

# CHIHARA - GUITAR CONCERTO



CHIHARA



MISTLETOE BRIDE

GRASS

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA  
SIR NEVILLE MARRINER, CONDUCTOR

PEPE ROMERO, GUITAR

The three pieces on this CD were written when I was a young composer. I had just resigned my teaching position at UCLA (in 1973), and was just entering the free-lance world of movies, Broadway and ballet. Within six months I found myself working on my first film for Roger Corman (*Death Race 2000*) and first commissioned ballet score (*Shinju*, for the San Francisco Ballet). Each of these works on this CD was revised extensively over the last few years, and recorded and mixed with the latest technology in Hollywood and New York.

The *Concerto for Guitar and Orchestra with Trumpet Obligato* was written for Pepe Romero and the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra in 1975. Maestro Neville Marriner was the orchestra's first music director, and he chose me to be his first composer-in-residence. Over the years, we have maintained the warmest artistic relationship. The concerto also reflects my friendship with the great Spanish guitarist Pepe Romero, and our mutual fascination for scary movies with their haunting stories and images of tragic, beautiful women. The concerto evokes

the mysterious films from Japan from that period: especially *Kuroneko* (Black Cat) and *Onibaba* (Demon Woman).

*Mistletoe Bride* (1978) was my second ballet commissioned by the San Francisco Ballet, which subsequently appointed me to be its first composer-in-residence. Its story (and principal musical theme) is based on the tragic ballad of the same name, attributed to Thomas Haynes Bayly (1797-1839). The story tells of a young maiden, married too young to old Lord Lovell, who on her wedding night plays a game of hide and seek. She disappears, only to be discovered many years later: a skeleton in a wedding gown. She had accidentally locked herself in a family chest in the attic. No fewer than three old houses in Britain claim to be the site of this tragedy.

Despite its title and hallucinogenic orchestral textures, *Grass* has nothing to do with marijuana. It was composed in 1974 for the great avant-garde bass virtuoso Bertram Turetsky, and commissioned by Giora Bernstein and the Claremont Music Festival. It derives its title from the pastoral lyrics of the seven-

in-residence at the Marlboro Music Festival in 1971. Chihara was the first composer-in-residence with the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, as well as of the San Francisco Ballet (from 1976 to 1986). He is on the music faculty at UCLA.

In addition to his many concert works, Mr. Chihara has composed scores for over 90 motion pictures and television series. He has worked with directors Sidney Lumet, Louis Malle, Michael Ritchie, and Arthur Penn. Also active in the New York musical theater world, he served as musical consultant and arranger for Duke Ellington's *Sophisticated Ladies*, and was the composer for James Clavell's *Shogun, the Musical*.

### **Sir Neville Marriner**

Internationally renowned, the English conductor Sir Neville Marriner studied at the Royal College of Music in London and studied violin at the Paris Conservatoire with René Benedetti. While playing as a principal in the London Symphony Orchestra Neville Marriner founded the

as the director of this ensemble he gravitated towards conducting. Pierre Monteux became his mentor.

From 1969 to 1979, Neville Marriner was also musical director of the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, from 1971 to 1973 deputy conductor of the Northern Symphony Orchestra, from 1979 to 1986 musical director of the Minnesota Orchestra and from 1986 to 1989 principal conductor of South German Radio Symphony Orchestra. Sir Neville has conducted virtually every major orchestra in the world.

Neville Marriner has twice been honored for his services to music. In 1979 he was made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire and in 1985 he received a Knighthood.

### **Pepe Romero**

Celebrated worldwide for his dazzling virtuosity, compelling interpretations, and flawless technique, guitarist Pepe Romero is constantly in demand for his solo recitals, performances with orchestras, and with the world famous Romeros

and Christopher Lamb as soloists).

Ms. Botti received her Bachelor of Music from the Berklee School in Boston where she explored improvisation and world music, and her Masters in Music Composition from the Manhattan School of Music. She is the recipient of numerous grants and awards, including the Goddard Lieberon Fellowship from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Ms. Botti is an Assistant Professor of Composition at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

### **Jon Deak**

Composer and bass virtuoso Jon Deak was educated at Oberlin College, the Juilliard School of Music, the University of Illinois, and at the Conservatorio de Santa Cecilia in Rome. He is the Composer-in-Residence with the Colorado Symphony, which includes the Colorado Children's Chorale and Denver Public Schools. He is also the Associate Principal Bassist and Creative Education Associate of the New York Philharmonic, as well as Resident Composer of the Apple Hill

former, Jon Deak is solid, flamboyant, and totally unpredictable.

### **Jens Lindemann**

Trained at Juilliard, Jens Lindemann has performed in every major concert venue in the world: with the Philharmonics in New York, Los Angeles, London, Manchester, Munich, Hamburg, Lucerne and Berlin. He has also won accolades at numerous jazz festivals, and first prize in numerous competitions, including the prestigious ARD in Munich, and the Prague, and the Ellsworth Smith (Florida) International Trumpet Competitions. A prodigious talent and dazzling virtuoso of great versatility, he performs with world renowned performers as diverse as Doc Severinsen, Charles Dutoit, Gerald Schwartz and Bramwell Tovey. Other orchestras with whom he has performed include the London Symphony, Philadelphia Orchestra, I Musici de Montreal, I Virtuosi di Roma, St. Louis, and Mostly Mozart at Lincoln Center.

### **Buell Neidlinger**

Born in New York City in 1936,

Folklorist: Prof. Erika Brady, Western Kentucky University  
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San Francisco Ballet production of *The Mistletoe Bride*  
Allyson Deane, Jim Sohm  
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