



ADAM LEVIN, GUITAR

Praised for his “visceral and imaginative performances” by the *Washington Post*, top prize winning classical guitarist and recording artist **Adam Levin** has performed on four continents across the globe. Levin has performed extensively across the United States at renowned venues such as Chicago’s Pick Staiger, Nichols, and Mayne Stage concert halls as well as at the prestigious Art Institute of Chicago; Boston’s Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, the Museum of Fine Arts, and Jordan Hall; Spivey Hall in

Atlanta; repeat appearances at Le Poisson Rouge in New York City; and the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC. In Europe, Levin has performed in some of the finest venues across Spain, and in Italy, Germany, and Switzerland. In the 2017-2018 season, Levin makes several debut solo, chamber, and orchestral appearances in China, Finland, and Ireland as well as return appearances in Brazil and Spain. Adam Levin’s live performances have been featured nationally numerous times on NPR’s *Performance Today*, the nationally syndicated *Classical Guitar Alive*, and studio performances on top radio stations including WFMT Chicago and WCRB Boston.

In the 2016-2017 season, Levin toured across the US including a sold-out recital featuring commissioned new works for guitar by Spanish composers at the Former Residence of the Spanish Ambassador to the US in Washington, DC, presented by the US Fulbright Alumni Association (with the ambassador in attendance); the Art Institute of Chicago as part of the city’s Latin Music Festival; and a return engagement to New York’s Le Poisson Rouge. Levin also served as artistic director of the second annual University of Rhode Island Guitar Festival and performed chamber music with Duo Sonidos at Charlotte’s Bechtler Museum and with the Kithara Project Trio at Chatter in Albuquerque, NM, and in Austin, TX. Internationally, Levin performed recitals in numerous venues in Spain, Hungary, and Austria in Europe and a debut tour of Brazil, where he was immediately invited to return for a second tour in 2017-2018. Additionally, Levin’s 2017-2018 season includes international debut tours in China, Finland, and Ireland.

The recipient of numerous top prizes, Adam Levin has been recognized by the Society of American Musicians, the Lake Forest Concerto Competition, Minnesota’s Schubert Competition, Boston GuitarFest, Concurso Internacional de les Corts para Joves Intèrpretes in Barcelona, Concurso Internazionale Di Gargnano, and Certamen Internacional Luys Milan de Guitarra in Valencia. For his promotion, interpretation and performance of Spanish music, he was nominated for the 2011 Trujamán Prize, in which only three guitarists worldwide are selected annually.

From 2008-2011, Levin was honored as a Fulbright Scholar as well as grant awards from the Program for Cultural Cooperation Fellowship (promoting cultural understanding between Spain and the United States) and the Kate Neal Kinley Fellowship, to research contemporary Spanish guitar repertoire in Madrid, Spain. His three-year residency resulted in a major collaboration with 30 Spanish composers spanning four generations, who each wrote works commissioned by and dedicated to Levin. In 2012, production began on a four volume encyclopedic recording project with Naxos. The first two recordings in the series, *21st Century Spanish Guitar, Volume 1* and *Volume 2* have been released by Naxos to rave reviews from *Classical Guitar Magazine*, *Soundboard*, *American Record Guide*, and featured *Recording of the Month* and *Recording of the Year* awards from *Music-Web International*. In November, 2017, Naxos will release *Volume 3* of the series, with six world premieres of solo works dedicated to Levin, including pieces by three of Spain's most renowned composers, Antón García Abril, Leonardo Balada, and Cristobal Halffter, plus three works by rising composers Eduardo Morales-Caso, Laura Vega, and José Luis Greco.

Levin's critically acclaimed discography also includes his debut album, *In the Beginning* [ALR, 2009], *Music from Out of Time* [La Comunidad de Madrid, 2010], and *Fuego de la Luna* [Verso, 2011], the latter showcasing the complete guitar works of Spanish-Cuban composer Eduardo Morales-Caso, a composer whose music Levin has championed since the launch of his career.

An avid chamber musician, Levin has performed with orchestra, string quartet, and various instrumental and vocal duo combinations. His primary chamber ensemble, Duo Sonidos, has been celebrated for bringing a fresh interpretation of chamber music to wide-ranging audiences across the globe while expanding the repertoire for violin and guitar through new commissions. In 2010, Duo Sonidos was awarded first prize at the Luys Milán International Chamber Music Competition in Valencia, Spain. Their 2010 self-titled debut recording received rave reviews from *Classical Guitar Magazine*, *Soundboard*, *American Record Guide*, and a US Choice award from *BBC Music Magazine*. The duo will be releasing their follow up recording in 2018 with folk-inspired works by Karol Szymanowski, Lukas Foss, George Gershwin, Erich Korngold, Joaquín Rodrigo, and others.

As an ambassador of the guitar, Mr Levin is dedicated to sharing a comprehensive repertoire in underserved and unconventional spaces. He was director of the Concert for Gulf Coast Aid for Hurricane Katrina victims, which raised \$10,000. In 2007, he was awarded the Albert Schweitzer Fellowship to conduct 200 hours of innovative community work in Boston public schools, prisons, and rehabilitation centers. Demonstrating his long-term commitment to music advocacy, Levin is a founding member of *Kithara Project* (www.kitharaproject.org), an organization devoted to promoting the widespread and equitable access to the guitar for youth worldwide.

A native of Chicago's North Shore, Adam holds bachelor's degrees from Northwestern University in Music Performance, Psychology, and Pre-Med. Under the tutelage of Eliot Fisk, Levin completed his master's degree in guitar performance at New England Conservatory in Boston. His esteemed teachers have included Oscar Ghiglia, Gabriel Estarellas, Anne Waller, Mark Maxwell, and Paul Henry. Adam is the director of the annual Boston Young Guitarists' Workshop (www.ygwboston.org), which will expand to weekends throughout the academic year culminating in the Boston Guitarfest. Levin is a professor of guitar at the University of Rhode Island and also teaches at the University of Massachusetts, Boston. Adam Levin is a D'Addario Artist and performs on a guitar by luthier Stephan Connor. WWW.ADAMLEVINGUITAR.COM

CONTACT

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ADAM LEVIN SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS

Facebook: [adamlevinguitar](#)

Twitter: [@guitarlev](#)

YouTube: [Adam Levin Channel](#)

LinkedIn: [Adam Levin, Guitar](#)

AWARDS & DISTINCTIONS

Awards:

Trujamán Nomination for interpretation of Spanish Music	<i>Spain</i>	2011
1st prize: Luys Milan Intl. Chamber Music Competition (Duo Sonidos)	<i>Spain</i>	2011
1st prize: IX Luys Milan International Chamber Music Competition	<i>Spain</i>	2010
Prize winner: XXXIV Concorso Internazionale Di Gargnano	<i>Italy</i>	2009
Prize winner: in X Concorso Internacional de les Corts	<i>Spain</i>	2009
Prize winner: Boston GuitarFest	<i>Boston</i>	2007
1st prize: Schubert Guitar Competition	<i>St. Paul</i>	2005
1st prize: Society of American Musicians Competition	<i>Chicago</i>	2000

Distinctions:

1 st Prize: Kate Neal Kinley Fellowship and Competition	<i>Spain</i>	2010- 2011
Fulbright Scholarship	<i>Spain</i>	2008-2010
Program for Cultural Cooperation Fellowship	<i>Spain</i>	2009
Diploma di Merito: L'Accademia Musicale Chigiana	<i>Italy</i>	2005-2008
Albert Schweitzer Fellowship	<i>Boston</i>	2007-2008
US Choice Award, BBC Music Magazine	<i>London</i>	2012
Recording of the Month + Year, MusicWeb International	<i>Coventry, UK</i>	2013

PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

China Tour: Shenyang International Guitar Festival et. al. <i>(solo)</i> <i>Asian Debut</i>	<i>China</i>	July 2017
Bechtsler Museum <i>(Duo Sonidos)</i>	<i>Charlotte, NC</i>	April 2017
Chatter Sunday Series, Albuquerque Museum <i>(Kithara Trio)</i>	<i>Albuquerque, NM</i>	February 2017
Le Poisson Rouge <i>(solo)</i>	<i>New York City</i>	Sept. 2013, Dec. 2016
Art Institute of Chicago, Latin Music Festival <i>(solo)</i>	<i>Chicago, IL</i>	November 2016
Former Residence, Ambassador of Spain to the US <i>(solo)</i>	<i>Washington, DC</i>	October, 2016
Debut Tour of Brazil (Various Venues) <i>(solo)</i>	<i>Sao Paulo, et. al.</i>	October 2016
Boston GuitarFest: Viva España <i>(solo)</i>	<i>Boston, MA</i>	June 2016
South Bay Classical Guitar Society <i>(solo)</i>	<i>San Jose, CA</i>	May 2016
International Guitar Festival of Puerto Rico <i>(solo)</i>	<i>San Juan, PR</i>	May 2016
Kitchener-Waterloo Chamber Music Society <i>(solo)</i>	<i>Waterloo, ON</i>	October 2015
Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts <i>(solo/ensemble)</i> <i>Pro Musica Hebraica with Amernet String Quartet and Rachel Calloway</i>	<i>Washington, DC</i>	November 2015
Utah Classical Guitar Society <i>(Duo Sonidos)</i>	<i>Salt Lake City, UT</i>	April 2015
Triangle Guitar Society <i>(solo)</i>	<i>Chapel Hill, NC</i>	Feb 2015 & Jan 2016
Instituto Cervantes, Latin Music Festival <i>(solo)</i> <i>Composer Leonardo Balada present</i>	<i>Chicago, IL</i>	September 2014
Chicago Bach Week Festival <i>(solo)</i>	<i>Chicago, IL</i>	April 2014
Chamber Music Society of Detroit <i>(Duo Sonidos Residency)</i>	<i>Detroit, MI</i>	March 2014
Music Center at Strathmore Hall <i>(Duo Sonidos)</i>	<i>Washington, DC</i>	January 2014
Spivey Hall <i>(solo, Atlanta debut)</i>	<i>Atlanta, GA</i>	November 2013
Fundación Juan March <i>(solo)</i>	<i>Madrid, Spain</i>	May 2013
Texas Guitar Festival and Competition <i>(Duo Sonidos)</i>	<i>Dallas, TX</i>	January 2013
Certamen Internacional de Guitarra de Andrés Segovia <i>(solo)</i> <i>Composer Eduardo Morales-Caso present</i>	<i>Granada, Spain</i>	November 2011
Festival Internacional de Música de Navarra <i>(solo)</i>	<i>Bidarray, France</i>	August 2011
Pro Música e Cultura <i>(solo)</i>	<i>Switzerland</i>	September 2009
University of Kunst <i>(solo)</i>	<i>Berlin, Germany</i>	March 2009

DISCOGRAPHY



21st Century Spanish Guitar, Vol. 3 [Naxos, Coming Nov. 10, 2017]

"Adam Levin has put heart and soul into assembling this program and is passionate about his findings... Levin is a stylish and highly skilled player who's equally at home with the challenging, the lyrical and the playful." - Classical Guitar Magazine

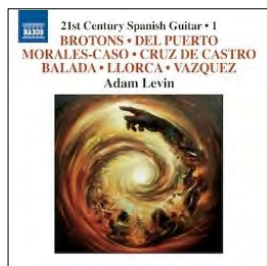
The third of this four-volume series unites distinguished composers of the older generation with some of the most promising voices in Spain today, amply justifying claims for a modern Spanish renaissance of the classical guitar. Adam Levin puts his flawless technique and gorgeous tone to the service of music whose soul and poetry are the unmistakable products of a common and illustrious ancestry.



21st Century Spanish Guitar, Vol. 2 [Naxos, 2016]

"An astonishing achievement... a most impressive disc... Levin is an utterly brilliant player, whose ability to assimilate such a wealth of music is inspiring." - Al Kunze, Soundboard

The second of a four volume series presenting new Spanish works for solo guitar commissioned as part of Adam Levin's three-year residency in Spain. Amongst a wealth of exciting new names are some of Spain's most distinguished and well-established composers such as Leonardo Balada, Anton García Abril and Benet Casablanca.



21st Century Spanish Guitar, Vol. 1 [Naxos, 2013]

"Adam Levin's playing is superb -- no technical difficulties, lovely tone, wide range of dynamics and articulation... I can't imagine these works played with more conviction, expression, and sheer joy!" - Kenneth Keaton, American Record Guide

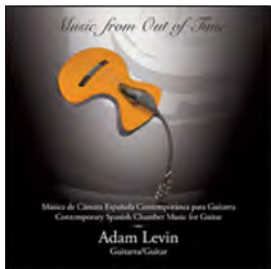
This first of four volumes represents award-winning guitarist Adam Levin's major collaboration with the new century's 'Spanish Masters'. Bridges to the past include medieval sources in the *Secuencia Sefardita* and Baroque in the unconventional variations of *Handeliana*. These stand alongside pastoral scenes in *Viento de Primavera* and a celebration of Albéniz from Leonardo Balada.



Fuego de la Luna: Adam Levin Plays Morales Caso [Verso Records, 2011]

“There is no doubt that we have, before us, one of the most exceptional guitarists and chamber musicians of our time.” – Eduardo Morales-Caso, composer

This recording is the result of an intense, creative, decade-long journey on the part of composer Eduardo Morales-Caso. Adam Levin, along with several fine collaborating artists, is the reflection of the creative and personal manifestation in Morales-Caso’s masterful and colorful scores for the guitar.



Music From Out of Time [Gober Records 2010]

“There are good new pieces here to make this CD worth investigating.”
-- *Classical Guitar Magazine*

The album represents an extensive introduction to the world of contemporary Spanish music for guitar. Adam Levin not only performs as soloist but in three different chamber music combinations: guitar duo, muted trumpet and guitar, and string quartet and guitar. The album features works by Eduardo Morales-Caso, José María Sánchez Verdú, David del Puerto, Mario Gosálvez-Blanco and Leonardo Balada.



Duo Sonidos [ALR 2010]

“Duo Sonidos plays with a loose-limbed, easy virtuoso ‘cool’ and beguiling tonal warmth that combines laid back intuitiveness and classical sophistication.”
-- *BBC Music Magazine (US Choice Award)*

Adam Levin and William Knuth unite two ambassadorial instruments – guitar and violin – in their debut recording. Together, they explore the diversity of Ibero-American music (Spain, Argentina, Cuba) with a riveting arrangement of *Histoire du Tango* by the tango master Astor Piazzolla, plus works by Eduardo Morales-Caso, Salvador Brotons, and Manuel de Falla.



In the Beginning [ALR 2009]

“Absolutely thrilling...will dazzle and entertain at every possible opportunity.”
-- *Minor 7th, Acoustic Guitar Music Review*

This debut album introduces Adam Levin's versatility, not only as a soloist but as a chamber musician. It represents a variety of musical and cultural aesthetics and explores core repertoire from the past two centuries, while adapting new works from violin to the guitar. Works by Ysaye, Bach, Walton, Freidlin, Tedesco and Turina.

COMMISSIONS AND PREMIERES

Adam Levin has active professional relationships with the foremost Spanish composers of the last four generations. With the support of the Fulbright Scholarship, the Kate Neal Kinley Fellowship and the US and Spanish embassies, he has commissioned over 30 new works for the solo guitar, each of which will be premiered on four new recordings and published in a multi-volume manuscript series.

<u>Commissions Received</u>	<u>Composer</u>	<u>Year Premiered</u>
<i>Viento de Primavera</i>	David del Puerto	2009
<i>La Fragua de Vulcano</i>	Eduardo Morales-Caso	2009
<i>Volavérunt</i>	Eduardo Morales-Caso	2010
<i>El Jinete Azul</i>	Eduardo Morales-Caso	2010
<i>Music from Out of Time</i>	Mario Gosálvez-Blanco	2010
<i>Tríptico y Habanera</i>	Carlos Perón Cano	2010
<i>Nostos</i>	Octavio Vasquez	2011
<i>Caprichos No.8 Abstracciones de Albeniz</i>	Leonardo Balada	2010
<i>Secuencias Sefardí</i>	Carlos Cruz de Castro	2010
<i>El agujón de las sombras</i>	Carlos Satué	
<i>Les ones, el mar, el blau</i>	Jordi Rossinyol	
<i>El hombre que plantaba arboles</i>	Laura Vega	2014
<i>Estudie de Concert: D'embarbussament</i>	Feliu Gasull	
<i>Orión</i>	Juan Manuel Ruiz	2012
<i>Dos Canciones Sefarditas</i>	Marisa Manchado	
<i>Interiores</i>	Jesús Torres	2012
<i>Arboretom</i>	José Luis Turina	
<i>Sombras</i>	Raquel Rodriguez	
<i>Two New Suggestions</i>	Salvador Brotons	2012
<i>Handeliana</i>	Ricardo Llorca	2012
<i>Preludio y Danza</i>	Mario Carro	
<i>Nakshatras</i>	Gustavo Díaz-Jerez	
<i>Tres Piezas</i>	Benet Casablanca	2013
<i>Lineas</i>	Vicente Roncero	
<i>Tres Piezas</i>	Marc Lopez Godoy	2014
<i>El Pozo Amargo</i>	Agustin Castilla-Avila	
<i>Five Flavors</i>	Jose Luis Greco	2014
<i>Sonata Vasca</i>	Javier Jacinto	2012
<i>Funk</i>	Jorge Muñiz	2013
<i>I've got you under my string</i>	Eduardo Soutullo	2014
<i>Tres Piezas para Guitarra</i>	Benet Casablanca	2013
<i>Caprichos No. 11 Abstractions of Granados</i>	Leonardo Balada	2014
<i>Upon 21</i>	Jacobo Durán-Loriga	2014
<i>Turrís Eburnea</i>	Luis de Pablo	2014
<i>Dos Cantares</i>	Anton Garcia Abril	2014
<i>Caprichos No. 13 Abstractions of 'El Amor Brujo'</i>	Leonardo Balada	2015
<i>Portraits from the Heartland</i>	Jorge Muñiz	
<i>Trimountain</i>	Anton Garcia Abril	2016

SAMPLE RECITAL PROGRAM 2017-2018 – “MASTERS OF SPANISH GUITAR”

Two Sonatas, K. 53, K. 209

Domenico Scarlatti
(1685-1757)

Trimountain *

Anton García-Abril
(b. 1933)

Yemanjá Sonata for Solo Guitar *

Eduardo Morales-Caso
(b. 1969)

Fandanguillo
Sevillana-Fantasía

Joaquín Turina
(1882-1949)

-Intermission-

Invocacion y Danza

Joaquín Rodrigo
(1901-1999)

Caprichos No. 11: *Abstractions of Granados* *

Leonardo Balada
(b. 1933)

- I. Abstraction of “Danza Española No.6”
- II. Abstraction of “Danza Española No.5”
- III. Abstraction of “Danza Española No.2”
- IV. Abstraction of “Danza Española No.3”
- V. Abstraction of “Danza Española No.10”

Elegía Otoñal (Autumn Elegy) *

Marc López Godoy
(b. 1967)

- I. Vuelo de estorninos al atardecer
- II. Lluvia al anochecer
- III. Hojas al viento

Two New Suggestions *

Salvador Brotons
(b. 1959)

- I. Sicilana
- II. Brasileira

* Dedicated to Adam Levin

Several other programs available upon request, please inquire

CRITICAL ACCLAIM

"In Levin's hands, Carlos Cruz de Castro's "Secuencia Sefardita" for solo guitar unfolded in a visceral, imaginative performance. He plucked, strummed and slapped the strings from neck to soundboard in a dizzying exploration of sound." – *Grace Jean, The Washington Post (Kennedy Center Debut)*

"In a series of what will be four discs, Levin is (almost single-handedly) filling the compositional space left largely vacant since the death of Rodrigo. It is already an astonishing achievement... a most impressive disc... Levin is an utterly brilliant player, whose ability to assimilate such a wealth of music is inspiring." – *Al Kunze, Soundboard Magazine (21st Century Spanish Guitar, Vol. 2)*

"[Levin's] performance cannot be faulted—huge dynamic and timbral range, deeply moving phrasing, committed virtuosity. He can be wildly dramatic, but never overplays. It's hard to imagine these performances being improved on, but that's just what I (and he) would love to see as this wonderful music gets discovered." – *Kenneth Keaton, American Record Guide (21st Century Spanish Guitar, Vol. 2)*

"A landmark recording by an outstanding practitioner." – *Paul Fowles, Classical Guitar Magazine (21st Century Spanish Guitar, Vol. 2)*

"Adam Levin is an exceptionally gifted guitarist and he played everything in a very transparent and convincing manner... my impression was that the composers were very fortunate to be represented by such an excellent spokesman for their works." – *Dusan Bogdanovic, Classical Guitar Magazine (Seville Guitar Festival)*

"I can't contain my excitement about this series. Thirty-odd newly-commissioned guitar works could rejuvenate the entire Spanish guitar tradition, or it could produce a lot of crummy music. Adam Levin's first volume contains no crummy music, a lot that delights, and outstanding playing. History in the making..." – *Brian Reinhart, MusicWeb International, 'Recording of the Year' (21st Century Spanish Guitar, Vol. 1)*

"...These are all important contributions to the repertoire, for which we have Levin to thank. He's clearly overjoyed to be playing them: you see it in his words in the booklet, and hear it on every track. These composers could not have asked for a better, more thoughtful and dedicated guitarist to premiere their works... There are three more volumes to come. If they're as good as this, they'll form one of the most exciting guitar series of the century so far." – *Brian Reinhart, MusicWeb International, 'Recording of the Month' (21st Century Spanish Guitar, Vol. 1)*

"Adam Levin's playing is superb-no technical difficulties, lovely tone, wide range of dynamics and articulation... I can't imagine [these works] played with more conviction, expression, and sheer joy!" – *Kenneth Keaton, American Record Guide (21st Century Spanish Guitar, Vol. 1)*

"Adam Levin has put heart and soul into assembling this programme and is passionate about his findings... we're in no doubt that Adam Levin is a stylish and highly skilled player who's equally at home with the challenging, the lyrical and the playful." – *Paul Fowles, Classical Guitar Magazine (21st Century Spanish Guitar, Vol. 1)*

"The classical guitar is lucky to have a champion like Levin. His enthusiasm for the music and culture he has chosen is unbridled, and Monday night's performance shows that he has the talent to match." – *Robert Leeper, Feast of Music (New York Recital Debut, Le Poisson Rouge)*

"Mr. Levin, who collaborated with the writers to bring us these works, has an amazing track record in eliciting fine music... Recorded sound throughout is, of course perfect, and flawlessly captures the range of Levin's playing from considerable violence to extreme delicacy." - *Al Kunze, Soundboard Magazine (21st Century Spanish Guitar, Vol. 1)*

"His high musicianship shines like a beacon through his performances. There are inferences here and there to the stylized interpretations of the great Segovia...." -*Steve Marsh, Classical Guitar Magazine (In The Beginning)*

"Plays with a loose-limbed, easy virtuoso 'cool' and beguiling tonal warmth that combines laid back intuitiveness with classical sophistication." - *Julian Haylock, BBC Music Magazine (Duo Sonidos)*

"This is exquisite music-making... an exciting discovery..." - *Kenneth Keaton, American Record Guide (Duo Sonidos)*

"Levin is high class in every respect..." -*Steve Marsh, Classical Guitar Magazine, UK (In The Beginning)*

"Levin is an exciting and powerful player who takes chances." -*Al Kunze, Soundboard (Fuego de la Luna)*

"Adam Levin is absolutely thrilling from beginning to end. There is an overriding sense of complete self-assuredness and technical control. He will dazzle and entertain at every possible opportunity." -*Timothy Smith, Minor 7th, USA (In The Beginning)*

"Levin's passion for this music is quite clear as he performs with great precision, thoughtfulness, expression, and with what is no doubt a masterful technique." -*Brad Conroy, Guitar International (In The Beginning)*

PROFESSIONAL ENDORSEMENTS

"You are a true artist with imagination, great technique and commitment, the elements needed for a terrific future." -- *Leonardo Balada, Spanish composer*

"Adam Levin is a true protagonist and expresses the true poetry and dreaminess of the music he performs." -*Roberto Montes, Spanish composer*

"His interpretations are fantastic, electrifying and musically pure. Levin is a very refined and intelligent musician." -*David del Puerto, Spanish composer*

"There is no doubt that we have, before us, one of the most exceptional guitarists and chamber musicians of our time. Adam Levin is an ambassador of the guitar and for the music world in both in the United States and in Europe." -*Eduardo Morales-Caso, Spanish composer*

"Adam is a virtuoso guitarist and a true 21st century renaissance man with the élan, intelligence, charm, tenacity and conviction to change the world." -*Eliot Fisk, guitarist*

"I am sure he will soon be recognized as a leading figure in his profession, not only for his craftsmanship in performing and his total emotional and intellectual involvement, but especially for the consistency in researching and the increasing success in contributing to the wealth of the modern repertoire of the classical guitar. His future in concertizing and teaching will be a brilliant one." -*Oscar Ghiglia, guitarist*