

CONTRA

GUITAR DUO



HAMISH STRATHDEE
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CONTRA GUITAR DUO

Opposing yet complementary performers can create thrilling artistry - this is the basis on which Contra Guitar Duo was formed by Hamish Stratthdee and Emma-Shay Gallenti-Guilfoyle.

The pair met at their university auditions in 2011 and have been making music together ever since. Their contrasting musical personalities and charming personal chemistry bring a dynamic spin to the fantastic combination of two guitars.

United by their passion to bring audiences music they love, Hamish and Emma-Shay are excited to showcase the varied and rich expressive capabilities of the guitar duo as an ensemble. In 2023, the duo released their debut recording, *Contra* released on Move Records, Australia's longest-running classical music label.

Contra Guitar Duo has performed extensively in Europe and Australia. Performance highlights include the Dubai World Expo, Staatsoper Hamburg, Melbourne Guitar Festival and the Darmstädter Gitarrentage, where they presented several Australian works. The duo has been fortunate to be recognised and lauded by organisations such as the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, PPCA Performers Trust Foundation and ANU School of Music.

PROGRAM

Manuel de Falla
1876 - 1946

Spanish Dance No. 1 - La Vida Breve

Giacomo Puccini
1858 - 1924

Crisantemi
arr. Angelo Gilardino

Nigel Westlake
b. 1958

Songs from the Forest

Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco
1895 - 1968

Sonatina Canonica
II. Tempo di Siciliane (Andantino)
III. Fandango en Rondeau

Ross Edwards
b. 1943

Emily's Song
Djanaba

Alexandre Tansman
1897 - 1986

Variations on a theme by Scriabin
arr. Tilman Hoppstock

Clarice Assad
b. 1978

Brasilerinhas
I. Na Corda Bamba
II. À Moda Antiga
III. Conversa de Botequim

Approximate length: 60 minutes





HAMISH STRATHDEE

Classical guitarist, Hamish Strathdee, is regarded as an "excellent young Australian performer" (Limelight Magazine). Hamish's debut recording, *Impressions of Spain*, has received critical acclaim, hailed as "an excellent debut" (Classical Guitar Magazine) and his playing has been described as being of "the highest standard" (Soundboard Magazine) and with a "gloriously warm and rich" sound (Classical Guitar Magazine).

Hamish has received numerous prizes in both national and international competitions including; the 2nd Prize in the London International Guitar Competition, and 3rd Prizes in both the Stuttgart and Aalborg International Guitar Competitions. Hamish has also received numerous scholarships and grants to help further his artistic studies including; the prestigious Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD) for musicians, the Peter and Lena Karmel Honours Scholarship awarded to "the most outstanding student in music commencing

an Honours year at the ANU School of Music" and awards from the PCCA Performers' Trust Foundation. Recent performance highlights include: Joaquin Rodrigo's *Concierto de Aranjuez*, Antonie de L'Hoyer's *Guitar Concerto* and Antonio Vivaldi's *Concerto in D*. Hamish's most recent recording *Impulses* was released on Move Records alongside Contra Guitar Duo's debut EP, *Contra*.

Hamish holds a Master of Music from the Hochschule für Musik und Theater Hamburg, an Artist Diploma (Künstlerisches Aufbaustudium) from the Akademie für Tonkunst Darmstadt and a Bachelor of Music with First Class Honours from the Australian National University, where he studied with Minh Le Hoang and Timothy Kain. Hamish is currently pursuing a Doctor of Philosophy at the University of Queensland on a Research Training Program and full tuition scholarship.



EMMA-SHAY

Classical guitarist and lutenist, Emma-Shay Gallenti-Guilfoyle, delights audiences with her charming persona. Known for her musical and sensitive playing, Emma-Shay enjoys sharing diverse and compelling repertoire. Chamber music collaborations and new music projects are her passions; she also enjoys playing Renaissance and Baroque music on the lute.

As a champion of new repertoire for guitar, Emma-Shay has premiered new works written for her by leading Australian composers as part of her Green Guitar project, bringing together female forces in Australian composition to create new works for guitar inspired by the theme of 'green' in response to the climate crisis. In 2023, Emma-Shay gave the Australian premiere of works by Holly Harrison and Helen Svoboda at the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music Guitar Festival. In 2022, she worked on multiple interdisciplinary projects with the Elbphilharmonie, Hamburger Gitarrenforum and the Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe Hamburg.

Emma-Shay has consistently been selected as a finalist in international guitar competitions, including New York, Melbourne and Adelaide. She has received numerous awards and scholarships including the Australian Music Foundation Guy Parson Award, a prestigious scholarship from the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, PPCA Performers' Trust Foundation award, HfMT scholarship for especially dedicated students, and the ANU School of Music Ken & Vera Fowler Honours Scholarship awarded for "outstanding level of musical accomplishment and potential to make an outstanding contribution to music."

Emma-Shay holds a Masters of Music from the Hochschule für Musik und Theater Hamburg, an Artist Diploma (Künstlerisches Aufbaustudium) from the Akademie für Tonkunst, Darmstadt and a Bachelor of Music with First-Class Honours from the Australian National University.

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