

A Birthday Concert

Music of St. Cecilia's Day, November 22

Frank Wallace 65th Birthday Concert Tour
guitar and baritone

Suite Hartt for the Hartt School of Music's 50 Anniversary	Frank Wallace, b. 11/22/1952
Impromptus	Richard Rodney Bennett, b. 3/29/1936
Bagatelle #2 & 3 for Malcom Arnold's 50th birthday	William Walton, b. 3/29/1902
A Heavy Sleep in honor of Britten's 100th anniversary	Frank Wallace, b. 11/22/1952
Nocturnal after John Dowland , op. 70	Benjamin Britten, b. 11/22/1913

intermission

D'Angelus for Norbert Dams 60th birthday, b. 11/22/51	Frank Wallace
like black snow for medium voice and guitar	Frank Wallace poems: Nathan Wallace
Equinox	Toru Takemitsu, b. 10/08/1930
La Ideal, Romanza sin Palabras #2	Julio Sagreras, b. 11/22/1879
Preludio #2	Francisco Tárrega, b. 11/21/1852
Omaggio	Manuel de Falla, b. 11/23/1876
Tres Piezas Españolas	Joaquín Rodrigo, b. 11/22/1901

guitar by Jeffrey Elliott, 2015

Frank Wallace is supported in part by a grant from the NH State Council on the Arts.

NOTES

I have often wondered from whence my artistic sensibilities come. My parents enjoyed listening to musicals and decorating the house with small paintings of local artists, but they were not artists. My story for decades has been that one grandfather played the piano by ear and the other wrote poetry and plays, that's where I got "my talent." An alternative theory is perhaps more mystical, read on:

- 1963 - the numbers 11 and 22 become seared in all memories when JFK is assassinated on 11/22; my 11th birthday
- 1970's - I fall in love with Bream's recordings of contemporary English composers Britten, Walton, Bennett, etc.
- 1974 - I play Britten's Nocturnal in my senior recital
- 1976 - Gunther Schuller, president of NEC, calls me to offer me a teaching job at NEC
- 1980 - touring Spain with Trio LiveOak, we are invited to meet with Joaquín Rodrigo who is commissioned to write songs for the Trio (Liricas Castellanas, with dedication to my wife Nancy Knowles, is delivered one year later, one of his last compositions)
- 2003 - I meet Norbert Dams, German guitarist/composer/publisher, at the GFA in Merida, Mexico

Connection? All composers named above were born on November 22, my birthday, or my mother's day, March 29. I recently discovered that great Argentinian guitarist/composer Julio Sagreras was also born on Nov. 22 and Toru Takemitsu, composer and arranger of many important works for guitar, was born on my father's birthday, October 8. November 22 is also St. Cecilia's Day, patron saint of music, for whom many well-known poems and music have been written. This concert is a celebration of my 65th birthday, in 2017, and the works that have graced the repertoire of the modern classical guitar oeuvre that emanated from musicians born on these special days. It is an honor to cohabit Nov. 22, this day of music, with the likes of Benjamin Britten (1913), Joaquin Rodrigo (1901), Gunther Schuller (1925) and a couple of close calls in Manuel de Falla (Nov. 23, 1876) and Francisco Tárrega (Nov. 21, 1852). My mother's birthday is March 29, joined by William Walton (1902) and Richard Rodney Bennett (1936). FW

Frank Wallace, composer, guitarist, baritone

On stage, Frank Wallace is known for his "*elegant virtuosity*" (Classics Today) on the solo guitar, lute and vihuela and is also a master of self-accompanied song. Of his most recent CD **Four Extraordinary Spanish Guitars**, Al Kunze says in **Soundboard**, "...[he is] a powerful player, possessed of an unfailing musicianship...an almost symphonic range of colors and articulations..." Wallace tours internationally, performing music from the 16th - 21st century both as a soloist and with mezzo-soprano Nancy Knowles as Duo LiveOak. Wallace is a graduate of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music in guitar performance and is self-taught as a composer. **American Record Guide** calls Wallace's compositions "*exciting, unpredictable, and fresh.*" **Fanfare** magazine has dubbed him a composer with "*an authentic expressive voice*" and a "*high standard of musical interest*" who performs with "*flawless technical proficiency*". Wallace's complete recordings and compositions are available at www.gyremusic.com, a site rich with information and samples of sheet music and audio.

"Wallace plays his own works with inspiration, determination, and a wealth of creativity...he can match the musicality of any player out there..." — This is classical guitar