

Wednesday, 20 June 2012, 7.30pm  
www.martintaylor.com



## MARTIN TAYLOR (UK)

Multi award winning guitarist and composer MARTIN TAYLOR established a unique musical career with his inimitable style that recognized him as the world's foremost exponent of solo jazz guitar playing.

Besides his solo concerts and recordings, he also collaborated with musicians from different musical genres such as Jeff Beck, Chet Atkins, Bill Wyman, George Harrison, Dionne Warwick and the list goes on.

From 1979 to 1990 he toured the world and recorded over 20 albums with the French jazz violin legend Stephane Grappelli. Their album with Vassar Clements "Together At Last" won a Grammy Nomination in 1987. Monsieur Grappelli described him as "A great artist, rich in talent and elegance".

In 1999 & 2010 he was made an Honorary Doctor of the University of The West of Scotland and the prestigious Royal Scottish Academy of Music respectively. Mr Taylor was appointed MBE "For Services To Jazz Music", in The Queen's Birthday Honours List, which he received personally from Her Majesty The Queen at an investiture at Buckingham Palace

In 2007, he received the prestigious BBC Radio 2 "Heart of Jazz" Award recognition for his career in music and Lifetime Achievement Award for his "Contribution to Jazz Guitar Worldwide". In addition, he received a record 14 British Jazz Awards as a guitarist, and as a composer he was nominated for "Best Contemporary Song" in the BBC Folk Awards in 2009.

His film credits include the French comedy "Milou En Mai" directed by Louis Malle, and more recently his composition "Green Lady" was featured in the Andrew Piddington movie "The Killing of John Lennon". His many TV credits include the theme music for "After You've Gone" and the cult "Nicole-Papa" TV commercials for the Renault Clio.

'Martin Taylor is one of the most awesome solo guitar players in the history of the instrument. He's unbelievable'

Pat Metheny

'He out-shred's all of us put together....I've never seen anything like it'

Jeff Beck

Thursday, 21 June 2012, 7.30pm  
www.acoustic-shop.de/haumont/en



## MICHEL HAUMONT (France)

As a result of the hootenannies (parties) at American Centre in Paris and the folk club in his high school, Michel Haumont recorded his first album when he was only 17 years old. This revealed a gifted, young man with an extraordinary talent for acoustic guitar.

Michel Haumont composed: "La Valse du Zenith" for a Thierry Mugler fashion show. In addition, he has accompanied many artists in concerts and recording, artistes such as Philippe Chatel, Gilbert Lafaille, Francis and Jean-Félix Lalanne, Patrick Bruel, Marie-Josée Vilar, etc. Without a doubt, Michel Haumont is one of France's finest guitarists.

Michel Haumont's album, "Hall of Fame" (1998) is a "back to roots" compilation that reveals and honours an entire époque, paying respect to mythic finger-picking virtuosos such as: Renbourn, Dadi, Watson, Travis, Atkins and Reed. It is inspired by North American folk music and recreates the legendary "live sound" of acoustic guitarists from the sixties and seventies.

In an effort to promote acoustic guitar music, Michel worked to the creation of a new label for Sony Music entitled "Collection Guitaristes". This original endeavour and initiative brings together reputed guitarists as well as less well-known composers and players.

From 2001 to 2003 Michel performed over 150 shows with "Plutôt Guitare" Tour featuring Maxime Leforestier, Manu Galvin and Jean-Félix Lalanne. In 2004, Michel Haumont recorded "Ma Guitare" for guitar player Peter Finger's label "Acoustic Music" in Germany. He also recorded with Jean Félix Lalanne in 2006 a dual disc concert audio and video.

*"In music, one must find the natural gest", said Michel Haumont. "Like Chinese calligraphers, who as they progress, they dedicated and refined their work, seek out structure and organisation. This ideal is something I strive for in the acoustic guitar"*

"Haumont plays with great rhythmic authority, and his polyphonic picking is impressive..."

Acoustic Music Magazine

"He is a top-notch player creating atmosphere he invents himself..... Michel Haumont's string escapades are skilled, solid and traditional"

Acoustic Music Records

Friday, 22 June 2012, 7.30pm  
www.paolossereno.com



## PAOLO SERENO (Italy)

Born in Puglia, Italy, he studied the classic guitar and Latin music initially. From 1990, while in University in the city of Bari, he began finger-picking the guitar. In 1996 at Soave he was noticed by Marcel Dadi who invited him on stage to play.

Paolo published his first CD in 2002 ("Con la Chitarra", the first cd-extra with tablature by a finger-style guitarist in Italy). In 2003, he won the first prize at the Festival "New Sounds" of Sarzana. He launched his method book on the finger-percussion Guitar a la Dad and was published in 2004. He has collaborated with Jacqueline Perkins, shared the stage with big artists such as Alex Degrassi, Don Ross, William Ackerman and Antoine Dufour.

In 2007 he was the only Italian artist invited to the San Severino Blues Festival in the same billing with Patti Smith, Robben Ford & Larry Carlton. Recently he recorded his CD, "The Movie Concert" with the homonymous show of guitar dedicated to the cinema.

In 2011 he was invited to major Italian Festival in Soave with Laurence Juber, Shanghai International Festival and Bosnia Festival.

Paolo lives in Parma, Italy where he alternates between his performing career and teaching.

"Sereno used the guitar not in a conventional approach: he played all of it, strings, bands, harmonic case, shovel, bottom...."  
*JAZZITALIA*

"Paolo really shows all his tapping and slapping techniques in a very rhythmic and technical challenging piece.....a very talented finger-style guitarist, who really captures audiences...."  
*Chitarrè Magazine*

Saturday, 23 June 2012, 7.30pm  
www.thomasleeb.com



## THOMAS LEEB (Austria)

When he was thirteen, Thomas Leeb picked up the guitar and soon fell in love with the instrument. He played his first solo concert at the age of fifteen and released his first acoustic guitar album at seventeen.

Leeb is a frequent performer at concerts and festivals in Asia, America and Europe. He was featured in numerous guitar magazines all over the world. Every year, he teaches workshops and master classes in universities and colleges and has released his own line of online video tutorials. The album "Desert Pirate" was voted one of the essential albums of the last twenty years by Acoustic Guitar Magazine.

His peculiar guitar style owes much to percussive techniques as traditional finger-style guitar. What sets Thomas Leeb apart from some of his contemporaries is his ability to make the pyrotechnics serve the music. He studied West African traditional music at the California Institute of the Arts and this gave him a sense of timing and groove that is unusual for a guitarist.

The famous luthier for acoustic guitar, George Lowden also dedicated a signature model after him.

"Has to be seen to be believed!"  
*Guitar Techniques Magazine*

"The most rhythmic and rock 'n' roll- spirited solo guitarist you'll ever hear."  
*Acoustic Guitar Magazine:*



## PACO RENTERIA (Mexico)

Paco Renteria hails from the same Mexican region as master guitar player Carlos Santana. At age 22, the guitar prodigy interpreted The Aranjuez Concert with the Philharmonic Orchestra of Guadalajara. Besides his formal musical education, Paco holds two university degrees, one in Law and the other in Business Administration.

He created a new style of sensual guitar playing with explosive Latino passion, which he named it as "Free Play". With roots in gypsy flamenco, Afrikaans, oriental and progressive jazz rhythms, Free Play is a new sound and rhythm which takes the listener through stages of sensuality and bliss.

With over 300 compositions, including four concerts for guitar and orchestra, five nocturnal and ten sonatas, Paco Renteria explores and exploits his inner feelings with Free Play. For the past seven years, this new musical style has taken him to over 2,500 presentations, having played for the Royalties, State Governors, Ambassadors, etc.

He has also performed with artists such as Carlos Santana and Luciano Pavarotti. His original composition, "El Mariachi", was the main theme for the movie "Desperado", with lyrics added and performed by Los Lobos and Antonio Banderas. Paco Renteria was a 2002 Grammy Latino nominee, in the New Age genre, for his album Oceano. In addition, Steven Spielberg's studio selected him for composing and performing the promotional soundtrack used in Mexico for the movie, "The Legend of Zorro". Moreover, movie directors Francis Ford Coppola and Mel Gibson have showed interest in Paco Renteria's music talent.

He was appointed as Ambassador of Mexican Music by President Felipe Calderon, for the Celebration of the Bicentenary of Mexican Independence and Centenary of Mexican Revolution.

## GUEST SPEAKERS



## GEORGE LOWDEN (Ireland)

[www.georgelowden.com](http://www.georgelowden.com)

George Lowden (Ireland) is today a leading maker for the acoustic guitar. He first started building his guitar professionally in 1974. His instruments are highly popular with professional artistes worldwide.

Mr Lowden considers it fundamental to the integrity and future of the Lowden guitar that he continues to build guitars personally. By keeping his hands on the wood and designing new guitars for individual musicians, inspiration and the creative edge are constantly challenged.



## UDO ROESNER (Germany)

[www.aer-amps.com](http://www.aer-amps.com)

Udo Roesner is the owner and the man behind AER amplification – the acoustic people. He has created solutions for many professional musicians and helped them bring their performances to the highest level. A man on a mission who has dedicated his life to music and sound.



## RICK SMITH (USA)

[www.ricksmithguitar.com](http://www.ricksmithguitar.com)

Rick Smith has been an accomplished jazz guitarist for over 3 decades. He has performed on stage with many well-known musicians and artistes and also recorded with them. Besides United States, he is frequently asked to travel to different parts of the region in Asia.

"Ethereal, compelling, sensual, Paco Rentería master of the guitar"

*Los Angeles Times*

"Paco guitar music fit for kings...those listening to Rentería were held transfixed as he dazzled and hypnotized with delicious ease...reminiscent spiritual nourishment"

*Evening Sun, Napa Valley, California*