

Classical Guitar of Aguirre-Dergal To Be Featured

El Paseo Concert Arts Foundation Concert Jan. 29 at SPI Convention Centre



Mexico named Alfonso Aguirre-Dergal. Mr. Aguirre-Dergal, who is currently working toward his Master of Music degree at Yale University, thrilled area audiences as part of the American Wind Symphony Orchestra last spring with his stunningly talented and passionate performance of an concerto for guitar and wind orchestra by the Mexican composer Blas Galindo.

Born in Guadalajara, Mexico on December 20, 1979, Mr. Aguirre-Dergal is a true virtuoso who has already distinguished himself worldwide, in spite of his young age. His credentials are extraordinary, including a scholarship to Eastman School of Music; first prize in the Paracho Classical Guitar Competition in 2001; first prize in the 2006 Appalachian Guitar

Competition; third prize and special prize for the best interpretation of the music of Italian composer Simone Ianarelli in the 2006 Taxco International Guitar Competition; the Rotary International

Award for a significant contribution to Mexican musical culture; the prestigious Performer's Certificate from the Eastman School of Music, "granted to students who demonstrate outstanding performing ability"; and the annual award from the Fundacion Pedro Sarquis Merewe A.C., for his "contribution to the state of Jalisco's artistic prominence on the global stage" presented in June, 2007.

The classical guitar is perhaps the finest made by the hand of man for the hand of man to play. Beethoven, on hearing the guitar for the first time, was moved to say: "It is an orchestra-in-one instrument." It is, for example, the only instrument on which can one can play two notes—or more—of the same pitch at the same time.

However, it is truly said of the instrument that it takes "a minute to learn, but a lifetime to master." The problems of construction, strings and tunings aside, the critical issue is that the instrument is played not with plectrums, bows or hammers, but only by the hand. Being less than a millimeter off either way in fretting or striking the strings will result

in a variation from pitch.

Sitting in the spotlight, cradling his guitar in his arms, Mr. Aguirre-Dergal has the technical brilliance and musicianship to inspire and awe his audience with the music he creates with this marvelous instrument. If you're really listening to his playing—not just hearing, but actively engaging with the music—you will feel you are part of an intimate conversation that sometimes possesses a unique sweetness of tone, sometimes speaks with a sensuous expressiveness, and sometimes brings fire to the stage.

The evening will begin at 6:30 p.m. with hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar in the corridor gallery of the South Padre Island Convention Center. The ninety minute concert begins at 7:30 p.m. in the Theatre Room. Tickets for the event are \$30 per person (\$25 for El Paseo Arts Foundation members) and can be purchased at Passions in Port Isabel, the South Padre Island Visitors Center, the Texas Cat House on South Padre Island, or by calling 956-772-9097.

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