

The use of cameras or recording equipment during the performance is not allowed. Please be sure that cell phones, pagers, and other electronic devices are turned off.

Please note that late entry or reentry of the West Building after 6:30 pm is not permitted.

For the convenience of concertgoers, the Garden Café remains open for light refreshments until 6:00 pm on Sundays.

Music Department
National Gallery of Art
Sixth Street and Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC

www.nga.gov

Concerts are made possible in part through the generosity of donors to the National Gallery of Art through The Circle. Reserved seating is available in recognition of their support. Please contact the development office at (202) 842-6450 or circle@nga.gov for more information.

COVER: James McNeill Whistler, *The Guitar Player*, 1875, drypoint, National Gallery of Art, Washington, Rosenwald Collection



The Seventy-second Season of
The William Nelson Cromwell and F. Lamot Belin
Concerts

National Gallery of Art
2,994th Concert

Eliot Fisk and Paco Peña, guitarists

April 27, 2014
Sunday Evening, 6:30 pm
West Building, West Garden Court

Admission free

The Musicians

The performers will announce their program from the stage.

ELIOT FISK

A charismatic performer who takes on adventurous and virtuosic repertoire, guitarist Eliot Fisk has been described by his late mentor Andres Segovia as “at the top line of our artistic world,” and identified in a review of his recording of works by Nicolo Paganini as “the devil’s guitarist.” Celebrated for his willingness to take classical guitar music into unusual venues, he has not only performed with the American Composers Orchestra, the Orchestra of St. Luke’s, and the Houston Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, and Stuttgart Chamber orchestras, but has also taken his artistry to senior centers, logging camps, and prisons. Fisk has expanded the guitar repertoire through works dedicated to him by composers Leonardo Balada, Robert Beaser, Nicholas Maw, George Rochber, and Kurt Schwertsik. Among the recent premieres Fisk has performed are *Chemin v* by Luciano Berio; a new concerto by Daniel Bernard Roumain; and Kollwitz Kodex, a tribute to German artist *Käthe Kollwitz* for soprano and guitar by Ralf Gawlick.

In addition to his studies with Andres Segovia—he was the master’s last direct pupil—Fisk studied interpretation at Yale University with the legendary harpsichordist Ralph Kirkpatrick. Now a professor at the Universität Mozarteum in Salzburg, Austria, where he teaches in five languages, and at the New England Conservatory, Fisk is the founder and artistic director of Boston GuitarFest, an annual cross-disciplinary and cross-cultural festival. In 2006 King Juan Carlos of Spain awarded Fisk the Cruz de Isabel la Catolica for his service to the cause of Spanish music. Earlier recipients of this honor included Andres Segovia and Yehudi Menuhin.

Reviewing a duo recital by Fisk and Paco Peña, the *New York Times* wrote: “Eliot Fisk, a classical guitarist, and Paco Peña, a prolific flamenco player, have been working to blur those boundaries . . . he and Mr. Peña traded lines, matched *tremolando* techniques, and thrashed away at richly voiced chord progressions fully as equals.”

PACO PEÑA

Described by the *New York Times* as “a virtuoso, capable of dazzling an audience beyond the frets of mortal man,” flamenco guitarist Paco Peña embodies both authenticity and innovation in that archetypal Spanish art form. A composer, dramatist, producer, and artistic mentor as well as a guitarist, he was born in the Andalusian city of Córdoba, where he began learning guitar from his brother at age six and made his first professional appearance at age twelve. In his adopted home of London, where he has lived since the late 1960s, Peña can be heard in venues that range from the monumental Royal Albert Hall to Ronnie Scott’s intimate Jazz Club. Outside the United Kingdom, Peña has played at Carnegie Hall and the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam as well as at festivals in Adelaide, Athens, Hong Kong, Israel, Istanbul, and Singapore.

Rated by readers of *Guitar* magazine as the best flamenco guitarist of the year for five consecutive years, in 2010 Peña collaborated with theater director Jude Kelly in *Quimeras*, a dance work commissioned by the Edinburgh International Festival for the Arts. Previous collaborations with Kelly include *A Compás!* (In Time), a vivid presentation of a range of flamenco rhythms; *Flamenco sin Fronteras* (Flamenco without Borders); and *Voces y Ecos* (Voices and Echoes). In 1991, working with the Choir of the Academy of Saint Martin in the Fields, Peña created *Misa Flamenca*, a setting of the Mass. His own dance company, founded in 1970, produces musical theater extravaganzas, including *Musa Gitana* (Gypsy Muse), written in 1999 and based on the life and work of Córdoba painter Julio Romero de Torres. Its seven-week season at the Peacock Theater in London’s West End stands as the longest-ever run of a flamenco show in that city.

In 1981 Peña founded the Centro Flamenco Paco Peña in Córdoba and was later appointed artistic director of the Córdoba International Guitar Festival. In 1985 a professorship in flamenco guitar was established for him at the Rotterdam Conservatory in the Netherlands. His outstanding achievements include being named an Oficial de la Cruz de la Orden del Mérito Civil and a Gold Medal in the Arts from the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts—both bestowed in person by King Juan Carlos of Spain.