

White Rock Concerts first presentation of 2017

Guitar mastery on score

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Arts Reporter

The Canadian Guitar Quartet's performance Jan. 20 – for subscribers to the White Rock Concerts' sold-out 2016-17 series – will be the beginning of the second leg of an unprecedented season of classical guitar touring, according to WRC director emeritus George Zukerman.

"In the course of two major Western tours – the first took place last October – they will have performed for 29 communities throughout B.C. and Alberta, ranging from Vancouver and Calgary to many smaller and more isolated communities such as Kaslo, High River and Pender Island," he said.

The Ottawa-based quartet, which made its debut in 1999, has concertized extensively in North and South America, recorded three albums and won raves internationally.

Members Julien Bisailon, Renaud Cote-Giguere, Bruno Roussel and Louis Trepanier have built the group's reputation to a point where it is now considered one of the world's finest guitar ensembles.

With a combination of pieces originally conceived for the guitar – both historic and recently-commissioned – together with audacious, bravura adaptations of well-known classical pieces written for other instruments, the



Contributed photo

The Canadian Guitar Quartet comes to White Rock Baptist Church Jan. 20.

Canadian Guitar Quartet has elicited such praise as "fantastic, spirited playing and sheer inventiveness" (Julia Crowe, *Classical Guitar* magazine, England) and "great brilliance and an optimal mastery of their instruments" (*Guitar* magazine, Italy).

The upcoming concert, presented by new WRC artistic directors Elizabeth and Marcel Bergmann, will hew to the same pattern of repertoire.

The curtain-raiser, for

example – an energetic arrangement by quartet member Roussel of Rossini's famed warhorse *William Tell Overture* – will be contrasted with a new work, *Fille de cuivre* (Copper Girl) by quartet colleague Cote-Giguere, inspired by the metal-art of Quebecois sculptor Jean-Louis Emond.

Other works in the concert include guitar adaptations of pieces by Beethoven and Camille Saint-Saens.

No strangers to the dynamics of combining

guitars with orchestra – indeed they have worked with a variety of ensembles across Canada – the quartet will also join forces with the John Avison Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Kenneth Hsieh, for the concert's concluding piece, Joaquin Rodrigo's *Concierto Andaluz*.

The concert will be presented at 8 p.m. (doors at 7:15 p.m.) at White Rock Baptist Church, 1657 140 St.

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