LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN CULTURAL SOCIETY 24 YEARS ON

FIRST CHILEAN GUITAR FESTIVAL 2007

Presented in association with the **EMBASSY OF CHILE** and the DIRECCION DE ASUNTOS CULTURALES MINISTERIO DE RELACIONES EXTERIORES

JOSÉ ANTONIO ESCOBAR, Guitar

THURSDAY 12th APRIL 2007 at 7.45pm PURCELL ROOM, SBC, LONDON, SEI 8XX

PROGRAMME

HEITOR VILLA-LOBOS (1887-1959) FIVE PRELUDES

1. Lyric Melody 2. Capadocia Melody – E Major 3. Homage to Bach - A Minor 4. Homage to Brazilian Indian – E Minor 5. Homage to Social Life – D Major

CHRISTIAN VÁSQUEZ (b. 1965) ALUCINACIÓN

World Premiére Dedicated to José Antonio Escobar

INTERVAL

HEITOR VILLA-LOBOS (1887-1959) TWELVE STUDIES FOR GUITAR

(Manuscript, 1928)

- Allegro 2. A Major

- Allegro Moderato G Major - Poco Moderato

- Andantino 6. E Minor - Poco Allegro 7. E Minor

9. F Sharp Minor – Tres peu Animé

10. E Minor - Vivo

11. E Minor - Lento, Piu Mosso, Animato, Lento

12. A Minor

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JOSÉ ANTONIO ESCOBAR

He is one of the best guitarists of the new generation in South American, both nationally and internationally. He was born in Santiago, Chile, within a family of musicians and was introduced to the music by his father. Later on in life he was under the guidance of the renowned Ernesto Quezada at the Faculty of Arts, University of Chile gaining the Diploma *summa cum laude*. Afterwards he won a scholarship to read a postgraduate course with Franz Halász at the Hochschüle für Musik in Augsburg, Germany obtaining the Meisterklassendiplom (Master Degree). He also attended Master Classes with Alirio Díaz, Abel Carlevaro, Eliot Fisk, Hopkinson Smith, Eduardo Egüez and Juan Carlos Rivera.

Escobar is the winner of sixteen International prizes transforming

him in the most rewarded international young classical guitarist. Some of them are: First Prizes at the International Guitar Competition Francisco Tarrega, Spain 2000; the Stotsenberg International Guitar Competition, USA 2001; International Guitar Competition Julius Argas, Spain 2003; International Guitar Competition Heitor Villa-Lobos, Brazil 1997; International Guitar Competition Cácerez, Spain 2005.

He has toured over 20 countries in Europe, North, Central and

South America including the Asia/Pacific regions, Middle East and North Africa. He has given concerts at the following venues: the Musikverein, Vienna; Raitt Recital Hall, Los Angeles, USA; Teatro Monumental, Madrid, Spain; Teresa Carreño Hall, Caracas, Venezuela; Cecilia Meireles Hall, Río de Janiero, Brazil; Cairo

He recorded his first CD with NAXOS and it was well received by the critics and the general public. He recorded live, "The Aranjuez Concert' by Joaquin Rodrigo for Channel 2, Spanish TV which was broadcasted worldwide. His second CD, recorded in 2004, included the Sonatas Iberoamericanas para Guitarra, for Spanish RTV. In 2006/07 he recorded for NAXOS, an interesting CD entitled "Chilean Music for Guitar". Important Chilean composers have dedicated pieces to him, and in his turn he has won for them

He has been Assistant to Prof. Franz Haláz in Germany, gaining the Lehrauftrag für Gitarre at the Hochschüle für Musik de Nürnberg – Augsburg, Germany. He has given a course of lectures in guitar at the Conservatory of Music in the Austral University of Chile. Since 2004 he has also taught at the Conservatory of Music in the Santiago Major University, Chile. He has given Masterclasses in Germany, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Finland, the Canary Islands, Libya,

Morocco and Norway.

He is presently reading a postgraduate course in Composition at the University of Chile.