

# LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN CULTURAL SOCIETY 24 YEARS ON

## 24th INTERNATIONAL GUITAR SERIES

*Presented in association with the  
MALTA HIGH COMMISSION*

**SIMON SCHEMBRI, Guitar**

THURSDAY 29th MARCH at 7.45pm  
PURCELL ROOM, SBC, LONDON, SE1 8XX

## PROGRAMME

**GASPAR SANZ (1640-1710)**

PAVANE  
CANARIOS

**SYLVIUS LEOPOLD WEISS (1686-1750)**

PASSACAGLIA

**JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH (1685-1750)**

PRELUDE FUGUE AND ALLEGRO  
FOR LUTE IN E FLAT MAJOR, BWV 998

**NICCOLO PAGANINI (1782-1840)**

GRAND SONATA FOR VIOLIN AND GUITAR  
IN A MAJOR, Op. 35 MS3

*Romance  
Andantino Variato*

## INTERVAL

**GORDON MIZZI (b.1947)**

VARIATIONS ON A MALTESE THEME

**ISAAC ALBÉNIZ (1860-1909)**

SUITE ESPAÑOLA OP. 47

*Granada - Serenata  
Asturias - Leyenda  
Sevilla - Sevillanas*

**ASTOR PIAZZOLLA (1921-1992)**

LAS CUATRO ESTACIONES PORTEÑAS

*Verano Porteño  
Invierno Porteño*

ROMANTICO

LA MUERTE DEL ANGEL

**Presented by JRM MANAGEMENT**

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## SIMON SCHEMBRI

Maltese by birth, Simon Schembri grew up in a musical family; his grandfather was a stringed-instrument craftsman. He began his guitar studies at six and was giving concerts by nine.

Early success led him to London and Paris at age 13 where the honors accumulated: the coveted Concert Artist's degree from the Royal College of Music at 14 and, under Alexandre Lagoya's tutelage the "Premier Prix d'interprétation" at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Paris.

He subsequently received gold medals from the Yehudi Menuhin and the George Cziffra Foundations, and is as well the laureate of the "Guitar Foundation of America", a lifetime member of the Academie Albert Einstein and a member of the International American foundation "Young Concert Artists".

Simon Schembri has been living in France for the last 20 years. He has given 600 concerts worldwide, notably in France, but also in England, Spain, Germany and Italy.

Several music lovers and musicians recognize the exceptional quality of sound, technical perfection and immense sensitivity in Simon Schembri's interpretations. "Simon Schembri has always known how to use technical prowess to serve an intense musical spirituality" said Alexandre Lagoya. Eminent music personality Jacques Chailley dedicated his first work for guitar to him in June 1992.

Famous French conductor and producer at France Inter (French radio) Frédéric Lodéon says: "I had the great pleasure to listen to Simon Schembri a year ago and I was immediately struck by the clarity of his playing and the quality of musical expression that he transmits through the guitar. Simon Schembri avoids all banality and breathes new life into the works he interprets".

Simon Schembri has a great capacity to establish direct emotional contact with his audiences. Through him, we rediscover the vast musical richness and romantic expression of this fabulous instrument – the guitar. His interpretations embody the creative and sensitive character of the musician ; the moments are pure magic.

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