzurro** are pleased to return to Beall Concert Hall as part of their first West Coast tour to support their new recording, *Un Mondo, Due Chitarre (One World, Two Guitars)*.

Since their initial meeting in 2005, the two have strived to create a presentation that combines their unique musical backgrounds into an anthology of tunes enjoyable and appreciated by the masses. *Un Mondo, Due Chitarre* takes its audience on a musical journey outside each respective player's genres to explore new dimensions in the sound of two guitars. The opening piece on their CD, an original composition from Buzzurro, *Paisaje* sets the tone as the music weaves through arrangements of Chick Corea's *Spain*, Stevie Wonder's *Isn't She Lovely*, Herbie Hancock's *Cantaloupe Island* and ends in a finale of The Who's *Pinball Wizard*.

On the surface, the two seem like an unlikely pair. If you delve further, within each musician, there is a very deep love for not only the guitar, but for the music. Smith is an American born guitarist, best known for his numerous chart topping hits and achievements. He also chaired the first ever Studio/Jazz department of its kind at the University of Southern California. He now teaches in USC's Popular Music Program. Sicilian born Buzzurro is best recognized as an award winning classical guitarist. He is one of the world's foremost authorities on Sicilian folk music. His knowledge is so commanding that he is recognized by the Italian government as one of the Ministers of Culture.

Of Buzzurro, Smith says "He plays everything, from Queen to Bach and you have to hear him play tarantella—it's simply amazing." Tarantella is traditional Italian folk music familiar to Americans as the music they hear in Italian restaurants and The Godfather movies.

As to the selection process of tracks on the new recording, Smith adds this: "The selected tracks come from performing together as a duo for the past five years. Throughout various festivals and concert halls, we often open up the set to requests from the audience. Over time, it became clear that these particular songs have a certain resonance with the crowd. These songs reach out to music lovers of all kinds, anywhere around the world. As a performer, I can't begin to tell you how wonderful it is to see your audience light up the way they do when we perform these tunes."

Together, Buzzurro and Smith have toured Greece, Crete, the United States and Italy, where, in 2009, the duet was awarded the Presidential Medallion for artistic excellence.

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*If you are in the company of a small child or someone who may inadvertently cause distractions, kindly sit near a rear exit and be prepared to leave in a timely fashion. Please respect our artists and your fellow concert patrons. House management reserves the right to request exiting the hall when appropriate.*