

Cedille Records

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News

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Cavatina Duo and Guests Lead a 'Sephardic Journey' on Cedille Records

***Spurred by surprise discoveries in their family history,
flutist Eugenia Moliner and guitarist Denis Azabagic
celebrate centuries-old Spanish-Jewish music
with newly commissioned works***

***Album offers world-premiere recordings of compositions
by Alan Thomas, Joseph V. Williams II, Carlos Rafael Rivera,
David Leisner, and Clarice Assad***

***Guest appearances by Avalon String Quartet,
violinist Desirée Ruhstrat and cellist David Cunliffe***

Sephardic Journey, the Cavatina Duo's new Cedille Records album, emerged from startling discoveries in family history. When charismatic Spanish flutist Eugenia Moliner and Bosnian guitar phenomenon Denis Azabagic learned they each had family with roots in the Sephardic Jewish world of Old Spain, the husband-and-wife duo decided to create a musical homage to that culture. Decades in the making, the enterprising result is an album of all-new chamber compositions, not arrangements, based on early Sephardic folk melodies.

The album, available April 8, comprises world-premiere recordings of five works written expressly for the project: Alan Thomas's *Trío Sefardi* for flute, cello, and guitar; Joseph V. Williams II's *Isabel* for flute and guitar; Carlos Rafael Rivera's *Plegaria y Canto (al Bodre de la Mar)* for flute, guitar, and violin; David Leisner's *Love Dreams of the Exile* for flute, guitar, and string quartet; and Clarice Assad's *Sephardic Suite* for flute, guitar, and string quartet (Cedille Records 90000 163).

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The works by Thomas, Rivera, Leissner, and Assad were commissioned for *Sephardic Journey*. Williams' was a gift to the Cavatina Duo.

The Cavatina Duo's guest artists are Cedille label-mates and fellow Chicagoans the Avalon String Quartet and violinist Desirée Ruhstrat and cellist David Cunliffe of the Lincoln Trio.

Thomas's *Trío Sefardí* draws on melodies from the Sephardic diaspora. Williams' *Isabel* pays tribute to a tragic victim of the Spanish Inquisition. Rivera's *Plegaria y Canto (al Bodre de La Mar)* depicts an intimate scene of despair and hope on the Spanish coast. Leisner describes his *Love Dreams of the Exile* as "stream-of-consciousness meditations on Sephardic folk music." Assad's *Sephardic Suite* evokes contrasting aspects of romance and family life.

In a preface to the 24-page CD booklet, Azabagic and Moliner detail the circumstances in which they discovered their Sephardic connections through casual conversations with elder family members and historical research. Moliner writes that *Sephardic Journey* is the culmination of a dream "that began almost twenty years ago and needed to come to fruition."

Cavatina Duo

"If there is a finer flute and guitar duo in the world than Cavatina Duo, I have not heard them," proclaimed a reviewer for Guitar Foundation of America's *Soundboard* magazine.

The Cavatina Duo — Spanish flutist Eugenia Moliner and Bosnian-born guitarist Denis Azabagic — is known for its daring repertoire choices, electrifying stage presence, and the fresh new sounds, colors, and musical phrasings it brings to audiences across the United States and around the globe. Moliner has been described as "brilliant" by the British Flute Society magazine. Azabagic has won prizes in 24 international competitions. The duo's discography includes recordings on the Bridge, Opera Tres, and Orobroy labels, in addition to its Cedille releases *Sephardic Journey*, *The Balkan Project*, and *Acrobats: Music of David Leisner*. For more on the duo, visit cavatina duo.com.

Recording Dates and Venue

Sephardic Journey was produced by James Ginsburg and engineered by Bill Maylone June 26–27, 2015, at ICON Pro Studios, Chicago, and October 28 and 30, 2015, in the Fay and Daniel Levin Performance Studio at Chicago radio station WFMT.

Cedille Records

Marking its 26th anniversary during the 2015–2016 season, Grammy award-winning Cedille Records (pronounced say-DEE) has been dedicated to showcasing the most noteworthy classical artists in and from the Chicago area since its debut in November 1989.

The audiophile-oriented label releases every new album in multiple formats: physical CD; 96 kHz, 24-bit, studio-quality FLAC download; and 320 Kbps MP3 download.

An independent nonprofit enterprise, Cedille Records is the label of Cedille Chicago, NFP (formerly The Chicago Classical Recording Foundation). Sales of physical CDs and digital downloads and streams cover only a small percentage of the label's costs. Tax-deductible donations from individual music-lovers and grants from charitable organizations account for most of its revenue.

Headquarters are at 1205 W. Balmoral Ave., Chicago, IL 60640; call (773) 989-2515; email: info@cedillerecords.org. Website: cedillerecords.org.

Cedille Records is distributed in the Western Hemisphere by Naxos of America and its distribution partners, by Select Music in the U.K., and by other independent distributors in the Naxos network in classical music markets around the world.

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Sephardic Journey

(Cedille Records CDR 90000 163)

Alan Thomas: *Trío Sefardi* (19:16)

Joseph V. Williams II: *Isabel* (5:52)

Carlos Rafael Rivera: *Plegaria y Canto (al Bodre de la Mar)* (15:03)

David Leisner: *Love Dreams of the Exile* (17:11)

Clarice Assad: *Sephardic Suite* (17:49)

Cavatina Duo