

## HOMAGES

CHRISTOPH DENOTH Guitar

with

Masami Suzuki, Soprano

John Dowland  
(1563-1626)

- Lord Willoughby's Welcome Home
- The Shoemaker's Wife
- Fantasia

Fernando Sor  
(1778-1839)

Theme and Variations upon the Magic Flute by Mozart op.9

Heitor Villa-Lobos  
(1887- 1959)

- **Prélude Nr. 1 e-Moll**  
Homenagem ao Sertanejo Brasileiro
- **Prélude Nr. 5 D-Dur**  
Homenagem ao Vida social
- **Prélude Nr. 4 e-Moll**  
Homenagem ao Indio Brasileiro
- **Prélude Nr. 3 a-Moll**  
Homenagem ao Bach
- **Etude No 11** ao Andrés Segovia

**Bachianas Brasileiras No 5 with Masami Suzuki (Soprano)**  
Aria (Cantilena) for voice and guitar

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Manuel de Falla  
(1876-1946)

Homenaje - Tombeau de Debussy

Manuel de Falla  
(1876-1946)

**Siete canciones populares with Masami Suzuki (soprano)**  
- Jota No 4  
- Polo No 7

Christoph Denoth  
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Homenaje à Federico Garcia Lorca

Isaac Albéniz  
(1860-1909)

- Granada (Serenata)
- Asturias (Leyenda)

## HOMAGES

*Among the oldest and most timeless styles of musical expression are pieces that are dedicated to a person, a town, or a landscape. This setting to music of a homage stemming from a variety of emotions and imagination is often a composer's message to the person to whom the work is dedicated. Sometimes it may even be a declaration of love. The forms a homage may take are as varied as the imagination and emotions of the composer, or of the person for whom it was written. Homages speak to us in a very direct way because, as a rule their emotional and musical message and beauty are easy to understand. The content speaks to us, and tells us a musical story based on contrasts such as beauty, charm, imagination, wit, sadness, humor, memory, hope, longing, poetry, and premonition.*

*(Christoph Denoth)*

### **John Dowland's *Midnight and the Search for the Soul***

John Dowland, the melancholic poet of the silvery sound of the lute, is free of any instrumental limitation that might have affected his compositions. The melodic and, at the same time, contrapuntal and harmonic approach of his music is both wonderful and unique. Its expression is one of noble sadness, melancholy, and tears, but the beauty is genuine and catches the attention and appeals to the heart of the listener. In this, his music is somewhat similar to Franz Schubert's music.

**Fernando Sor** was a prolific Spanish composer and virtuoso guitarist with a strong love of opera. The Introduction and Variations on a theme by Mozart is based on 'O Cara Armonia', an air from Mozart's opera The Magic Flute; it was premièred in Vienna in 1791 and first performed in England in May 1819. The Introduction and Variations on a theme by Mozart was published in 1821 during Sor's time in London (1815–23). Fernando Sor performed the work in London, as the title page states: 'As performed by the Author at the Nobilities Concert'.

**Heitor Villa-Lobos'** Préludes for guitar give us a great range of emotions. The music of the Brazilian composer was strongly influenced by the popular music of his country. His Préludes are dedicated to people and landscapes, and they carry beauty and emotions. In 1912 Villa Lobos travelled to eastern Brazil to study the music, myths and rites of the Indians. His five Preludes, written in 1940, show the influences of Chopin in Prélude No 1, and Indian/ Brazilian music in Preludes No 2 and No 4. Prélude No 3 is a Brazilian Homage to J.Bach. Prélude No 5 is dedicated to the social life of young people.

**Isaac Albéniz** spent many years living in Paris. He travelled extensively in his youth. Granada and Asturias are two movements from his Suite Espanola op 47 and reflect the composer's fantasy and mastery of feeling and beauty in expressing the Spanish character and landscapes with all its lights and shadows.



Swiss Guitarist **Christoph Denoth** is described by the press as “a master of his instrument, he performed with great technical skill, spinning out well-shaped melodic lines with crystal clear, often thrilling, accompaniments. He drew from his instrument so many different colors that one often thought there was more than one guitarist on stage.” (New York Times Concert Review)

Christoph gave his London solo debut recital at Wigmore Hall broadcasted by BBC in 2012, and made his BBC Proms debut in 2013. He performed solo recitals at the Berliner Philharmonie, Carnegie Hall, Kings Place, Plush Festival, Mozarteum Salzburg, and Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival. He performed in more than 30 countries worldwide and regularly appears in radio and television.

He performs as a soloist with the English Chamber Orchestra, Melbourne Chamber Orchestra (Australia), Orquesta de Córdoba (Spain), Staatsorchester Kassel (Germany), Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra (USA), London Symphony Orchestra.

Christoph Denoth is Professor at the Royal Academy of Music in London for guitar and voice. He became the first Swiss Musician-in-Residence (2006-2009) at Balliol College, Oxford University in UK. He regularly gives master classes in many countries.

He was trained as a soloist at the Basel Musikakademie (MMus), and in Lucerne (MA). He studied Conducting and Phenomenology of Music with Sergiu Celibidache and has since conducted a number of orchestras, most notably in Basel.

He has won several international awards, including prizes at the 35th Concours International de Guitare de Paris (1993), sponsored by Radio France. In 2008, he was awarded the UBS Culture Award for Music.

Among his recent highly acclaimed CD recordings are: with the London Symphony Orchestra under Jesus López Cobos (Signum Classics) in Rodrigo's *Concierto de Aranjuez* and Lorenzo Palomo's *Nocturnos de Andalucía*, and a ground-breaking CD *An den Mond* with Martina Janková (soprano) (Philips/Universal) with Songs by Schubert, Mozart and Haydn. Three solo albums: *Tanguero* (2018, Signum Classics), *Mister Dowland's Midnight* (2014), and *Homages* (2014, Signum Classics).

He performed with Dame Felicity Lott (soprano) at the Oxford Lieder Festival, in the BBC Spirit of Schubert week (Ruby Hughes (soprano) and premiering a rare piece by Schubert for guitar and male trio. He performed with James Gilchrist (tenor) at the BBC Proms. Concerts with Keith Lewis (tenor), Martina Janková (soprano). He regularly performs also as a soloist with chamber music groups such as the Nouvel Ensemble Contemporain, Sacconi Quartett etc.

He premiered Hans Martin Linde's *5 Traces after Benjamin Britten for solo guitar* in Buenos Aires (2013), *TIME*, by Stephen Goss in London (2018), and *The Garden of Bacchus* for guitar and orchestra (2019) by Lorenzo Palomo with the Rochester Symphony Orchestra (USA).

His concerts are described by listeners and the Press as “exceptionally musical and soul-touching...” *An absolutely first class issue*” Classics FM. Christoph Denoth lives in Basel (Switzerland) and London UK.

[www.christophdenoth.com](http://www.christophdenoth.com)



Masami Suzuki (Soprano)

Japanese Soprano Masami Suzuki graduated from the Kunitachi College of Music, studying under Sachie Nakayama. She continued her vocal studies at the Conservatoire Shobi where she received a Diploma, and then trained and completed master at the Tokyo Nihonkai Opera Studio. Masami has won many prizes in singing competitions, including the Concert Vivant Audition, the Judges' Award at the Les Splendeurs Music Competition, the Incentive Award at the French Music Competition and the International Spanish Music Competition.

Her entire opera appearances include Papagena in Mozart's 'The Magic Flute', Micaëla in Bizet's 'Carmen', Mimì in Puccini's 'La Bohème', Annina in Verdi's 'La Traviata', Shepherd in Puccini's 'Tosca', Lucy in Menotti's 'The Telephone', and other roles include Zerlina in Mozart's 'Don Giovanni', Adina in Donizetti's 'L'elisir d'Amore', Norina in Donizetti's 'Don Pasquale', Juliette in Gounod's 'Roméo et Juliette' and Violetta in Verdi's 'La Traviata'. Masami was honoured to participate in the Seiji Ozawa Opera Project IX; founded by the internationally acclaimed conductor Seiji Ozawa who aims to foster promising young musicians. She

has appeared on TV, as a member of the vocal group Foresta, in the 'Nippon Kokoro no uta', a music programme on BS Nippon. The group later toured various cities in Japan and became popular throughout Japan. Her first CD album, "Une femme amoureuse" was released in August 2018 from the Concert Port.

Since she moved to Europe in 2012, she has eagerly developed her career across the UK, Germany, France and Japan, studying with Yvonne Kenny, Romana Noack, Edwige Herchenroder, Mary Satterthwaite, Jeremy Silver and Peter Robinson.

Since 2021 she has been living in Thailand and is developing her career in Southeast Asia.

[www.masamisuzuki.com](http://www.masamisuzuki.com)