

44th SEASON



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**SAN FRANCISCO PERFORMANCES PRESENTS
PEPE ROMERO | GUITAR**



**Saturday, February 10, 2024 | 7:30pm
Herbst Theatre**

SAN FRANCISCO, CA – January 18, 2024 – San Francisco Performances (SFP) presents legendary classical guitarist **Pepe Romero** in solo recital on **Saturday, February 10, 2024, 7:30pm** at **Herbst Theatre**. **Tickets are \$75/\$65/\$55 and can be purchased at sfperformances.org or by calling 415.392.2545. Tickets can also be purchased at the door as available, including 50% off student rush tickets and 20% off senior rush tickets.**

“It’s an honor for SF Performances to welcome back Pepe Romero, who is classical guitar ‘royalty,’ as he celebrates his 80th birthday with this special tour. SFP has presented the Romeros many times over the years, but this performance with Pepe promises to be a once-in-a-lifetime event, and an opportunity to hear a living legend in person.” — Melanie Smith, SFP President

This program is presented in association with OMNI Foundation for the Performing Arts

ABOUT PEPE ROMERO

Pepe Romero is a true living legend who has sustained greatness throughout his storied career. He has been honored by kings, heads of state, and major institutions. But to Romero, his most important contribution has been communicating the richness and beauty of the classical guitar to millions of people throughout the world. He has become an ambassador of classical music, and, correspondingly, of the classical guitar.

Pepe is the second son of one of the greatest guitarists that ever lived—Celedonio Romero. And he is brother to two more musical phenoms—Celin and Angel Romero. Pepe was born in Málaga, Spain, in 1944. In those days, following the devastating Spanish Civil War (1936–39) and during the Second World War, Spain was in desperate economic straits. Basic survival was the primary challenge. Yet, despite this, Celedonio Romero and his remarkable wife, Angelita, instilled in all three of their children a love of music that transcended the profound misery surrounding them.

By age seven, Pepe set foot on the concert stage for the first time, at the Teatro Lope de Vega in Sevilla. And now, more than seventy years later, he continues to mesmerize audiences throughout the world. During that time, he has given literally thousands of concerts worldwide, many with the remarkable Romero Quartet, and many as a solo instrumentalist. He has worked with almost every major conductor and has to his credit more than 60 recordings (among which are 20 concerto recordings with the Academy of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, with both Neville Marriner and Iona Brown).

Pepe Romero has premiered works by some of the finest composers of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Joaquín Rodrigo, Federico Moreno Torroba, Lorenzo Palomo, Padre Francisco de Madina, Paul Chihara, Enrique Diemecke, Ernesto Cordero, and, most poignantly, Celedonio Romero, have written compositions for Pepe. Always a champion of music by composers in earlier periods of music history, he has also delved into rare archives to re-explore lost pieces by Fernando Sor, (world premiere and recording of *Fantasie in D Minor*), Mauro Giuliani (world premiere recordings of *Concerto No. 2 in A Major* and *Concerto No. 3 in F Major* and *Variations and Polonaise, Op. 65*), Francesco Molino (world premiere recording of *Guitar Concerto in E Minor, Op. 56*), Ferdinando Carulli (world premiere recording of *Guitar Concerto in E Minor, Op. 140*), Johann Kaspar Mertz, Luigi Boccherini, (world premiere recording of all 8 guitar quintets) and others.

Maestro Romero's many accomplishments include: world premieres of Rodrigo's *Concierto andaluz* (with the Romero Guitar Quartet), *Concierto madrigal* (with Angel Romero), and *Concierto para una fiesta* (written for Pepe Romero); Federico Moreno Torroba's *Diálogos entre guitarra y orquesta* (Pepe was personally chosen by Torroba and Andrés Segovia for the world recording premiere of this work dedicated to Segovia with an extended guitar cadenza written especially for Pepe), *Concierto Ibérico* by Torroba (written for and performed by the Romeros), *Concierto en flamenco* by Torroba was premiered in Málaga (performed by Pepe with Angel Romero conducting); and Lorenzo Palomo's *Concierto de Cienfuegos* (with the Romero Quartet) and *Nocturnos de Andalucía* (both released on the Naxos label).

In the United States, he has appeared with leading symphony orchestras in Philadelphia, Cleveland, Chicago, Houston, Detroit, Pittsburgh, Boston, San Francisco, Dallas, New York, and Los Angeles, as well as with the Orpheus Chamber Ensemble and Boston Pops. European ensembles with which he has appeared include the Academy of St-Martins-in-the-Fields, Dresden Philharmonic, London Symphony, la Accademia Santa Cecilia di Roma, Monte Carlo Philharmonic, and many others.

A biographical documentary about the Romeros appeared on PBS in 2001 entitled *Los Romeros, the Royal Family of the Guitar*. In 2007, the Romeros received the President's Merit Award from the Recording Academy, producers of the Grammy© Awards, for their significant contributions to the music world and professional career achievements.

[Watch](#) Pepe Romero

The evening's program will include:

LUYS MILÁN: *Fantasia*

GASPAR SANZ: *Danzas Españolas*

VILLA-LOBOS: *Preludios No. 1–5*

ÁNGEL BARRIOS: *Arroyos de la Alhambra (Evocación, Tonadilla)*

JOAQUIN MALATS: *Serenata Española*

GRANADOS (trans. Celedonio Romero): Dance No. 5 “Andaluza” from *Danzas Españolas*

TORROBA: *Nocturno*

TÁRREGA: *Capricho Árabe*

ALBÉNIZ (trans. Celedonio Romero): *Torre bermeja*

CELEDONIO ROMERO: *Fantasia Cubana*

Please note our health and safety protocols: Masks and up-to-date vaccinations are encouraged but not required to attend our performances. This policy will be adjusted if city or state health orders change.

ABOUT SAN FRANCISCO PERFORMANCES

San Francisco Performances has been a leader in the Bay Area cultural scene since our founding in 1979. With a strong curatorial vision and adventurous programming, we are the city's premier presenter of intimate concerts and solo performances.

We have introduced hundreds of established and emerging classical music, jazz, and dance artists to audiences, including Yo-Yo Ma, the Juilliard String Quartet, Philip Glass, Wendy Whelan, and the Paul Taylor Dance Company. We also champion a new generation, committed to building a contemporary and equitable repertoire. Performers like the Catalyst Quartet, violinist Jennifer Koh, tenor Lawrence Brownlee, and pianist/composer Vijay Iyer are moving their art into the present and future, making it accessible to younger audiences while converting many traditionalists to new possibilities. They represent the path forward.

Quality, intimacy, and connection are the hallmarks of San Francisco Performances. We nurture unique relationships with today's best artists to create an accessible, warm, and engaging arts experience.

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

(Please include [our name as the presenter](#) --many thanks!)

SAN FRANCISCO PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

PEPE ROMERO, GUITAR

WHEN: Saturday, February 10, 2024, 7:30pm

WHERE: Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness Avenue (at McAllister), San Francisco

PROGRAM: **LUYS MILÁN:** *Fantasia*; **GASPAR SANZ:** *Danzas Españolas*; **VILLA-LOBOS:** *Preludios No. 1–5*;

ÁNGEL BARRIOS: *Arroyos de la Alhambra (Evocación, Tonadilla)*; **JOAQUIN MALATS:** *Serenata Española*;

GRANADOS (trans. Celedonio Romero): Dance No. 5 “Andaluza” from *Danzas Españolas*;

TORROBA: *Nocturno*; **TÁRREGA:** *Capricho Árabe*; **ALBÉNIZ (trans. Celedonio Romero):** *Torre bermeja*

CELEDONIO ROMERO: *Fantasia Cubana*

CONCERT TICKETS: \$75/\$65/\$55

CONTACT: (415) 392.2545; sfperformances.org

For high-resolution images, contact Terry Conway at terry@sfperformances.org
or [click here](#).

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