



I. Adam Cicchillitti and Steve Cowan

Pushing the Limits: Arranging, Commissioning and Collaboration

The duo of Adam Cicchillitti and Steve Cowan has undertaken three ambitious projects since 2019: An album of Canadian commissions, an album of French arrangements, and a forthcoming album of six new concertos for two guitars and string orchestra—all on the Analekta label. Using examples from all three, this presentation will give an inside look into the various creative processes, arranging techniques, and unique compositional approaches taken by composers who are not guitarists themselves.

Two long-time friends and musicians, Steve Cowan and Adam Cicchillitti are respected and acclaimed guitarists. They quickly established themselves on both the guitar circuit and concert stages across Canada and abroad. *Classical Guitar Magazine* calls Cicchillitti a “superb Canadian guitarist” and Cowan “one of Canada’s top contemporary classical guitarists.” Together, they form the dynamic ensemble Cicchillitti-Cowan Duo, a guitar partnership that focuses on expanding the guitar duo idiom through collaborations with living composers, while also performing popular duo works and their own arrangements of impressionist works from 20th-century France and Spain.

The duo toured Eastern Canada under the auspices of Debut Atlantic in 2018 and brought classical guitar to Canada’s rural communities in 2020–2021 with the touring organization Prairie Debut. Founded in 1979, Debut Atlantic, one of Canada’s most dynamic classical music touring organizations, has evolved into a much-coveted eastern Canadian performance opportunity for Canada’s emerging classical musicians. Prairie Debut focuses on linking Canadian musicians with primarily rural communities outside the larger Canadian population centers.

II. Open Mic

Doug Danforth

Variations on a Theme by Handel, Op. 107
(Variations 1, 2, 5 and 6)

Mauro Giuliani (1781–1829)

Larry Ise

Arietta – Theme and Variations

Joseph Küffner (1781–1829)

Elizabeth Coleman

What a Wonderful World

Louis Armstrong (1901–1971)

William Simcoe

Valse
Prelude, BWV 999

Manual M. Ponce (1882–1948)
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)