University of Guelph
College of Arts and School of Fine Art and Music Present

Robert Gruca

THURSDAY AT NOON
Free Concert Series
Thursday, November 10 • 12:00 pm
MacKinnon Room 107  (Goldschmidt Room)

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Program

Piper’s Pavan ................................................................. John Dowland (1562-1626)

If My Complaints Could Passions Move ......................... John Dowland (1526-1626)
(Captain Digorie Piper’s Galliard)

Suite 1 .................................................................................... J.B. Loeillet (1680-1730)
  Allemande
  Corente
  Sarabanda
  Aria
  Minuet
  Giga

El Decameron Negro .......................................................... Leo Brouwer (b. 1939)
  La Arpa Del Guerrero
  La Huida De Los Amantes Por El Valle De Los Ecos
  Ballada De La Doncella Enamorada

Sonatina ................................................................................ Jorge Morel (1931)
  Allegretto
  Andante Espressivo
  Allegro

Biography

Robert Gruca is an exciting guitarist who performs a wide range of solo, chamber, and concerto repertoire. In recent seasons he has toured throughout the US and into Canada. Highlights of Robert’s season include touring the eastern United States and Europe with the Cleveland Orchestra, performing Mahler’s Symphony No. 7 under the direction of Franz Welser-Most. Other performances with the Cleveland Orchestra include Kurt Weill’s Little Three Penny Music, Igor Stavinsky’s Le Rossignol with Pierre Boulez and Howard Shore’s The Lord of the Rings Symphony with Howard Shore. Robert Gruca made his concerto debut performing Rodrigo’s Concierto de Aranjuez with the Marquette Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Nuvi Mehta. Recent concerto performances include Concierto de Aranjuez and Fantasia para un Gentilhombre with the Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra and the New Philharmonic both under the direction of Kirk Muspratt.

Possessing powerful musical interpretation and complete technical command over his instrument, Robert Gruca has earned several first prizes in national guitar competitions. He won first prize in the Columbus State Guitar Symposium Competition, the Appalachian State Guitar Festival Competition, and the East Carolina University Guitar Festival Competition. He was a top prize winner in the Rantucci International Guitar Competition and a semifinalist in the Guitar Foundation of America Competition and the JoAnn Falletta International Guitar Concerto Competition.

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Other awards and honors include receiving the 2007 Distinguished Alumni award from Grand Valley State University, Department of Music. Robert Gruca has studied with John Holmquist and Jason Vieaux at the Cleveland Institute of Music, where he received a Master of Music degree. Previous teachers include Brian Morris of Grand Valley State University and Roger Humphrey of Olivet College. He has participated in master classes with such prominent guitarists as David Russell, Lily Afshar, Judicael Perroy, Stephen Robinson, Sergio & Odair Assad, Hubert Kappel, Antigoni Goni, and the Los Angeles Guitar Quartet.

In a 2006 compact disc, Robert Gruca recorded solo guitar works by Bogdanovic, Koshkins, Dyens, Rodrigo, Schubert and J.S. Bach. He has recently completed a recording of several pieces by Handel including some original transcriptions. That compact disc was released under the MSR record label in 2012.

Robert Regularly performs with flutist Linda White as part of the Gruca White Ensemble. As Artists in Residence at The Music School Settlement, Robert and Linda entertain audiences throughout Greater Cleveland with their fresh approach which combines classical, latin, popular, and improvised music.

In addition to performing, Robert Gruca is a highly motivated and dedicated guitar instructor. Robert recently completed Every Child Can! and Guitar Unit 1, 2 and 3 of the Suzuki method of music instruction. Robert teaches at The Cleveland Music School Settlement and is proud to have started the first Suzuki guitar program of Northeast Ohio, there, in 2013.
THURSDAY AT NOON

Concert Series
♫♫ “Celebrating over 49 Years of Music Making” ♫♫

Fall Semester 2016

Concerts start at 12:00 p.m. Thursdays in MacKinnon Room 107 (Goldschmidt Room)
Admission FREE – donations gratefully appreciated. Everyone Welcome!

September 15 ...... David Virelles. A piano recital with Cuban, NY based pianist and composer David Virelles, featuring material from his collection of compositions Èfé (Danzas Cubanas). Presented in partnership with the Guelph Jazz Festival.

September 22 ...... Dévah Quartet. Ever wonder how a band develops its sound? Join a time-lapse concert of Dévah Quartet as they take the audience through their 7 year development from being a classical quartet to the electric prog-rock quartet they currently are.

September 29 ...... Heidi Wall, piano, and Miriam Stewart-Kroeker, cello. This young, Canadian duo present an exciting and varied program for cello and piano featuring works by Debussy and Beethoven. Musique de la France and du Quebec CANCELLED.

October 6 .......... Johannes Linstead ~ Guitar of Fire! Enjoy an exciting afternoon of passionate Spanish guitars and fiery fretwork with Canada's "Guitarist of the Year" and JUNO nominee Johannes Linstead with special guest Geoff Hlibka.

October 13 .......... NO CONCERT week of Thanksgiving and Fall Study Break Day

October 20 .......... Awea Duo. Praised for their soulful rendering and extraordinary sensitivity, Awea Duo has performed across the US and internationally. Their exciting program for flute and saxophone duo includes works, transcriptions, and premiere of a new work by Canadian composer, Emilie LeBel.

October 27 .......... The Phoenix Jazz Group in concert performing original acoustic mainstream jazz in a contemporary vein, acknowledging the great traditions in jazz that have gone before it.

November 3 ........ A Tribute to Ken Aldcroft with Threads (Quintet). Performing music that simultaneously merges improvisation with composition while embracing the rich history of the jazz tradition and, in some small way, moving it forward. All compositions are by Ken Aldcroft.

November 10 ...... Robert Gruca – Guitar Works Through the Ages. This concert will touch on major guitar works dating back to the Renaissance and include selections of Baroque and Modern Classical Guitar repertoire.

November 17 ...... Enrique Graf in concert performing piano works from Debussy and Uruguayan composers. Michael Lewin CANCELLED.

November 24 ...... Student Soloists Day, featuring the talented Applied Music students from SOFAM.

For more information on the fall 2016 series, contact Vicki Isotamm (visotamm@uoguelph.ca) 519 824-4120 ext.52991