

**LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN  
CULTURAL SOCIETY  
24 YEARS ON**

**24th INTERNATIONAL  
GUITAR SERIES**

*Presented in association with the  
EMBASSY OF FINLAND*

**ISMO ESKELINEN, *Guitar***

FRIDAY 16th FEBRUARY 2007 at 7.45pm  
PURCELL ROOM, SBC, LONDON SE1 8XX

**PROGRAMME**

**J. S. BACH (1685-1750)**

PRELUDE BWV 999

CHACONNE BWV 1004

*(arr. by Segovia and Eskelinen)*

**EINOJUHANİ RAUTAVAARA (b.1928)**

VARIÉTUDE

*arr. by Ismo Eskelinen,*

*British première*

**OLLI MUSTONEN (b.1963)**

JEHKIN IIVANA, SONATA FOR GUITAR

*dedicated to Ismo Eskelinen*

*British première*

**INTERVAL**

**MANUEL M. PONCE (1882-1948)**

VARIATIONS ON FOLIA

DE ESPAÑA AND FUGUE (1919)

*according to original manuscript*

**Presented by JRM. MANAGEMENT**

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**ISMO ESKELINEN, *guitar***

Ismo Eskelinen began his rise to the top of the young generation of guitar players after winning the International Scandinavian Guitar Festival competition as it's youngest participant in 1989. Since then he has received several international prizes such as, the Gargnano (Italy 1997), the Leo Brouwer prize (Tampere 1998), the Guitar Foundation of America competition (San Antonio, USA 2000), Printemps de la Guitare (Brussels 1992), Frosinone (Italy 1992), the Philippos Nakas competition (Athens 1997) and Tychy (Poland 1990). In 1999, Eskelinen was nominated Young Artist of the Year at the Mikkelä Music Festival of Valeri Gergiev.

Eskelinen's repertoire extends from the 16th century to the very latest contemporary music. He has attracted attention both for his performances of Bach's works for lute and of new music. Distinguished contemporary composers, such as Einöjuhani Rautavaara, Peteris Vasks, Leo Brouwer, Jouni Kaipainen, Helmut Lachenmann, Luca Francesconi and Jukka Tiensuu, have praised him for his intensive interpretations of their works. He has premiered two remarkable concertos with the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra: in 2003 the Guitar Concerto of Tan Dun (Finnish première), and in 2005 the Jukka Tiensuu Guitar Concerto. In the summer of 2005 he premièred the Guitar Sonata "Jehkin Iivana", composed for him by Olli Mustonen. In 2006 Ismo Eskelinen premièred his own arrangement of Einöjuhani Rautavaara's *Variétude*.

Ismo Eskelinen plays solo recitals, chamber music and as orchestra soloist. He has toured extensively in Scandinavia, in many European countries and in the USA. On top of the FRSO, he has appeared as a soloist with Tapiola Sinfonietta, Sinfonia Lahti, Tampere Philharmonic, Ostrobothnian Chamber Orchestra, Basel Philharmonic, the Wallonian Chamber Orchestra (Brussels), the Stringendo Chamber Orchestra (Paris), Katowice Philharmonic, Chamber Orchestra of Lapland and the Virtuosi di Kuhmo quartet. He has worked with conductors such as Sakari Oramo, John Storgårds, Hannu Lintu, Juha Kangas, Ernesto Martínez-Izquierdo and Shuntaro Sato. As for music festivals, he has performed e.g. at the Moritzburg Music Festival, Helsinki Festival, the Savonlinna Opera Festival, the Kuhmo Chamber Music Festival and the Naantali and Turku Music Festivals. His chamber music partners include musicians such as, Pekka Kuusisto, Judith Ingolfsson, Jan-Erik Gustafsson, John Storgårds and the New Helsinki Quartet.

Eskelinen makes recordings for the Finnish Broadcasting Company on regular basis, and has appeared on radio and TV. He was the "Resident Artist" of a popular Finnish current affairs talk show *Päivärinta* in 2003-2004.

Ismo Eskelinen's first solo recording *Magic Circle* (2000) contains music by de Falla, José, Mompou and Rodrigo. His release of music by Ponce (2003) was praised both nationally and internationally. Eskelinen's recent (2005) CD *The Seventh Sense* includes works by Pärt, Vasks, Francescani, Miki, Takemitsu and Brower.

Ismo Eskelinen is artistic director of the Sonkajärvi Soi music festival.

Eskelinen studied guitar at the Sibelius Academy with Timo Korhonen and chamber music with Ralf Gothöni. He completed his studies with Oscar Ghiglia at the Basel Music Academy, and at the Accademia Musicale Chigiana in Siena.

"This is, without doubt, the finest recording of these particular works I have yet come across: it would be difficult to imagine a finer interpretation of this superb composer's works."

*Classical Guitar / September 2004*

"Eskelinen's performance of the concerto is focussed, clean, and incisive. Eskelinen's is the best complement to Segovia's classic recording..."

*American Record Guide September/October 2004*