

EDEN STELL GUITAR DUO

Internationally renowned for their dynamism, innovation and breathtaking virtuosity the Eden Stell Guitar Duo have *'breathed new life into the world of the classical guitar'*.

Widely regarded as one of the world's leading guitar ensembles, the duo's chameleon-like ability to communicate in a multitude of musical styles makes them a constantly evolving entity with a unique creative voice.

Likened to a *'miraculous single guitarist blessed with an impossibly wonderful technique and an exceptionally delicate touch'* they have been invited to perform at venues including London's Wigmore Hall and Southbank Centre, the Beethovenhalle, Stuttgart Liederhalle and other engagements throughout Europe, USA, Canada, South and Central America and Australia, with numerous radio and TV appearances on BBC, ITV and European networks.

The duo were the first guitarists since Julian Bream to be Editor's Choice in Gramophone magazine with their *'landmark recording'* of works by Stephen Dodgson and the duo are dedicatees of works by Dodgson, Adam Gorb, Dusan Bogdanovic, Gary Ryan, Johannes Moller and Gerald Garcia.

In 2000 the duo were elected Associates of the Royal Academy of Music in recognition of their outstanding musical achievements and they currently hold positions at the Royal College of Music, Birmingham Conservatoire and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

The Eden Stell Guitar Duo play D'Addario strings.

Since 1984 Worcester Classical Guitar Society has been bringing together classical guitarists from across the Midlands and from all walks of life in senior and junior orchestras and ensembles with a strong performance ethos. The Society has always had among its aims, the promotion and presentation of professional acts, and the New Artist's Scheme (NAS) represents a natural offshoot of that ideal: *the promotion and support of the emerging professional artist*. This re-envisioning of our aims has recently seen us acquire the status of a charity and more NAS concerts are planned for 2009 and 2010.

The Society would like to extend a warm thanks to Mark and Christopher who appear this evening in support of the Scheme, and to John Denton and the Worcester Arts Workshop.

Please join our mailing list if you would like to be informed of future concerts.

All the activities that go with making guitar music come alive.

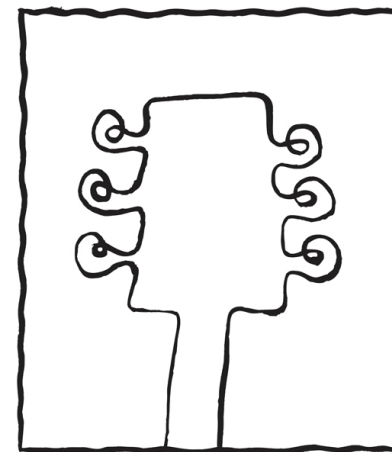
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Music for an Island

The Eden Stell Guitar Duo



• Worcester •

Classical Guitar Society

Worcester Arts Workshop, 21 Sansome St. Worcester.

7.30 pm, Saturday, 7th March, 2009.

EDEN STELL GUITAR DUO

MARK EDEN & CHRISTOPHER STELL

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 - 1750)

Concerto in D minor, BWV.974

after Oboe Concerto by Alessandro Marcello (arr. Chris Stell)

Allegro - Adagio - Allegro

Joaquin Rodrigo (1901-1999)

Tonadilla

Allegro ma non troppo - Minueto Pomposa - Allegro vivace

Gary Ryan (b.1968)

Bazaar!

PAUSE

MUSIC FOR AN ISLAND

multimedia concert of music and images

Michael Ball (b. 1946)

Music for an Island

Herbert Howells (1892 - 1983) (arr. Michael Lewin)

Finzi's Rest

Timothy Bowers (b.1955) (arr. Mark Eden)

Fantasy on an Old English melody

John Lennon (1940 - 1980) **Paul McCartney** (b. 1942) (arr. Leo Brouwer)

Penny Lane

Peter Maxwell Davis (b. 1934) (arr. Mark Eden)

Farewell to Stromness

FINE

MUSIC FOR AN ISLAND

The programme for 'Music for an Island' evolved when our duo was selected to perform in the Park Lane Group Young Artist Concert Series in 1997. This was a wonderful opportunity for us to immerse ourselves in contemporary repertoire and we devised a programme of original works for guitar duo by David Bedford, Stephen Dodgson, Roland Dyens and Michael Ball. "Music for an Island" was the title of Michael Ball's composition, and it took its inspiration from Holy Island, Lindisfarne, off the coast of Northumberland. The piece was so vivid in its textures and sound-scapes that it conjured a strong image in my mind of the Island, even though I had never visited it. There was also something distinctly poetic about the title that captured my imagination and led me, almost ten years later, to return to this theme and create a programme around it.

I began to devise the programme, focusing on works by British composers, but quickly realised that all the works I had chosen took their inspiration from a place, region or something tangibly British. As a professional musician I spend my life interpreting scores and painting pictures with music, and it occurred to me that combining images of the inspiration behind each composition with the music might influence not only the duo's interpretation, but also give an audience a heightened listening experience.

It has always been a passion of the duo to devise vivid programmes, and present them in original ways. Contemporary works can often challenge listeners, with their unfamiliar and seemingly incomprehensible musical language. Talking to the audience about these works can give them a greater insight and perhaps a deeper understanding of each piece, and I felt this process would be further enhanced when combined with images, giving the audience an extra dimension to absorb the music and appreciate the inspiration behind the composition.

The project also gave me the chance to rekindle my interest in visual imagery which I had neglected since I was a teenager. Music has been an all consuming career for me and having the opportunity to combine these two disciplines was an exciting prospect. Photography represented a new personal direction, and I hope you enjoy the results as much as I did creating them. Lastly, my sincere thanks must go to the Finzi Trust as without its support, none of this would have been possible.

Mark Eden 2008

"Mark Eden and Christopher Stell make an outstanding duo partnership with their immaculate ensemble and clear tone. There's something here for everyone, whether guitar aficionados or not."

Classic FM

*"In every respect the performances and recording are of the highest quality. **The Eden Stell Duo** are one of the best duos around. This is a landmark recording on the guitar's map"*

Gramophone

"I was hanging on almost every note ... a riveting experience."

The Independent

"Mark Eden and Christopher Stell have breathed new life into the world of the classical guitar ... Here is the future of guitar music."

Rotterdam Dagblad