

presents...

VOLTERRA PROJECT TRIO

Antigoni Goni | Guitar

Luca Isolani | Guitar

Maarten Vandenbemden | Guitar

Saturday, November 14, 2026 | 7:30pm

Herbst Theatre

ENRIQUE GRANADOS **Valses Poeticos**

EDVARD GRIEG

Dances from *Peer Gynt*

I. Overture

II. Arabian Dance

III. Anitra's Dance

IV. Dance of the Mountain King's Daughter

**CAMILLE
SAINT-SAËNS**

Danse Macabre

LEONARD BERNSTEIN **Scenes from *West Side Story***

I. Prologue

II. Mambo

III. Maria

IV. America

V. Tonight

Volterra Project Trio is represented by Christina Daysog Concert Artists, PO Box 529, Alameda, CA 94501



ARTISTS PROFILE

The Volterra Project Trio makes its SF Performances debut.

San Francisco Performances presents *Antigoni Goni* for the sixth time. She made her SF Performances debut in April 2000.

The **Volterra Project Trio** reimagines classical guitar trio music, drawing inspiration from European impressionism, Mediterranean folk melodies and cinematic scores.

Antigoni Goni, an internationally celebrated Greek guitarist, is admired for her exquisite sound and distinguished solo and chamber career. Italian-born **Luca Isolani**, a researcher and performer with a deep focus on folk influences, bridges the worlds of classical, jazz, and contemporary music. **Maarten Vandenbemden**, a Belgian guitarist, arranger and pedagogue, is lauded for his creative energy and commitment to education and outreach. As a trio, they merge their diverse expertise to breathe fresh life into the repertoire, treating the guitar as a miniature orchestra, exploring its unique sounds, dynamics, and colors.

In 2022, the trio released *Medio Siglo*, an album dedicated to the renowned luthier José Luis Romanillos, recorded using his last four guitars. The album has been praised by *Soundboard Magazine* for “the deep use of colors and the dazzling arrangements”.

In June 2023, the Volterra Project Trio made its US debut at the 50th Guitar Foundation of America Convention in New York, after playing extensively in Europe.

Their new album, *Parole In Musica*, released in May 2025 is followed by an international tour, touching both Europe and US.

PROGRAM NOTES

Valses Poeticos

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 Poeticos* is an extraordinarily beautiful Romantic work with veiled references to Scarlatti Sonatas, Strauss’s *Der Rosenkavalier* and Ravel’s *Valses Nobles et Sentimentales*.

Dances from Peer Gynt

EDVARD GRIEG
(1843–1907)

Edvard Grieg was a seminal Norwegian composer and pianist of the Romantic era who famously integrated Norwegian folk music into classical structures to help establish a distinct national musical identity for his country. He is widely recognized as Norway’s most celebrated cultural hero

and his compositions, including the incidental music for Henrik Ibsen’s play *Peer Gynt*, are staples of the classical repertoire.

Danse Macabre

CAMILLE SAINT-SAËNS
(1835–1921)

Charles-Camille Saint-Saëns was a prominent French composer, virtuoso organist, and pianist of the Romantic era. Regarded as one of history’s greatest musical prodigies, he blended classical precision with romantic expression. He pioneered the symphonic poem format in France and composed highly enduring orchestral, operatic, and chamber masterworks. His *Danse Macabre* tells a musical story in which Death plays the fiddle at midnight to summon skeletons from their graves for a macabre dance until dawn.

Scenes from West Side Story

LEONARD BERNSTEIN
(1918–1990)

Leonard Bernstein was an American composer, conductor, and pianist. He was the first American-born music director of the New York Philharmonic and achieved international fame across classical music and Broadway. His *West Side Story* is a magnificent musical which sets Shakespeare’s Romeo and Juliet in 1950’s New York City. It tells a story of young love, racial prejudice, gang warfare, American patriotism, and tragic inevitability with classical instrumentation, jazz harmony and Latin rhythms.

—Program notes by Scott Cmiel