

Flutar Duo

Joseph Cunliffe and Giorgia Cavallaro



About Flutar Duo

Flutar consists of two outstanding Washington-based artists: flutist, Joseph Cunliffe and guitarist, Giorgia Cavallaro each of whom have for years been successfully active as performers and educators. They have performed as a duo for over two decades and have consistently received high critical acclaim both in the United States and abroad. As recording artists they have recorded four CD's together: "Dreams of Suchitlán," "Journey's Crossing," "Live at Blue House" and "Encantada."

Flutar's latest CD, "Encantada" (2008), combines music from Latin American and Brazilian traditions and demonstrates their virtuosic command and expressive interpretation of this genre of music. Brilliant original arrangements and improve sections give this live studio recording a spontaneous feel and musical sparkle. Works by composers Frederic Chopin, Gaspar Sanz, Maurice Ravel and George Gershwin are beautifully woven into this mostly Latin sound.

As a group or as individuals, Cunliffe and Cavallaro have performed for numerous notable personalities such as; Sir James Galway, Oprah Winfrey, Lorin Maazel, Leonard Slatkin, Mstislav Rostropovich, former President Bill Clinton, and former Vice President Al Gore. They have shared the stage with great artists like; Paul Winters, George Duke, Stanely Clarke, Paul Boltenback, Scott Ambush, Chris Vadala and Brian Ganz.

Touring El Salvador in 1998 Joseph and Giorgia were granted Diplomas from La Universidad and were awarded the title of "Artistic Ambassador's to the US" by the United States Information Service for their valuable cultural contributions. The Flutar duo is frequently featured at the National Flute Association Conventions in cities throughout the US and they are regular performers at the Millennium Stage at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Their debut recording "Dreams of Suchitlán" is a CD inspired by music for peace tour work in El Salvador in 1991 during the country's civil war.

The artist's deep personal commitment to environmental issues inspired the concept, writing and recording of "Journey's Crossing," which emphasizes the global crisis and threat to wildlife. The music serves as an immediate message to the delicate issues of conservation and preservation. Joseph and Giorgia have collectively written and arranged hundreds of works for flute and guitar and are known for their unique arrangements of songs that cross over and blend elements of folk, jazz, classical and world music. They are featured on recent releases, "Winter Moon" by soprano MaryAnn Evangelista and pianist Stef Scaggiari and "Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep" by soprano Jennifer Benson. Film director and author Alejandro Cotto says it best when he wrote of Flutar performance as "...an inspired musical presentation that moves and electrifies all the senses...*Not only is it in hearing their performance that delights us, but they are able to vibrate the whole being of whomever is listening and who in turn carry in their life, a deep emotion that lasts forever.*"

"Excellent music, beautifully performed ...a magical musical event."

-Priscilla J. Johnson, Concert Series Director, Longwood Gardens, PA

"Your concert at the Mayan ruins of San Andres was absolutely magical...it's going to stay with me as one of my favorite concerts ever. Your concerts at the three universities allowed us to introduce the richness of U.S. culture to a whole new generation, and they loved it."

-Martha Buckley, Cultural Affairs Officer, USIS Central America

"Inspiring and extraordinary music that touched my heart."

-Danny Glover, Actor, Humanitarian

"The duo Flutar led the program, featuring the intense guitarist Giorgia Cavallaro accompanied by flute and wind artist Joseph Cunliffe. The duo performed traditional folk songs of the British Isles as well as Cavallaro's own works. Cunliffe's spicy flute improvisations drew on the baroque tradition of individual tonal embellishments, while Cavallaro's forte lies in the imaginative sweep of her compositions."

-L. Peat O'Neal...Washington Post

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