

GUITARIST • COMPOSER • ARRANGER • CONDUCTOR • WORKSHOP LEADER

Gerald Garcia



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Gerald Garcia 🎸 Biography - 1999

At his Wigmore Hall debut one critic hailed Gerald Garcia as a *'performer of rare quality'*.

'... Anyone interested in hearing the guitar at its best should put Gerald Garcia at the top of their list.'

He has toured the **Far East** and **Europe** including **Australia**, and was the first British guitarist to play in China in recent times. He has appeared at all the **main international festivals** in Britain including **Edinburgh, Aldeburgh, Cheltenham** and the **South Bank** and has broadcast extensively on radio and television all over the world. Recently he has been as far as **Borneo** and the **Arctic Circle**.

Gerald Garcia has given recitals with many leading ensembles, soloists and actors including the **London Sinfonietta**, the **Hong Kong Philharmonic**, **Paco Pena**, **John Williams**, **Richard Baker**, **Prunella Scales** and **Leo McKern**. With the flautist **Clive Conway** he has performed in most parts of Britain as well as at Glastonbury Pop Festival and on the ocean liner, the QE II. He has also performed throughout Britain with the Chilean group, ***Quimantu***, and has also collaborated with Asian and oriental artists, notably the Pipa virtuoso, **Wu Man**.

Composers who have dedicated works to him include **Michael Finnissy** and **Judith Weir**.

He has studied Renaissance and Baroque music for the lute, guitar and **vihuela**, on which he is an accomplished performer.

COMPOSER

As well as composing music for film and live productions, Gerald Garcia has arranged the music for four complete recordings :

‘Aranjuez mon Amour’ FSM- popular classics for two guitars
‘Romantic French Music for Guitar’ NAXOS- orchestrations of French music
‘Chinese Popular Songs’ HK Records- for violin and guitar
‘Grande Serenade’ Psyche- for flute and guitar

Compositions and arrangements include ‘CZARDAS - Hungarian Fantasy’ for two guitars and orchestra, ‘Medieval Madness’ for piccolo and guitar, various guitar solos, and compositions based on traditional Celtic music for harpsichord, cello and one or two guitars. Recent publications include ‘25 Etudes Esquisses’ for intermediate guitarists (ABG Publications and Mel Bay), which have been recorded for Naxos **by John Holmquist** . He has also arranged numerous teaching pieces for guitar ensemble, amongst which the “Twelve Community Songs” are the best known. He has recently been commissioned by the German Karate Association to write music for each of the *Katas* for grading! His most recent work was writing the music for the **Oxford Stage Company**’s critically acclaimed project, *Making the Future*, an exploration of childhood in plays about Hitler, Bosnia and Cinderella!

TEACHER

Gerald Garcia has taught at the **GB International Summer School** for Guitarists with Gilbert Biberian with whom he was co-director, and regularly appears at summer schools in Belgium and the USA.

He is a regular visitor to the **Iserlohn** Summer School in Germany. He has conducted amateur orchestras at the **Baroque Summer School**. His other teaching activities include workshops, notably in schools projects with the **English National Opera, Kent Opera** and the **Academy of St.Martin-in the Fields** and many weekend workshops for guitarists in Britain and Europe.

Recent teaching included a one-day seminar on stress and musicians' injuries with John Williams at the London School of Music, and a training day on music drama for young children with instrumental teachers on the Isle of Skye.

He is also extremely busy as a **session musician** and has worked with such diverse talents as **Michel Legrand, Barbara Streisand, Larry Coryell** and **Wayne Shorter**, and has played the title music in several feature films.

Gerald Garcia studied Chemistry at Oxford University and now lives in Oxford where he enjoys cycling, cooking, computer music, Taoist Yoga and conducting the odd chamber orchestra.

In September 1996 he toured four cities in China in a duo with guitarist **John Williams**.

What the critics say

‘Guitarist was world class’

- *Hong Kong Standard*

‘Brilliant! one of the best attended classical events for a long time.’

- *Windsor Observer*

‘Garcia has always been a characterful guitarist ; his musical intelligence and perception are to be treasured in an age where bland fluency seems to carry off the major prizes.’

- *Classical Guitar*

‘He displayed a wonderful approach to the music and indeed to the audience. He showed a rare combination of excellence and natural feeling for his art.’

- *The Sun , Melbourne*

‘There was an exceptional opportunity at the Wigmore Hall to hear a brilliant exposition of the personalities of the guitar by John Williams, Paco Peña and Gerald Garcia. It was a combination one would like to hear more often - Garcia showed great natural gifts and devotion to his art.’

- *The Daily Telegraph*

‘If it’s the gift to be simple, then Gerald Garcia is a superlatively gifted musician ... His is a rare artistry with a highly individual touch’

- *South China Morning Post*

SAMPLE PROGRAMMES

Hommages - solo guitar

Hungarian Fantasy ~ J.K.Mertz (1855)

Three Songs by Thomas Moore ~ arr.Gerald Garcia

Five Bagatelles ~ Sir William Walton

Invocation et Danse ~ Joaquin Rodrigo (1961)

Habañera ~ Gerald Garcia (1992)

Sonata (Omaggio a Boccherini) ~ Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco

Villa-Lobos and the Music of Latin America

Three Waltzes ~ Antonio Lauro

Mazurka Apasionata ~ Agustin Barrios

Five Preludes ~ Heitor Villa-Lobos

Five Pieces for Solo Guitar ~ Astor Piazzolla

Pixaim ~ Marco Pereira

Manha de Carnaval ~ Luis Bonfa

Jongo ~ Paolo Bellinati

Romantic Guitar

Sonata ~ N.Paganini

Five Schubert Songs ~ arr. Mertz

Five Songs Without Words ~ Mendelssohn arr. Garcia

Two Caprices ~ Paganini

Two Waltzes ~ Agustin Barrios

Modern Masters

Music by Brouwer (including El Decameron Negro, Ritos de Los Orishas, Espiral Eterna etc), Britten (Nocturnal), Walton, Richard Rodney Bennet, Biberian (Monogram, Preludes, Colombine)

Concertos and orchestral Repertoire

Concierto de Aranjuez ~ Joaquin Rodrigo

Concerto ~Heitor Villa-Lobos

Concertos in D, C and e minor ~Antonio Vivaldi

Concerto Malcolm Arnold

Clair de Lune, Golliwog's Cakewalk, En Bateau etc. ~Debussy arr. Garcia

Pavane, Sicilienne etc. ~G.Fauré

Gymnopédies 1 & 3 , Je te Veux ~ E.Satie

Concerto in d minor ~J.S.Bach

Other Works

Guitar and Harpsichord Duo (with Arne Richards, Harpsichord)

Programme includes:

Fantasia ~Manuel Ponce

Sonata for Guitar and Harpsichord ~Ponce

Fantasia for Guitar and Harpsichord ~ Antonio Lauro

Sonata for Guitar and Harpsichord ~Bach arr. Garcia

Planxtys for guitar and Harpsichord ~Carolán arr. Garcia

Chamber music with String Quartet etc.

Quartet for Flute, Viola Cello and Guitar ~ F.Schubert

Quartet for Violin, Viola, Cello and Guitar ~ J.Haydn

Quartets for Violin, Viola, Cello and Guitar ~ Da Fossa

Trios for Flute, Viola and Guitar by Molino, Kreutzer and Beethoven (Op.8 arr. Matiegka)

Duos with Flute and Violin

Pieces by Tedesco, Piazzolla, Bach, Handel, Bizet, Ravel and Folk Music from Brazil, China and Ireland.

Guitar Duos

Duos with Alison Bendy

TWO GUITARS

Three Pieces

London Symphony - First Movement

Carolán Planxtys

Bad Boy

Concierto de Aranjuez - Second Movement

Oriental

Spanish Dance from La Vida Breve

Milonga

Lo Que Vendrá Tango

Two Brazilian pieces

Xaranga do Vovo

M.Praetorius (1571-1621)arr. J.William

J.Haydn (1732-1809) arr. Carulli

G.Garcia (1949)

T.Takemitsu (1930-1997)

J.Rodrigo (b.1902)arr. G.Garcia

E.Granados (1867-1916)

M. de Falla (1876-1946)

J.Cardoso (1949)

A.Piazzolla (1929-1992)

J.Pernambuco (1833-1947)arr.S.Wingfield

C.Machado (1953)

All programmes subject to change.

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DISCOGRAPHY

Gerald Garcia's many recordings on CD and LP include :

- Rodrigo Concerto and Spanish favourites** for guitar and orchestra with the Kosice Symphony Orchestra : NAXOS
- ♫ **Romantic French Music** for guitar and orchestra - Debussy, Satie and Fauré arranged for guitar and orchestra by Gerald Garcia : NAXOS
- ♫ Vivaldi and Bach Concertos : NAXOS
- ♫ **Brazilian Portrait** - Villa Lobos and popular music of Brazil for solo guitar : NAXOS
- ♫ **Latin Festival** - Piazzolla, Brouwer and Lauro : NAXOS
- ♫ **Romantic Guitar** - Schubert, Paganini, Mendelssohn for solo guitar : NAXOS
- ♫ **Grande Serenade**- music for flute and guitar with Clive Conway SAGA
- ♫ **Chamber music of Schubert and Haydn** with the Arion Trio and Clive Conway : MERIDIAN
- ♫ **Chamber music for Flute, Viola and Guitar** with Paul Silverthorne and Clive Conway : MERIDIAN
- ♫ **Chinese Popular Music** (arr.G.Garcia) for violin and guitar with Takako Nishizaki : HK RECORDS
- ♫ **Zig Zag's Family Fun Album** - Musical madness with Flute (Clive Conway), Accordion (Arne Richards), Bassoon (Gwyn Parry-Jones) and Guitar.
Fantasies - Bizet's Carmen, Ravel, Debussy, Handel with flautist Clive Conway : MERIDIAN
- ♫ **Mandolinquents** - Arrangements of Ravel, Tchaikowsky, Mozart, Irving Berlin with the Simon Mayor Quintet (Simon Mayor, Hilary James, Richard Collins, Maart Allcock - mandolins) : ACOUSTICS
- ♫ **Romantic Guitar Music** - Tarrega, Shand, Coste, Obregon - original solo guitar music : BEAUTIFUL JO RECORDS/ PAST TIMES
- ♫ He also makes an appearance on a compilation disc produced by CBS-SONY .

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