



## ∞ PASCAL VALOIS - ROMANTIC GUITAR ∞

# The Art of Playing Romantic Guitar

## A Workshop on Improvisation, Ornamentation and the Performance of Romantic Music

Alumni of the Schola Cantorum Basiliensis and PhD holder Pascal Valois proposes a workshop dedicated to the performance of romantic music on the guitar.

The guitar music of the end of the 18th century and the beginning of the 19th century remains the cornerstone of today's repertoire for classical guitarists. Among the most well-known guitarist from this period we find the Italians Ferdinando Carulli (1770-1841) and Mauro Giuliani (1781-1829), and the Spaniards Fernando Sor (1778-1839) and Dionisio Aguado (1784-1848). However, the performance practice of that time diverges in many regards with the "modern" manner of playing the guitar. The aim of the workshop is to introduce guitarists to the interpretation of classic and romantic music as it was conceived in the 18th and the 19th centuries. It includes a commented PowerPoint presentation of musical examples and iconography and a display of period instruments.

The following topics will be discussed:

- Playing position
- improvisation
- Portamento
- Ornaments: appoggiaturas, mordents and trills
- Expression: articulation, phrasing, dynamics, vibrato, special effects and tempos

**Duration: 60 minutes or 90 minutes. It can also be presented as a 60-minute lecture-recital.**

# Reviews

The result is outstanding, thanks to Pascal Valois's rigorous historical approach, as well as his exuberant expressivity. It is an exemplary homage to Victor Magnien's music (recorded for the first time). 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.

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