

The Guitar and Cello of Mark McCain and Erika Johnson

The CD...



"Touch the Strings" is an exciting collaboration between fingerstyle guitarist Mark McCain and classical cellist Erika Johnson, infusing jazz, gospel, folk, classical, and Celtic styles, to create a musical masterpiece. All of their music, including the exhilarating original compositions, is arranged by Mark and Erika.

The Buzz...

"... Mark and Erika have created something unique and beautiful -- this is the kind of timeless music that will last for decades in people's CD collections well after the 'flavors of the day' have come and gone." ~ John La Grou, President - Millennia Media, Inc. Mastering engineer for many National Public Radio projects; recording engineer for Yo Yo Ma, Christopher Parkening, Pepe Romero, and hundreds of high profile artists.

The rippling rhythms and harmonies of the guitar are complimented by the gorgeous sound of the singing cello line. The result is soothing, auditory pleasure. Bravi. ~ Laszlo Varga, former Principal Cellist, New York Philharmonic

"Lovely work...Great music"! ~ World class guitarist, Muriel Anderson

"Beautiful music...the pairing of the guitar and cello is brilliant!" ~ Grammy nominated musician and producer, Fletch Wiley

"Mood setting and mind altering...Erika and Mark have a true musical gift that is highlighted in this premiere work that offers a little bit of everything." ~ Melanie Smith, USA Radio Network

The Artists...

Erika Johnson ~ A native Houstonian, Erika graduated from the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts and received her bachelor of music degree from the Moores School of Music at the University of Houston. As a member of the Houston Grand Opera Orchestra, Erika maintains a busy schedule throughout the Houston area and enjoys great success as a chamber musician. She has performed with the Houston Ballet orchestra, Mercury Baroque Ensemble, and extensively with the Fine Arts String Quartet. As a member of the Moores Piano Trio, (1999-2001), Erika competed in nationwide chamber music competitions, earning the prestigious Schadd award at Chamber Music Monterey Bay in April of 2000. Erika performs regularly throughout the Houston area with the Fine Arts String Quartet.

Mark McCain ~ Born in Oklahoma and transplanted in Houston by age seven, Mark's musical journey had already begun. A student of many diverse disciplines of guitar, Mark was performing rock and pop stylings in his first band by age 8, classical stylings in local TV appearances by age 12, jazz training at the High School for the Performing Arts, and adult studies with local jazz favorite Mike Sunjka and international legend Paul Jackson, Jr. He has performed in numerous venues over his career, and played on several cd projects, so it is not surprising he has now turned his talents to composing. Mark's infusion of fingerstyle, classical, Celtic, and jazz have created a truly unique sound, whether played on acoustic or electric guitars, that have helped shape this duo as a truly unique, "not what you expected" pairing of guitar and cello.

For Booking and Other Inquiries
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