



Department of Music

presents

Ian Underwood, guitar in a Graduate Recital

5:30 p.m.
April 25, 2025

Heydel Hall
Art and Design Building

—Program—

Sonata in A Major (K 208)

Domenico Scarlatti
(1685-1787)

Lettre Á Roland Dyens

Jame Piorkowski
(b. 1956)

La Gran Sarabanda

Leo Brouwer
(b. 1939)

—Intermission—

Two Pieces from *Suite Andina*

Aconquija
Cueca

Agustín Barrios Mangoré
(1885-1944)

Six Balkan Miniatures

- I. *Jutarnje Kolo* (Morning Dance)
- II. *Žalopojka* (Lament)
- III. *Vranjanka* (Woman from Vranje)
- IV. *Makendonsko Kolo* (Macdonian Dance)
- V. *Široko* (Wide Song)
- VI. *Sitni Vez* (Tiny-Knit Dance)

Dušan Bogdanović
(b. 1955)

Two South-American Pieces

Ojos Brujos
La Muerte del Ángel

Leo Brouwer
(b. 1939)
Astor Piazzolla (arr. Brouwer)
(1921-1992)

Tango en Skai

Roland Dyens
(1955-2016)

*This recital is given as partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the Master of Music in Instrumental Performance.
from the studio of Dr. Stanley Yates*

—Program Notes—

Sonata in A Major (K 208) - Domenico Scarlatti (1685-1757)

Born in Naples, and spending most of his life in Spain, Domenico Scarlatti was a highly influential figure in Baroque music. Most notably in keyboard repertoire, he had written over 550 sonatas for the instrument. Sonata K. 208 is a cantabile lyrical and expressive keyboard piece which stands out from his more energetic, virtuosic works, offering insight into Scarlatti's range as a composer and revealing a gentler, more introspective aspect of his music. Like many of his works, there is an undercurrent of Spanish idioms Scarlatti absorbed while working out of the Spanish and Portuguese courts.

Lettre À Roland Dyens - James Piorkowski (b. 1956)

James Piorkowski is a distinguished American classical guitarist, composer, and educator renowned for his expressive performances and innovative compositions. He served as the head of the guitar program at the State University of New York at Fredonia for 41 years, earning the title of SUNY Distinguished Professor Emeritus. This piece is an homage to his close friend Roland Dyens (1955-2016), a renowned French classical guitarist, composer, arranger, and improviser celebrated for his eclectic style and innovative contributions to the guitar. Inspired by Dyens' collection of "20 Lettres," this piece aims to capture the essence of Dyens' compositional style. It was given to me as an undergraduate graduation gift by Professor Piorkowski.

La Gran Sarabanda - Leo Brouwer (b. 1939)

Cuban composer Leo Brouwer is a distinguished classical guitarist renowned for his significant contributions to contemporary classical music and guitar repertoire. His compositions are characterized by rhythmic vitality, incorporation of Afro-Cuban influence, and an exploration of contemporary techniques. La Gran Sarabanda was commissioned by the Guitar Foundation of America for their 2018 International Concert Artist Competition, and it is directly inspired by the famous Folies d'Espagne (Follies of Spain) theme. This work exemplifies Brouwer's mature style, and blends baroque dance forms with contemporary musical language. In the form of a set of variations, the work reflects Brouwer's deep appreciation for historical traditions while viewing them through a lens.

Aconquija, Cueca - Agustín Barrios Mangoré (1885-1944)

Paraguayan guitar-composer Agustín Barrios Mangoré (also known as Agustín Pío Barrios) was a virtuoso guitarist and prolific composer. Barrios' music often blends traditional Paraguayan folk music with classical language. He composed over 300 works for the guitar, many of which are staples of the repertoire, and was one of the first guitarists to make gramophone recordings. Many of his unpublished works were transcribed solely based on the recordings, these pieces included. Aconquija and Cueca come from the "Suite Andina" which pays homage to the musical traditions of the Andean region and incorporates elements characteristic of South American folk music, reflecting his deep appreciation for the cultural sounds of his homeland. Aconquija is enjoyed by guitarists for its warmth, poetic phrasing, and graceful flow. It's often compared to Barrios's more meditative works like Julia Florida, and while not among his most commonly played works, Cueca is prized for its cultural authenticity and rhythmic vitality.

Six Balkan Miniatures - Dušan Bogdanović (b. 1955)

Serbian-born American composer, classical guitarist, and improviser, Dušan Bogdanović is well known for blending classical, jazz, and ethnic music into a distinctive style. His music often integrates polyrhythmic and polymetric elements, reflecting a synthesis of diverse musical traditions, which is showcased in this set of pieces. This suite for solo guitar comprises six pieces that intricately blend traditional Balkan folk melodies and rhythms with contemporary classical guitar techniques, reflecting Bogdanović's deep connection to his Balkan heritage. Each miniature captures the essence of different Balkan musical traditions, offering a diverse exploration of the region's rich cultural tapestry. The pieces are characterized by their rhythmic complexity, modal scales, and emotive melodies, providing both technical challenges and expressive opportunities for the performer.

Two South-American Pieces:

Ojos Brujos - Leo Brouwer (b. 1939)

This work is part of Brouwer's "Dos temas populares cubanos" (Two Popular Cuban Themes), composed in 1956. In this collection, Brouwer adapts traditional Cuban melodies for the classical guitar, blending folk elements with classical techniques. The title "Ojos Brujos" translates to "Bewitching Eyes," and is based on a Criolla by Cuban composer Gonzalo Roig. The piece has become a notable part of the classical guitar repertoire, appreciated for its cultural authenticity and musical expressiveness.

La Muerte del Ángel ("The Death of the Angel") - Astor Piazzolla (1921-1992)

Argentinian composer, bandoneon virtuoso, and one of the most important figures in 20th-century Latin American music, Astor Piazzolla revolutionized the traditional tango by creating a new style known as nuevo tango, which blends tango with elements of jazz and classical music. This piece is a dynamic and rhythmically intense composition written in 1962 as part of his incidental music for the play "Tango del ángel" by Alberto Rodríguez Muñoz. The play narrates the story of an angel who descends to a Buenos Aires barrio to heal its inhabitants but ultimately meets a tragic end in a knife fight, which is reflected in the composition's brisk tempo and sharp rhythms.

Tango en Skaï - Roland Dyens (1955 - 2016)

"Tango en Skaï" is one of the most well known and playful solo guitar works by Roland Dyens, a celebrated French classical guitarist and composer, written in 1985. A virtuosic, tongue-in-cheek homage to tango music, the piece is laced with humor, flair, and technical brilliance. "Skaï" is a brand of synthetic leather and in French slang translates to "fake," so the title loosely translates as "Fake Tango." This is a witty jab that suggests the piece is a kind of lighthearted or flashy take on the traditional tango, which reflects Dyens' characteristic blend of sophistication and playfulness. Along with its humor, the piece also has depth and charm, making it a favorite in both concerts and competitions.

—Upcoming Events—

APSU Opera Theatre and Symphony Orchestra in
The Ghosts of Gatsby—a CECA-sponsored event

April 25
April 26
April 27

7:30 p.m.
7:30 p.m.
3 p.m.

Events listed above are free and open to the public
in the George and Sharon Mabry Concert Hall.



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