

## SÉRGIO & ODAIR ASSAD GUITARISTS

Brazilian-born brothers Sergio and Odair Assad have set the benchmark for all other guitarists by creating a new standard of guitar innovation, ingenuity and expression. Their exceptional artistry and uncanny ensemble playing come from both a family rich in Brazilian musical tradition and from studies with the best guitarists in South America. In addition to setting new performance standards, the Assads have played a major role in creating and introducing new music for two guitars. Their virtuosity has inspired a wide range of composers to write for them: Astor Piazzolla, Terry Riley, Radamés Gnattali, Marlos Nobre, Nikita Koshkin, Roland Dyens, Jorge Morel, Edino Krieger and Francisco Mignone. Now Sergio Assad is adding to their repertoire by composing music for the duo and for various musical partners both with Symphony Orchestra and in recitals. They have worked extensively with such renowned artists as Yo-Yo Ma, Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, Fernando Suarez Paz, Paquito D’Rivera, Gidon Kremer and Dawn Upshaw.

The Assads began playing the guitar together at an early age and went on to study for seven years with guitar/lutenist Monina Távora, a disciple of Andrés Segovia. Their international career began with a major prize at the 1979 Young Artists Competition in Bratislava. Odair is based in Brussels where he teaches at Ecole Supérieure des Arts, and Sergio resides in San Francisco (where he is on the faculty of the SF Conservatory) & Paris.

The Assads repertoire includes original music composed by Sergio Assad and his re-workings of folk and jazz music as well as Latin music of almost every style. Their standard classical repertoire includes transcriptions of the great Baroque keyboard literature of Bach, Rameau and Scarlatti; and adaptations of works by such diverse figures as Gershwin, Ginastera and Debussy. Their touring programs are always a compelling blend of styles, periods and cultures.

The Assads are also recognized as prolific recording artists, primarily for the Nonesuch and GHA labels. In 2001, Nonesuch Records released “Sérgio and Odair Assad Play Piazzolla,” which later won a Latin Grammy. Their seventh Nonesuch recording, released in the fall 2007 is called “Jardim Abandonado” after a piece by Antonio Carlos Jobim. It was nominated for Best Classical Album and Sergio went on to win the Latin Grammy for his composition, “Tahiiyya Li Oussilina.”

A Nonesuch collaboration with Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg in 2000 featured a collection of pieces based on traditional and Gypsy folk tunes from around the world. The Assads and Ms. Salerno-Sonnenberg continue to tour together, displaying unique chemistry, humor and stunning virtuosity. In 2003, Sergio Assad wrote a triple concerto for this trio that has been performed with the orchestras of São Paulo, Seattle and the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra. In the summer of 2004, Sergio & Odair arranged a very special tour featuring three generations of the Assad Family. The family presented a wide variety of Brazilian music featuring their father

Jorge Assad on the mandolin and the voice of mother Angelina Assad. GHA Records has released a live recording and a DVD of the Assad Family live at Brussels' Palais des Beaux-Arts. The Assad Brothers collaboration with Yo-Yo Ma is ongoing. In 2003 the Brazilian record "Obrigado Brazil" was released, featuring Rosa Passos, Egberto Gismonti and Cyro Baptista. Sergio arranged several of the works on the disc, which captured a Grammy in 2004. A world tour followed, culminating in live concerts at the opening of Carnegie Hall's Zankel Hall and another Sony release of the live concert. In the fall of 2008, the Assads are featured on Yo-Yo's chart topping release, "Songs of Joy & Peace," which features guest artists as diverse as James Taylor and Dave Brubeck. In the piece "Familia" Yo-Yo plays Sergio's composition, featuring mother, Angelina Assad, sister Badi and children Clarice, Rodrigo and Carolina.

In the 2006-2007 season, the Assad Brothers performed Joaquin Rodrigo's Concierto Madrigal for Two Guitars and Sergio's arrangement of the Four Seasons of Buenos Aires with the Los Angeles Philharmonic at the Hollywood Bowl. In 2007, and again in 2008, the brothers toured with the Turtle Island Quartet in a program called "String Theory". In the Winter of 2008, the Assads curated a guitar festival at the 92nd St. Y in New York, and then toured with some of those artists in a project called "Brazilian Guitar Festival" featuring Badi Assad, Romero Lubambo and Celso Machado. In February 2009, the Los Angeles Guitar Quartet is premiering a new concerto for orchestra and four guitars at the Southwest Guitar Festival in San Antonio, Texas. Upcoming projects include a tour with Lebanese singer, Christiane Karam, percussionist Jamey Haddad and composer/pianist Clarice Assad in a project entitled, "Da Volta as Raisez" (Back to Our Roots). The music will explore the brothers' Middle Eastern heritage. The Assads will also be featured performers on James Newton Howard's soundtrack of the upcoming Universal Pictures movie, "Duplicity," directed by Tony Gilroy and starring Julia Roberts, to be released in the Spring 2009.

The Assads perform under an exclusive management agreement with Opus 3 Artists. The Assads play Thomas Humphrey guitars.