

present...

*The Robert and Ruth Dell Guitar Series*

**DAVID RUSSELL** | Guitar

Saturday, March 14, 2026 | 7:30pm

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

**M. GIULIANI**

**Grand Overture**

**J.S. BACH**

**Prelude and Andante\***

**I. ALBÉNIZ**

**Pavana**

**Zambra Granadina**

**Capricho Catalán**

*Nocturno*

*Malagueña*

**INTERMISSION**

**S. GOSS**

**Don Quijote (Dedicated to David Russell)**

*Don Quixote and Sancho Panza*

*Dulcinea*

*Tilting at Windmills*

*Vigil of Arms*

*The Puppet Theatre*

**G. ESTARELLAS**

**Homage to Charles Chaplin**

*Sueños*

*Bastón*

*Blanco y Negro*

*Añoranza*

*Botas*

*Tramoyista*

\* Transcription: David Russell

**This series is made possible in part by the generous support of  
Robert and Ruth Dell.**

**David Russell** is represented by [davidrussellguitar.com](http://davidrussellguitar.com)

For Tickets and More: [sfperformances.org](http://sfperformances.org) | 415.392.2545



## ARTIST PROFILES

*San Francisco Performances* has presented David Russell fourteen times. He first appeared in March 1993.

Classical guitarist **David Russell** is world renowned for his superb musicianship and inspired artistry, having earned the highest praise from audiences and critics alike. In recognition of his great talent and his international career, he was named a Fellow of The Royal Academy of Music in London in 1997.

In May 2003 he was bestowed the great honor of being made “adopted son” of Es Migjorn, the town in Minorca where he grew up. Later the town named a street after him, “Avinguda David Russell.”

In November 2003 he was given the Medal of Honor of the Conservatory of the Balearics.

David Russell is a Grammy® award winner for his CD *Aire Latino* in the category of best instrumental soloist in classical music. After winning the Grammy®, the town of Nigrán in Spain where he resides, gave him the silver medal of the town in an emotional ceremony.

During his studies at the Royal Academy, David Russell twice won the Julian Bream Guitar Prize. Later he won numerous international competitions, including the Andrés Segovia Competition, the José Ramírez Competition and Spain’s prestigious Francisco Tárrega Competition.

David Russell spends his time touring the world, appearing regularly at prestigious halls in main cities, such as New York, London, Tokyo, Los Angeles, Madrid, Toronto, or Rome. Concertgoers everywhere are in awe of his musical genius and inspired by his captivating stage presence. His love of his craft resonates through his flawless and seemingly effortless performance. The attention to detail and provoc-

ative lyrical phrasing suggest an innate understanding of what each individual composer was working to achieve, bringing to each piece a sense of adventure.

In May 2005 he received an homage from the music conservatory of Vigo, culminating with the opening of the new Auditorium, to which they gave the name “Auditorio David Russell.” In 2009 David was named honorary member of “Amigos de la Guitarra”, the oldest guitar society in Spain. He received an Honorary Doctorate in Music by the University of Arizona in Tucson in 2014 and was inducted into the Hall of Fame of the Guitar Foundation of America in 2018.

A prolific recording artist, his collection includes 17 CDs with Telarc International. The *New York Times* wrote about his performance: “...Mr. Russell made his mastery evident without ever deviating from an approach that places musical values above mere display. It was apparent to the audience throughout the recital that Mr. Russell possesses a talent of extraordinary dimension.”

Upon hearing him play in London, Andrés Segovia wrote: “My congratulations on your musicality and guitaristic technique.”

## PROGRAM NOTES

### Grand Overture

**MAURO GIULIANI**  
(1781-1829)

Mauro Giuliani was the most famous guitarist-composer in Vienna, perhaps in all of Europe, during the first two decades of the 19th century. Born in southern Italy, he was greatly influenced by the virtuosic and fluent style of Rossini. In 1806, at the age of 25, he settled in Vienna and became part of a musical establishment that included

Beethoven, Hummel, Weber, Diabelli, and many other leading musicians. His musical activities ranged from the composition of beginners’ guitar exercises to performances of his own guitar concerti, and even a performance in the world premiere of Beethoven’s *Seventh Symphony* as a featured guest cellist. It was, however, as a guitar virtuoso that Giuliani was highly esteemed. A critic for the British guitar journal *Giulianiad* wrote: “in his hands the guitar became gifted with a power of expression at once pure, thrilling and exquisite. He vocalized his adagios to a degree impossible to be imagined by those who never heard him—his melody...was invested with a character not only sustained and penetrating, yet of so earnest and pathetic description as to make it appear in reality the natural characteristic of the instrument. In a word he made the instrument sing.” Giuliani’s music—a mercurial combination of grace, lyricism and dazzle—is always well-wrought, and on occasion crosses to deeper levels. The *Grand Overture* Op. 61, in the manner of an opera overture, is a single movement sonata-allegro form. A slow and dramatic introduction in minor leads to a major key exposition full of sparkling virtuoso turns. A flamboyant extroverted first theme, playful second theme and elaborate sumptuous cadence lead to a development with frequent modulations including a dark turn to the minor. A recapitulation and ornate coda conclude the work.

### Prelude and Andante

**J.S. BACH**  
(1685-1750)

Johann Sebastian Bach is widely considered one of the greatest composers in music history. The *Andante* from Sonata BWV 1034, is a sublime and tender aria, with its beautiful, flowing melody over a simple, steady bass line and delights listeners with its gentle beauty.

### Pavana Zambra Granadina Capricho Catalán

**ISAAC ALBÉNIZ**  
(1860-1909)

Isaac Albéniz was one of the most significant figures in Spanish cultural circles at the close of the 19th century. A remarkable child prodigy and raconteur, he claimed that he ran

away from home at age 12, sailed to Argentina as a stowaway and subsequently traveled to America, where he paid his way by playing the piano in honky tonks and spending some time playing at San Francisco's Fisherman's Wharf. On his return to Europe he became a serious student of composition. He fell under the spell of Spain's indigenous music and was influenced to a high degree by both flamenco and the guitar. The legendary Francisco Tárrega made transcriptions of Albéniz's piano music, and an appealing though undocumented tale says that Albéniz, on hearing Tárrega's performance of his transcriptions, declared the music had found its rightful home. Tárrega's practice of performing Albéniz's music has been enthusiastically followed by guitarists to this day.

## Don Quixote

**STEPHEN GOSS**

(B. 1964)

*Don Quixote* is a solo guitar piece based on various characters and episodes from

the celebrated two-part novel by Miguel de Cervantes. The five movements are:

1. *Don Quixote and Sancho Panza*
2. *Dulcinea*
3. *Tilting at Windmills*
4. *Vigil of Arms*
5. *The Puppet Theatre*.

The piece can be performed with projected images, with a narrator, or simply as a guitar piece. *Don Quixote* was commissioned by David Russell, who tours the piece in 2026. The premiere took place on January 10, 2026 in Alicante. This is the San Francisco premiere.

## Homage to Charles Chaplin

**GABRIEL ESTARELLAS**

(B. 1952)

Gabriel Estarellas is a Spanish guitarist and composer whose *Homage to Charles Chaplin* is a suite of twenty pieces in tribute to the famous film star. Each movement

serves as a "musical scene," mimicking the episodic nature of Chaplin's films. *Sueños* (Dreams) explores the poetic and sentimental side of Chaplin's "Little Tramp" character. *Bastón* (The Cane) features rhythmic and jaunty elements reflecting the physical comedy inspired by Chaplin's walking stick. *Blanco y Negro* (Black and White) evokes the visual style of the silent film era. *Añoranza* (Yearning) highlights the emotional depth and pathos found in Chaplin's storytelling.

—Program notes by Scott Cmiel