

present...

*The Robert and Ruth Dell Guitar Series*

**JASON VIEAUX and JIJI | Guitars**

Saturday, March 28, 2026 | 7:30pm

Taube Atrium Theater

**ALBÉNIZ**

**Asturias**

**PUJOL**

**Verde Alma**

**ARLEN**

**Over the Rainbow**

**DYENS**

**Tango en Skai**

**JIJI**

**Very Berry Strawberry**

*Performed by JIJI*

**BACH**

**Prelude, BMV 998**

**METHENY**

**Four Paths of Light I, II, III, IV**

*Performed by Jason Vieaux*

**INTERMISSION**

**SCARLATTI**

**Sonata in E Major, K. 380**

**GISMONTI**

**Agua e Vinho**

**GRANADOS**

**Valses Poéticos**

**WREMBEL**

**Bistro Fada**

**TOWNER**

**Duende**

**BELLINATI**

**Jongo**

*Performed by JIJI and Jason Vieaux*

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

**Jason Vieaux** is represented by Jonathan Wentworth Associates Ltd.  
6118 40th Avenue, Hyattsville, MD 20782-3012    [jwentworth.com](http://jwentworth.com)

**JIJI** is represented by Kirshbaum Associates Inc.  
307 Seventh Avenue, Suite 506, New York, NY 10001    [kirshbaumassociates.com](http://kirshbaumassociates.com)

## ARTIST PROFILES

San Francisco Performances presents Jason Vieaux for the fourth time. He first appeared in October 2017

San Francisco Performances present JIJI for the second time. She first appeared in March 2023.



Grammy®-winning guitarist **Jason Vieaux**, “among the elite of today’s classical guitarists” (*Gramophone*), is described by NPR as “perhaps the most precise and soulful classical guitarist of his generation”.

In appearances from New York’s Lincoln Center to Amsterdam’s Concertgebouw and the Seoul Arts Center, Jason Vieaux has cemented his reputation as an artist of uncompromised mastery. Cited for his “eloquent and vibrant performances” on disc (*Gramophone Magazine*) he is hailed as “virtuosic, flamboyant, dashing and, sometimes inefably lyrical” (*New York Times*) on stage.

Sought-after for his extensive concert repertoire, Vieaux has performed with over 100 orchestras including Cleveland, Toronto, St. Louis, Houston, and has made premiere recordings with the Nashville Symphony and the Norrköping Symphony. He has worked with many renowned conductors including Giancarlo Guerrero, Jahja Ling, Gerard Schwarz, and David Robertson. Vieaux’s passion for new music has fostered premieres from Jeff Beal, Avner Dorman, Vivian Fung, Pierre Jalbert, Jonathan Leshnoff, David Ludwig, Mark Mancina, Pat Metheny, and Dan Visconti, among many others.

Vieaux’s extensive discography includes his *Bach Volume 2: Works for Violin* released on Azica to rave reviews for his “eloquent and vibrant performances” (*Gramophone*). Pat Metheny dedicated the solo work *Four Paths of Light* to Vieaux for Metheny’s 2021 album, *Road to the Sun*. Jason Vieaux won

the 2014 Best Instrumental Classical Solo Grammy Award for his solo album, *Play*. Jason Vieaux enjoys repeated invitations to San Francisco Performances, Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Philadelphia Chamber Music Society, and the 92nd Street Y, among others. Festival engagements include Ravinia, Caramoor, Domaine-Forget, Music@Menlo, Round Top, and the Eastern Music Festival. Overseas performance venues include Amsterdam’s Concertgebouw, Seoul Arts Center, Shanghai Concert Hall, Sala Sao Paolo, and Teatro Colón in Buenos Aires.

Jason Vieaux enjoys ongoing performing and recording collaborations with Grammy-winners Zuill Bailey, Yolanda Kondonassis, Timothy McAllister, Anne Akiko Meyers, and Sasha Cooke, as well as the Escher String Quartet, and the accordion/bandoneon virtuoso Julien Labro.

In 2011 Vieaux co-founded the guitar department at the Curtis Institute of Music (with David Starobin), and has taught at the Cleveland Institute of Music for 28 years.



Praised by *The Washington Post* for her “mesmerizing” and “stirring” performances, **JIJI** is an adventurous guitarist known for her virtuosity and command of diverse repertoire. Equally at home with both acoustic and electric guitar, her concert programs range from traditional and contemporary classical to free improvisation.

In recent seasons, JIJI has presented solo recitals at Carnegie Hall’s Weill Recital Hall; Lincoln Center; 92nd Street Y; Caramoor; Celebrity Series of Boston; and Caffè Lena. Her performances have been featured on PBS’s *On Stage at Curtis* and NPR’s *From the Top*. In 2016, she became the first guitarist in 30 years to secure first prize in the Concert Artists Guild Competition.

JIJI has premiered solo and chamber works by a diverse range of musical art-

ists, including David Lang, Nicky Sohn, Michael Gilbertson, Hilary Purrington, Shelley Washington, Kate Moore, Chris Rountree, Gulli Björnsson, Molly Joyce, and Paul Lansky. In 2024, JIJI released *UNBOUND*, the culmination of a multiyear commissioning and recording project. A sought-after and versatile collaborator, JIJI’s recent chamber and ensemble performances include appearances with the New York Philharmonic’s Nightcap Series; Cuarteto Latinoamericano; the Verona Quartet; Wildup; Duo Linu; and soprano Molly Netter, among others.

Her premieres of new guitar concertos, including Steven Mackey’s *Aluminum Flowers* in 2024, continue to break new ground. In recent years, JIJI has premiered major concertos by composers Natalie Dietterich (*light, beloved*, 2018), Hilary Purrington (*Harp of Nerves*, 2019), and Kristis Auznieks (*Apvārsnis Kamolā*, 2021), in addition to Mackey.

A committed educator, JIJI is Associate Professor of Music in Guitar at Indiana University Jacobs School of Music and former Assistant Professor of Guitar at Arizona State University’s School of Music, Dance and Theater.

During her spare time, JIJI enjoys cooking and creating weird sounds on Ableton. She is sponsored by Augustine Strings and GuitarLift by Felix Justen.

## PROGRAM NOTES

### Asturias

**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. Albéniz's *Suite Española Op. 47*, a series of portraits of Spanish scenes, contains his most well known music, including *Asturias*. Named for the province in northeastern Spain, it is a musical portrait of a legendary 8th century battle between Christians and Moors with a strikingly dramatic frame and an introspective, Moorish middle section.

## Verde Alma

**MÁXIMO DIEGO PUJOL**  
(B. 1957)

The Argentinian composer Máximo Diego Pujol is well known for his works rooted in the style of the folklore of Argentina and influenced by classical forms and the music of Heitor Villa-Lobos and Leo Brouwer. *Verde Alma* (Green Soul) is a slow and lyrical piece, alternating between major and minor modes, which explores the composer's response to the natural environment.

## Somewhere Over the Rainbow

**HAROLD ARLEN**  
(1905-1986)

"Somewhere Over the Rainbow", one of the most popular songs of the twentieth century, was written by Harold Arlen for the 1939 movie *The Wizard of Oz*. Originally sung by Judy Garland, it expresses a longing for a better life and has been covered by singers from Frank Sinatra to Aretha Franklin and has become popular with guitarists in a lovely arrangement by the Japanese composer Toru Takemitsu.

## Tango en Skai

**ROLAND DYENS**  
(1955-2016)

Roland Dyens was a guitarist and composer influenced by folk, jazz and popular music as well as by his meticulous classical education. Many of his compositions are staples of the contemporary classical guitar repertoire with *Tango en Skai* being the most popular and well known. It is a humorous, tongue-in-cheek tango full of extravagant gestures and an over-the-top but nonchalant virtuosity. The title means *Tango in Imitation Leather* and pokes gentle fun at young people in Paris adopting the style of Argentine cowboys.

## Very Berry Strawberry

**JJI**  
(B. 1993)

Born in Seoul, South Korea, JJI has become one of the most celebrated and adventurous of a younger generation of guitarists known for her performances on both classical and electric guitars as well as for her bold approach to repertoire. She wrote the following note about her own composition.

"*Very Berry Strawberry* is a piece I wrote a few summers ago. When I was a kid, my favorite sweet was Baskin-Robbins' Very Berry Strawberry ice cream. I was so obsessed with it that I ordered it every single time, without exception. I even remember memorizing the route to the Baskin-Robbins near my house—I could probably get there in my sleep. Haha...Thinking back on that small but vivid childhood memory made me want to write a piece about it. What was your favorite childhood sweet?"

## Prelude BWV 998

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

Johann Sebastian Bach is widely considered one of the greatest composers in music history. *Prelude, Fugue and Allegro* is a late work from the 1740's, and perhaps the greatest of his compositions attributed to the lute. It is a work of incomparable beauty, inspired, spontaneous and perfectly structured. The *Prelude* is in the style brise or broken chord style idiomatic to the lute which transfers with ease to the guitar. The theme is a lovely cascade of twelve notes that spring from and return to a pedal bass which are then masterfully developed in various keys to create a kaleidoscopic and satisfying musical journey.

## Four Paths of Light

**PAT METHENY**  
(B. 1954)

Jazz guitarist and composer Pat Metheny has had a spectacular and varied career. Over four decades, the National Endowment for the Arts Jazz Master has won 20 Grammy® awards in 10 different categories for his recordings, performances, and compositions in jazz, samba, progressive rock, and free styles. His *Four Paths of Light* for solo classical guitar is a 20-minute, four-movement suite which takes full advantage of Jason Vieaux's virtuosity and interpretive

skills. The first movement is aggressive and dissonant, influenced by Metheny's love of the heavy metal band Pantera and reminiscent of his collaboration with John Zorn. The entire suite is tightly constructed with the motives and harmonies of the first movement used throughout although in very different styles. The second movement is a gentle ballad cast in the traditional Brazilian choro rhythm. The third movement is the climax of the suite, a perpetual motion, with a brief lyrical interlude. The fourth movement is a bleak epilogue that reprises the melody from the second movement in a new light. It features a starkly hypnotic continuous tremolo, not in the style of classical warhorses like Tárrega's *Recuerdos de la Alhambra* but rather like that used by Benjamin Britten in his *Nocturnal After John Dowland* and reminiscent of the conclusion of *The Way Up*, Metheny's 2005 album.

## Sonata in E Major, K. 380

**DOMENICO SCARLATTI**  
(1685-1757)

Domenico Scarlatti spent his early life in Italy but his most productive years were spent in Portugal and Spain, where he wrote 555 sonatas for harpsichord. Single tempo movements emphasizing a particular rhythm, the sonatas are cast in a simple binary form and animated by novel expressive details and with extraordinary harmonic effects superimposed on a clear tonal foundation. The originality of Scarlatti's style can be traced to the atmosphere and influence of both Spanish popular music and the guitar. Scarlatti imitated many of the sonorities typical of guitar music including internal pedals, chords built on the interval of a fourth and note clusters reminiscent of guitar strumming. He enthusiastically embraced the dance rhythms and modal harmony of the Iberian folk and flamenco traditions and many of his most dramatic and unforgettable gestures are infiltrations of street music into this music he wrote for the Spanish court. The *Sonata in E Major, K. 380* is characterized by a fanfare rhythm and antiphonal dialogue, as well as playful scale passages and ornaments.

## Água e Vinho

**EGBERTO GISMONTI**  
(B. 1947)

Egberto Gismonti is a Brazilian composer and multi-instrumentalist known for

blending jazz, classical, and Brazilian musical traditions. *Água e Vinho* is a bittersweet composition which features an aching, lyrical melody harmonized by richly expressive jazz harmonies.

## Valses Poéticos

**ENRIQUE GRANADOS**  
(1867–1916)

In the late 19th century Spanish musical taste was conservative and under the influence of foreign composers. The principal public musical entertainment was Italian opera while instrumental recitals featured the works of Chopin and Schumann. The musical nationalism that swept across Europe in the last decades of the 19th century led to the creation of a characteristically Spanish opera and to an interest in the historical and folk roots of Spanish music. Enrique Granados was one of the great figures of this renaissance of indigenous music. He was also inspired by the grace, elegance and sense of proportion of Spanish courtly life in eighteenth century as depicted by Francisco Goya. Granados' *Valses Poéticos* is an extraordinarily beautiful Romantic work with veiled references to Scarlatti Sonatas, Strauss's *Der Rosenkavalier* and Ravel's *Valses Nobles et Sentimentales*.

## Bistro Fada

**STÉPHANE WREMBEL**  
(B. 1974)

Stephane Wrembel is one of the preeminent masters of the Gypsy jazz style pioneered by Django Reinhardt which Wrembel combines in his own work with classical, flamenco, rock, and world music influences to create a unique personal style. He is best known for his composition *Bistro Fada*, a Gypsy jazz waltz which is the theme song from the 2011 Woody Allen Oscar winning film, *Midnight In Paris*.

## Duende

**RALPH TOWNER**  
(B. 1940)

Ralph Towner is an American composer, multi-instrumentalist and bandleader, who has created a unique compositional voice blending jazz, classical, folk, and global influences. First widely known as founder of the jazz quartet Oregon he is also known for his solo work and collaboration with many luminaries of the jazz world. *Duende* is a term associated with flamenco music and refers to a heightened state of emotion which Federico García Lorca called a dark, internal force surging from the earth.

## Jongo

**PAULO BELLINATI**  
(B. 1950)

Paulo Bellinati is a musicologist, multi-instrumentalist and composer dedicated to the music of Brazil. He first came to international attention with his research, reconstruction and performance of the music of Garoto (Aníbal Augusto Sardinha). As a composer he has revived interest in traditional rhythms such as the lundo, choro, baião, maxixe and Brazilian waltz. As a performer he specializes in the guitar, cavaquinho, viola caipira and violão de sevesta. Jongo is based on the Afro-Brazilian dance of the same name invented by enslaved Africans on Brazilian coffee plantations. The rhythm blends different meters for a complex and lively effect and is at times carried by percussion on the body of the two guitars.

—Program notes by Scott Cmiel