

The Napoleonian Guitar

Works by FERNANDO SOR, VICTOR MAGNIEN and LOUIS-ANGE CARPENTRAS

During the first half of the 19th century, "Guitaromanie" was at its height in the French capital. Whether for Fernando Sor's new fantasia or Louis-Ange Carpentras's arrangements of operas, the French were very fond of new guitar works. Thanks to its clarity, precision, richness, and diversity, in addition to its dramatic twists and turns, Parisian music still charms us today.

Pascal Valois, an Alumni of the Schola Cantorum, proposes a repertoire of Parisian guitar music, which will allow the public to discover the richness of this music on period instruments. Pascal Valois recently recorded Victor Magnien's works for guitar in World Premiere: the CD is available on the Centaur Records Label.

The concert will be a wonderful opportunity to get a glimpse of the musical world such as it was at a time when guitar was a choice instrument in Romantic Paris salons.

Duration: 60 or 75 minutes, with comments



Photo de Robert Corwin ©

Program

GIOACHINO ROSSINI (1792-1868) arr. by Louis-Ange Carpentras (1786-1854)

Overture from The Barber of Seville

VICTOR MAGNIEN (1804-1885)

3 Andantes, from op. 17

FERNANDO SOR (1778-1839)

Introduction and Variations on a Theme by Mozart, Op. 9

LOUIS-ANGE CARPENTRAS

Sonate Brillante, Op. 1 (extracts)

FERNANDO SOR (1778-1839)

Elegiac Fantasy, Op. 59

FRANÇOIS DE FOSSA (1775-1849)

Fantasy on the Air Les Folies d'Espagne, Op. 12



Reviews

The romantic guitar in all its splendour.

Guitare Classique Magazine

Pascal is an engaging musician with clear lyric inspiration and a sense of poetry that can bring the logic and expression of the romantic music he plays to perfection.

Hopkinson Smith

Pascal Valois and his instrument are united in an absolutely masterful and rigorous delivery.

Journal Le Métropolitain de Toronto

Valois played with grace, elegance, and élan. His phrasing was similarly remarkable, as he imbued each melody with a beautiful vocal quality. It was light, effortless, and full of spirit.

Giacomo Fiore, Classicalguitar.org

Bio

Pascal Valois is dedicated to reviving enthusiasm for the guitar scene during the Romantic era. After graduating with honours at the Conservatoire de musique de Montréal, and receiving the award Pierre J. Jeannot during his studies at Université du Québec à Montréal with Alvaro Pierri, Valois studied with Hopkinson Smith at the Schola Cantorum Basiliensis and with David Starobin in New York. He has also received a doctorate in Performance Practice from Université Laval. Recently, he has played in Basel, Paris, Riga, San Francisco, New York, Ottawa, and Toronto. He has been a soloist with many ensembles, among them Rigas's Ensemble Samsara and Montreal's Les Idées Heureuses. He has also given master-classes in many institutions, including the Manhattan School of music, the San Francisco Conservatory, and the Conservatoire de musique de Montréal.

Pascal Valois has received the most renowned bursaries in Canada for guitar performance (Canada Council for the Arts) as well as Musicology (FQRSC and SSHRC). He has also been awarded scholarships from the Desjardins Foundation, the Wilfrid-Pelletier Foundation, the Laval University Foundation, and the Université du Québec à Montréal Foundation.

