
8th SEASON
1987 – 1988



**SERGIO & ODAIR
ASSAD**

• GUITAR DUO •

Sunday, February 28th, 1988

Vancouver Playhouse





Vancouver Recital Society

WINNER

HAROLD SHAW AWARD
for Excellence in
Recital Programming

New York City
December,
1987

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Whilst ticket sales are a vital source of income, they do not cover the entire cost of operation. We must raise money each year through contributions in order to meet our obligations. We operate on a very careful budget and **your** contribution of any size will make a difference.

Please help us to continue bringing the very best — the cream of young musical talent from around the world, with your **tax deductible** contribution. Donations payable to the Vancouver Recital Society may be mailed to P.O. Box 35605, Postal Station E, Vancouver, B.C., V6M 4G9.

PROGRAM

Les deux amis

Fernando Sor
(1778-1839)

L'égyptienne

La poule

Le rappel des oiseaux

Jean-Philippe Rameau
(1688-1764)

Intermezzo (from *Goyescas*)
Spanish Dance No. 6

Enrique Granados
(1867-1911)

Sérénade

Preludio e canzona

Allegro trepidante

Andante malinconico

Con allegria

André Jolivet
(1905-1974)

Intermission

Frevo
Baiaô malandro

Egberto Gismonti
(b. 1944)

A lenda do caboclo
Alma brasileira (Chôro No. 5)

Heitor Villa-Lobos
(1887-1959)

Serie de arco
Briquinha de músicos

Hermeto Pascoal
(b. 1936)

Pinote
Cancaô
Samba

Sergio Assad

The emergence of the guitar as one of the most popular instruments of our time has been both sudden and, to a certain extent, surprising. True, the guitar has been a seductively beautiful instrument for centuries, but only very recently has it found a secure place on recital platforms. It's because of this that the recital repertoire for the guitar — outside of the Iberian tradition — is small in comparison to that for other instruments.

In their Vancouver Recital Society debut, Sergio and Odair Assad have ingeniously solved this problem by presenting what amounts to two separate short programs: an historical survey of works from Rameau to Jolivet in the first half, and a program of modern Brazilian music in the second.

The concert opens with a short work of Fernando Sor (1778—1839), who composed in a guitaristic version of the classical idiom of Mozart and Haydn. Jean-Philippe Rameau (1688—1764), the French Baroque composer and theorist, wrote the three charming pieces "*L'Egyptienne*," "*La poule*," and "*Le rappel des oiseaux*" for harpsichord, but here they have been adapted for performance by guitar duo. The two works of Enrique Granados (1867—1911) that follow are also adaptations, this time of popular works for piano. Active at the turn of this century, Granados wrote in a style which successfully combined harmonic elements of impressionism with a pronounced Spanish nationalist idiom. The final work on the first half is by a modern French composer André Jolivet (1905—1974). His *Serenade* for two guitars was written in the mid-1950's.

The second half of the program is devoted exclusively to works of the Assad Brothers' Brazilian compatriots, and begins with two pieces by Egberto Gismonti (b. 1944). Two works by the dean of Brazilian composers, Heitor Villa-Lobos (1887—1959) follow. Next come two works by Pascoal (b. 1936), one of Brazil's foremost jazz composers, written in a form of Brazilian "crossover" style which combines elements of folk, jazz, and classical. A set of two pieces by Sergio Assad completes the Program.

Program notes by David Duke.

Meet the Artists...

Sergio and Odair Assad

When Sergio and Odair Assad made their New York debut in 1980, the New York Times called them "an ensemble that is virtually perfect." Since then the brothers have gone on to play all over the world, increasingly being recognized as one of today's foremost guitar duos.

The Assads' 87/88 season began with an extensive performance schedule in Europe, including engagements in Brussels, Holland, Germany, Scandinavia and England. This spring their North American tour includes as well as Vancouver; Portland, Dallas, Cincinnati, Pittsburgh and New York, after which they will return to Europe for further engagements during the summer. In addition to their regular tours of North America and Europe, the Assads have toured the Far East several times. In their native Brazil they regularly perform in all the major halls, and with the major orchestras.

Sergio and Odair Assad were born in Sao Paulo, Brazil, in 1952 and 1956 respectively. The teen-age brothers were discovered in 1968 by a newspaper man while on a trip to Sao Paulo. He was so impressed by their talent that he took them to Rio de Janeiro where he arranged for them to study with the noted guitarist and lutenist, Monina Tavora, a disciple and former pupil of Andres Segovia.

The Assads' career was launched in the United States in 1969 when they visited there under the aegis of the "Youth for Understanding" program and played a recital for the Society of the Classical Guitar. Their success at the "Rostrum of Young Interpreters"

in Bratislava, Czechoslovakia (where they were awarded one of the major prizes) marked the start of the brothers' successful European career.

Sergio and Odair Assad's first recording was released in Europe in 1984 and their first Nonesuch Album was released in the fall of 1985. That recording of music by Latin American composers, met with popular success and critical praise, including designation by Ovation Magazine as "recording of distinction."

The Vancouver Recital Society is proud to present Sergio and Odair Assad in their Vancouver debut performance.

Tonight's performance is being recorded for broadcast at a later date by CBC Stereo's "Arts National" (FM 105.7).

NONESUCH RECORDS

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The Vancouver Recital Society gratefully acknowledges the support of
the City of Vancouver.

The Society's Hamburg Steinway is maintained and serviced by Johann B. Krebs.

Next Concert

Sunday, March 20th, 1988 at 8:00 p.m.

PAUL NEUBAUER, Viola
RENA SHARON, Piano

Toccata Girolamo Frescobaldi
Cadenza for Viola solo (1984) Krzysztof Penderecki
Sonata for Viola and Piano, Op. 120, No. 1 Johannes Brahms
Märchenbilder for Viola and Piano, Op. 113 Robert Schumann
Invention for Viola and tape (1972) John Biggs
Sarasateana, Suite of Spanish Dances Efrem Zimbalist