**Stefan Grasse**

**Guitar Romances**

Works by

F. Tárrega, H. Villa-Lobos, A. Barrios Mangoré, E. Sainz de la Maza, S. Grasse

Stefan Grasse presents in his programme „Guitar Romances“ real gems of the repertoire for his instrument.

The music of the guitar composers Francisco Tárrega, Águstin Barrios Mangoré and Heitor Villa-Lobos is described as poetic, dreamy and with an unusually beautiful sound. Their works are considered the best ever written for classical guitar.

The Spaniard Francisco Tárrega (1852-1909) developed a legendary bel canto sound on the guitar due to his technical and aesthetic innovations. All of his compositions are characterized by great grace and sensitivity and call for this warm, modulation-capable tone.

Star guitarist John Williams was also full of praise for the music of Agustín Barrios Mangoré (1885-1944): „Of all the composer-guitarists Barrios is the best of all. His music is more well-structured, it is poetic, in fact it has more of everything!“

The music of Heitor Villa-Lobos (1887-1959) combines a brillant creative imagination with his own Brazilian roots and French Impressionism. Finally, Stefan Grasse will also perform some of his own music, whose inventiveness and variety of styles has always been highly praised. The programme is rounded off with arrangements of piano music by Frédéric Chopin and Erik Satie.

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Biographical notes

Stefan Grasse was born in Munich, Germany and studied jazz and classical guitar with Peter O’Mara (Munich Jazz School), Kurt Hiesl (Nuernberg Conservatory), Phillip Thorne (Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, Glasgow) and Pepe Romero (International Summer Academy, Salzburg).

He has been awarded Bavarian Radio and German Music Council scholarships, the Royal Scottish Academy’s „Guitar Challenge Prize 1991“, the „Scottish Society of Composers’ Award 1991“, the City of Nuernberg Cultural Award 1996, the Cultural Award 2004 of the Kulturforum Franken and the Cultural Award 2018 of the District of Middle Franconia, Germany.

Till 2022 Stefan Grasse has given far more than 3,000 concerts in Europe, Australia, Argentina, Turkey, China and the USA (including the „Concierto de Aranjuez“), with festival performances in:

Burghausen, Dresden, Frankfurt/Main, Nuremberg, Schleswig-Holstein, Passau, Munich, Augsburg, Düsseldorf (Germany)

Bath, Newcastle, London, Edinburgh, Glasgow (UK)

Caroso, Bracciano, Umbria, Ancona (Italy)

Santa Fé (Argentina), James-Cook-University (Australia), Klagenfurt (Austria), Shenzhen (China), Festival uprostred Evropy (Czech Republic), Gyöngyös Gitárfesztivál (Hungary), Skopje Summer (North Macedonia), Wroclaw (Poland), Antalya (Turkey).

Since 1993 he has released 19 CDs, ranging from the music of German composers, Steve Reich, Heitor Villa-Lobos, Baden Powell, Isaac Albeniz to Astor Piazzolla and his own compositions.

Stefan Grasse lives as a freelance concert guitarist and producer in Nuremberg, Germany, where he is also artistic director of several concert series like the "Nuremberg Guitar Nights", established in 1995.

www.stefan-grasse.de