

Fire & Grace

"... sheer joy and energy" ***Peninsula Reviews***

"With Huizinga's viking stature and red hair whipping around and Coulter grooving with zen-like calmness, they make an engaging pair." ***Monterey County Weekly***

"... exuded life, emotion, warmth and depth ... proving that you can dance to classical music." ***Otago Daily Times***



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Fire & Grace is an eclectic collaboration between guitarist William Coulter and violinist Edwin Huizinga. This unique duo explores the connective musical elements of classical, folk and contemporary traditions from around the world. Fire & Grace's repertoire is vast, ranging from Bach to Vivaldi, tango to Celtic tunes, traditional Bulgarian to American fiddle tunes and waltzes, all played with a sense of discovery and commitment to the elements of passion and virtuosity—fire and grace—found in these diverse traditions. Recent and upcoming performances have included engagements at the Carmel Bach Festival, the Mozaic Festival, the Santa Cruz Baroque Festival, Electric Earth Concerts, the Monterey Museum of Art and touring with Tomaseen Foley's *A Celtic Christmas*. In Spring 2017, Fire & Grace toured to New Zealand with appearances at the UPSURGE Festival, the Festival of Colour, and the New Zealand School of Music. The group's self-titled debut album combines melodies from Argentina, Bulgaria, and Western Europe with dance elements from baroque and folk musical traditions.

Performing both baroque and modern repertoire, Canadian violinist **Edwin Huizinga** has appeared alongside Yo-Yo Ma, Itzhak Perlman, Dawn Upshaw, Mike Marshall, and Stevie Wonder, and has been featured as a soloist with the San Bernardino Symphony, the Sweetwater Music Festival, the Trinity Alps Chamber Music Festival, and the Banff Summer Arts Festival. Edwin is a founding member of the baroque ensemble ACRONYM which has released six full-length albums of previously unknown and unrecorded baroque music. Edwin also performs all over the world with Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra. As a modern violinist, Edwin has performed in the US and Germany with The Knights NYC, and occasionally works with A Far Cry. Edwin is also a member of the Juno-nominated indie rock band The Wooden Sky, and was commissioned to write a piece for Canada's 150th anniversary. He is a founding member of the Classical Revolution—an organization dedicated to shaping the future of concerts and jam sessions in alternative locations around the world—and serves as Artistic Director of the Big Sur Music Camp.

Guitarist **William Coulter** has been performing and recording traditional guitar music for over twenty years. His most recent solo recording, *The Road Home* (Gourd Music), was met with critical acclaim and in 2005 he received a Grammy for his contribution to *The Pink Guitar*, a collection of solo guitar arrangements of Henry Mancini's music. Musical collaborations have been a mainstay of William's career and have included many tours and recordings including *Song for Our Ancestors* with classical guitar virtuoso Benjamin Verdery, *Time to Sail*, *One Sweet Kiss* and *Westward* with Kerry-born Irish singer Eilis Kennedy, *Simple Gifts - Music of the Shakers* with cellist Barry Phillips, and *Celtic Requiem* with Irish vocalist Mary McLaughlin. His book of transcriptions, *Celtic Crossing*, published by Mel Bay, includes music from his recording of the same name. William maintains a classical guitar studio at the University of California at Santa Cruz and teaches at various summer music camps.

Photo Credit: Michelle Magdalena