

Cedille Records
1205 W. Balmoral Ave.
Chicago, IL 60640
(773) 989-2515
www.cedillerecords.org

Press contact: Nat Silverman
Nathan J. Silverman Co. PR
2906 Central St. #250
Evanston, IL 60201-1283
Phone: (847) 868-1417
Email: natsilv@aol.com

News

Recording release date: Aug. 23, 2019

Pacifica Quartet and Guitarist Sharon Isbin Offer ‘Souvenirs of Spain and Italy’ on Cedille Records

***In their first collaboration on disc, the artists play
works for guitar and strings by Castelnuovo-Tedesco,
Vivaldi, and Boccherini***

The Grammy Award-winning Pacifica Quartet and multiple Grammy-winning guitarist Sharon Isbin join forces for *Souvenirs of Spain & Italy*, an uncommon album of music for strings and guitar from the Baroque to the mid-20th century.

Souvenirs of Spain & Italy, available August 23, 2019, on Cedille Records, is the first joint recording by these renowned artists and marks Isbin’s Cedille label debut.

“It’s really beautiful music with a tremendous amount of variety,” Isbin says.

The program spotlights Italian-born composers influenced by Spanish idioms. Works include Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco’s Quintet for Guitar and String Quartet, Op. 143; Emilio Pujol’s guitar arrangement of Antonio Vivaldi’s lute Concerto in D Major, RV 93, edited by Isbin; and Luigi Boccherini’s Quintet for Guitar and String Quartet in D Major, G. 448.

The album “brings together three notably successful combinations of plucked and bowed strings,” veteran music critic Allan Kozinn writes in liner notes.

In addition, the Pacifica performs Spanish composer Joaquín Turina’s string quartet piece, *La oración del torero*, Op. 34 (Cedille Records CDR 90000 190).

Seldom-Heard Gem

Castelnuovo-Tedesco’s four-movement Quintet for Guitar and String Quartet, Op. 143, is a seldom-heard gem demanding virtuosity from every player. Written in 1950 for guitarist Andrés

-more-

Segovia, it's "an urbane work, rich in vibrant themes and dialogues among individual lines," Kozinn writes. The album takes its title from the work's Spanish-influenced second movement, where the composer wrote "Souvenir d'Espagne" in the score.

Vivaldi's Concerto in D Major, RV 93, is the most popular of the chamber works he composed with the lute as solo voice. Pujol's arrangement for guitar and string trio reassigns Vivaldi's second violin part to the viola for a more balanced sound. Isbin's guitar work in the dreamlike, meditative Largo movement features her own Baroque ornamentation.

Luigi Boccherini's festive Quintet, G. 448, melds the emerging classical style of late 18th-century Vienna with hints of Spanish flamenco. Boccherini, a cellist, included a virtuosic part for the instrument. The work's celebrated finale is a lively Fandango, "a vigorous Spanish dance in which the guitar moves easily between refined detailing and hard-strumming flamenco effects," Kozinn writes. Castanets and tambourine, played by Eduardo Leando, add to the folkloric atmosphere.

Turina's *La oración del torero*, Op. 34, evokes the fervor of a matador's private prayer before entering the bullring. Written in 1925 for lute quartet, the piece was an immediate success in Spain. Turina wrote the string quartet edition in 1936 to popularize the piece beyond his native country.

Album's Aspen Origins

Isbin, "one of the best guitarists in the world" (*Boston Globe*), and the Pacifica, hailed as "nothing short of phenomenal" (*The Telegraph*), first performed together several years ago at the Aspen Music Festival, at Isbin's invitation.

"We hit it off to such an extent that we decided to tour together," the guitarist says in a video interview for Cedille Records. "I'm just amazed at how extraordinary they are as a quartet and as human beings."

Pacifica cellist and founding member Brandon Vamos says, "What I love about working with Sharon is her attention to detail, subtlety and nuance, rubato and timing, and her diligence and desire to get things just right."

Recording Team

Souvenirs of Spain & Italy was recorded by multiple Grammy-winning producer Judith Sherman and multiple Grammy-nominated engineer Bill Maylone January 19–21, 2019, in Auer Hall, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana.

Pacifica Quartet

In addition to their new recording with Isbin, the Pacifica's Cedille catalog of 11 albums includes collaborations with other leading instrumentalists such as clarinetist Anthony McGill, now principal clarinet of the New York Philharmonic; pianist Menahem Pressler of the Beaux Arts Trio; and violist Michael Tree of the Guarneri Quartet.

Formed in 1994, the Pacifica was awarded a 2006 Avery Fisher Career Grant and named "Ensemble of the Year" by *Musical America* in 2009. They earned the Grammy Award for Best Chamber Music Performance of 2008 for their album of Elliot Carter's Quartets Nos. 1 and 5 on Naxos. Formerly quartet-in-residence at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, they are currently quartet-in-residence and full-time faculty at Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music. In 2017, the Pacifica Quartet was appointed to lead the Center for Advanced Quartet Studies at the Aspen Music Festival and School. The quartet's website is pacificaquartet.com

Sharon Isbin

Isbin's discography of 30 albums includes three Grammy Award winners and a Latin Grammy nominee. Other honors include Germany's Echo Klassik award, *Gramophone's* Recording of the Year, and *Guitar Player's* Best Classical Guitarist award. The award-winning documentary *Sharon Isbin: Troubadour* was seen by millions on public television. She is founding director of the Juilliard School's guitar department and leads the guitar program at the Aspen Music Festival and School. Winner of the Toronto, Munich, and Madrid competitions, she gives up to 100 performances each season. Her website is sharonisbin.com.

Cedille Records

Launched in November 1989, Grammy Award-winning Cedille Records (pronounced say-DEE)

is dedicated to showcasing and promoting the most noteworthy classical artists in and from the Chicago area.

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. 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.

Cedille will celebrate its 30th year at a gala fundraiser September 8, 2019, in Chicago.

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.

#

Souvenirs of Spain & Italy

Pacifica Quartet

Sharon Isbin, guitar

Cedille Records CDR 90000 190

Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco: Quintet for Guitar
and String Quartet, Op. 143 (23:45)

Antonio Vivaldi, arr. Emilio Pujol, ed. Sharon Isbin:
Concerto in D Major, RV 93 (11:02)

Joaquín Turina: La oración del torero
for string quartet, Op. 34 (7:56)

*Luigi Boccherini: Quintet for Guitar and String Quartet
in D Major, G. 448 (18:30)

*Eduardo Leando, castanets and tambourine