



Groove & Grace

Concert of Guitar Fusion

Tom Chalko, guitar

From the refined beauty of classical music to the rhythmic pulse of Brazil, the soul of jazz, the passion of Spanish guitar, and the charm of popular ballads, *Groove & Grace* is a musical journey across genres, cultures, and emotions - all through the expressive voice of the classical guitar.

Each piece in this program has been carefully chosen to highlight the guitar's versatility, its lyrical voice, and its ability to tell stories that transcend time and place.

Program

Air from Orchestral Suite No. 3, BWV 1068 by Johann Sebastian Bach (Germany, 1685–1750).

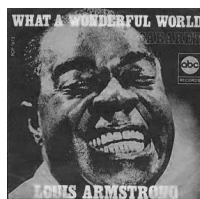


Serene and elegant, Bach's **Air** invites the listener into a world of calm beauty. Its flowing melodic lines and gentle harmonies set a reflective tone for the concert.

The **Air**, originally composed for string orchestra, is one of his most famous and most popular compositions of Bach.

Tom will play his own guitar arrangement of the **Air**.

What a Wonderful World performed by Louis Armstrong (USA 1901-1971) ranks among his best known and most popular songs.



Louis Armstrong, one of the most influential figures in jazz, recorded it in 1967 and this recording was inducted to the Grammy Hall of Fame in 1999.

Tom will play his own guitar arrangement of the song.

Chôros No. 1 by Heitor Villa-Lobos (Brazil 1887-1959). Villa-Lobos composed *Chôros No. 1* in Rio de Janeiro in 1920, originally publishing it under the title *Chôro típico brasileiro* (A typical Brazilian chôro).



The *chôro* is an improvisational genre of Brazilian instrumental street music that originated in Rio de Janeiro in the 19th century. The Portuguese word *chôro* means "cry" or "lament", though not all music of this type is sorrowful.

Manhã de Carnaval by Luis Bonfá (Brazil 1922- 2001). The joyful rhythms of this bossa nova classic bring warmth and gentle swing, capturing the spirit of Brazilian carnival and the beauty of everyday life.



The title **Manhã de Carnaval** translates to "Morning of the Carnival". Tom will play his own guitar arrangement of **Manhã de Carnaval**.

What Words cannot Say by Tom Chalko. Tom composed this piece as a birthday present for his granddaughter to support and inspire her music studies.

Lagrima by Francisco Tárrega (Spain 1852-1909). An intimate romantic prelude that captures tender melancholy.

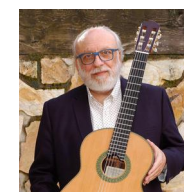


The Spanish title **Lagrima** translates to "tear drop". Composed between late 1891 and early 1892, it is one of Tárrega's most frequently performed pieces.

Summertime by George Gershwin (USA 1898-1937). A sultry jazz-infused lullaby, *Summertime* from Gershwin opera "Porgy and Bess", blends classical elegance with American jazz. Tom will play his own guitar arrangement of *Summertime* lullaby that specifically aims to make children sleepy.



Evocación by Jose Luis Merlin (1952-). José Luis Merlin is a gifted Argentinian guitarist and composer. His **Evocación** is a Spanish-inspired work full of expressive melodic lyricism and delicate harmonies, blending the classical and romantic styles.



Romance by Tom Chalko. Tom composed **Romance** in 2000, shortly after he wrote his second book "The Freedom of Choice" that addressed the purpose of existence and meaning of life.

Recording of **Romance** has been incorporated in "The Dance of the Lyrebird" documentary film produced by Tessy and Berndt Amesriter in 2011.

Blowin' in the Wind by Bob Dylan (USA 1941 -) the ballad that has won Bob Dylan the Nobel Prize - the one and only Nobel Prize ever awarded for music.



Dylan's iconic anthem of freedom and justice, resonates with universal questions.

... how many ears must one man have
Before he can hear people cry?
... and how many deaths will it take 'til
he knows that too many people have died?

The answer, my friend, is blowin' in the
wind, the answer is blowin' in the wind...

Without music the Dylan poem would most likely go unnoticed. This highlights the importance and the power of music in our society.

Tom's guitar arrangement reminds us about the timeless message of this song and the role of music in keeping this message alive.

Recuerdos de la Alhambra

by Francisco Tárrega (Spain 1852-1909)

Tárrega's famous tremolo piece evokes the graceful arches and sparkling fountains of Spain's Alhambra palace.

The shimmering technique captures both virtuosity and intimacy.



Imagine by John Lennon (UK 1940 - USA 1980). The visionary lyrics of 1971 **Imagine** song encourage listeners to **imagine** a world of peace, without materialism, without borders separating nations.

Imagine song consistently ranks among the most popular and most frequently performed songs in history of music, even though its lyrics asking people to "imagine no religion" attract some controversy.

People on Earth disregard the fact that most wars and conflicts are created by religions. Is a poetic suggestion to **imagine** a world without religions too advanced? ...



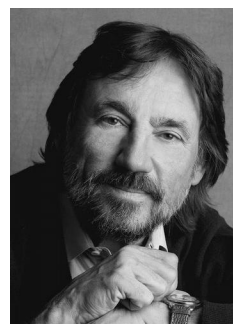
*Imagine there's no countries
It isn't hard to do
Nothing to kill or die for
And no religion, too
Imagine all the people
Livin' life in peace*

*...You may say I'm a dreamer
But I'm not the only one
I hope someday you'll join us
And the world will live as one...*

Shortly before his death, Lennon said that much of the song's lyrics and content came from his wife, Yoko Ono.

Tom will play his own instrumental arrangement of the **Imagine** song.

Cavatina by Stanley Myers (UK 1930-1993). Best known as the theme from 1978 movie *The Deer Hunter*, *Cavatina* pairs lyrical guitar lines with subtle orchestral textures, creating a cinematic, meditative soundscape.



Originally composed for piano, *Cavatina* has been transcribed for guitar by John Williams.

Tom will perform John Williams guitar transcription with his cyber-orchestra.

Over the Rainbow by Harold Arlen (1905-1986). A nostalgic favourite, this timeless melody evokes hope and wonder.

Sung by Judy Garland in the 1939 movie "Wizard of Oz" - "Over the Rainbow" was voted the greatest song of the 20th century in a joint survey by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Recording Industry Association of America.

Tom will play his own guitar arrangement of **Over the Rainbow** song.



Asturias by Isaac Albéniz (Spain 1860-1909). Stormy flamenco rhythms conjure Spain's fiery landscapes, contrasted by lyrical melodic lines that sing through the guitar. A display of dramatic virtuosity and passionate Spanish spirit.



Asturias was originally composed for piano, but guitar transcription has been so popular for so long that no one today performs it on the piano...

Somnium Pace by Tom Chalko (1951-). The Latin title translates to "Dream of Peace".

Somnium pace
Dream of Peace, dedicated to victims of wars



Tom performs it at every concert to remind people that peace should be the goal for human society on Earth.

The world premiere of **Somnium Pace** took place in 2018 at Melbourne Guitar Festival, with guitarist Dr. Harold Gretton.

Canção de Amor da Floresta (A Song of Love from the Forest) by Heitor Villa-Lobos (Brazil 1887-1959). This piece, composed by Heitor Villa-Lobos for a 1959 Hollywood film starring Audrey Hepburn is also known as **Sentimental Melody**. Although it was ultimately not used in the final cut of the movie, the composition remained under strict copyright control by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer (MGM) for many decades.



For the film, Villa-Lobos provided a version for piano and voice as requested by MGM. However, Tom discovered that the piano accompaniment exhibits distinctly guitaristic bossa nova qualities - unsurprising, given that Villa-Lobos was a guitarist more than a pianist.

Drawing on these clues, Tom has reconstructed a guitar version from the piano part to more faithfully reflect the composer's original intentions of a bossa nova song.

Tom will play his reconstructed guitar accompaniment of the **Canção de Amor da Floresta** with a cyber-voice singing the famous melody.

Eterna Saudade by Dilermando Reis (Brazil 1916-1977). A lyrical Brazilian **chôro**, *Eterna Saudade* evokes nostalgia and longing.



The Portuguese word "saudade" does not have a good English equivalent.

The English phrase that best reflects the meaning of "saudade" is "**gone with the wind...**". So the title *Eterna Saudade* can be translated as "Gone with the wind forever..."

Reis has never used any music notation, so there has never been any composer's score. Tom has used Reis recording of *Eterna Saudade* from his 1963 album *Gotas de Lagrimas* (Tear Drops) to create a transcription to perform.