

A close-up portrait of a man with dark, curly hair and a light beard, looking down at a guitar he is holding. The background is dark with out-of-focus lights in various colors (yellow, white, blue).

GERARD COUSINS
Charme de la Nuit

WORKS BY JOSÉ FERRER (1835-1916)

Prima
CLASSIC

Tracklist

1. Pensées Du Soir, Nocturne for Guitar, Op.44 (arranged by Gerard Cousins)
2. Nocturne Op.11, Nr.1 (arranged by Gerard Cousins)
3. Colección 12a de Ejercicios: No.9
4. Veladas Íntimas, Nocturne Op.17, Nr.4
5. Charme de la Nuit, Nocturne, Op.36 (arranged by Gerard Cousins)

Charme De La Nuit

José Ferrer Esteve de Fujadas was born in Girona and took lessons from his father and the virtuoso José Broca. He wrote about 100 compositions for the guitar, many of them written for, and dedicated to, his pupils. Despite spending much of his time in Barcelona and Paris he seems not to be concerned with the modernist impulses of the fin de siècle, but instead focused on an exquisitely crafted 'salon' style which his music exhibits. He had a profound understanding of the instrument - his pieces feel totally idiomatic and are a joy for any guitarist to play.

Indeed, when I was taking my first steps as a guitarist José Ferrer's Ejercicio No.9 appeared in my grade 2 examination book. I loved the elegance and symmetry of the opening theme and the way this contrasted with the more fiery 'Spanish' middle section. All in all, a wonderfully balanced miniature that gave me a sense that I was really expressing something beautiful.

But that was it for many years, José Ferrer's name did not appear in the standard repertoire that I was playing and he remains a peripheral figure in the guitar world to this day.

Some years ago I visited the library of London's Royal Academy of Music and explored more of Ferrer's music archived in the Robert Spencer collection. This treasure hunt piqued my interest in performing more music from this unjustly forgotten composer.

I humbly present this small collection of some of my favourite Nocturnes along with the little Ejercicio which has continued to bring me joy after all these years.

Gerard Cousins

Gerard Cousins is a true innovator in the world of classical guitar, pushing the boundaries of his instrument to create mesmerising music that appeals to a wide audience. From his unique interpretations of Philip Glass' piano music to his transcriptions of choral composer Eric Whitacre, Gerard's recordings have garnered millions of streams and landed on the front page of Apple Music. But Gerard's music is not just confined to the studio. His live performances are a true experience, featuring a repertoire that combines imaginative guitar arrangements with his own compositions. Gerard's improvisational skills and interaction with the audience make every concert a one-of-a-kind event. Gerard's passion for music began early in life, absorbing the recordings of his guitar heroes John Williams and Julian Bream, as well as exploring the worlds of jazz, rock, electronic, Indian classical, flamenco and minimalist music. It was a concert by the legendary Joe Pass that convinced him of the power of a single guitar to captivate an audience. Gerard's journey to create the music he wanted to hear was not easy, but his perseverance paid off. His albums show an artist who started with traditional Spanish repertoire and evolved to incorporate his diverse



influences. With his 2014 album, "The First Beat is the Last Sound," Gerard found his unique voice, blending his past influences with his own original compositions.

Gerard's recordings are broadcast all over the world and he has had special radio programmes dedicated to his guitar playing and compositions on BBC Radio Wales and France Musique. In 2015 he appeared on UK television as a finalist on Sky Arts 'Guitar Star'. A graduate of the University of Leeds and Enschede Conservatorium (Netherlands), he has performed in many festivals and concert halls around the world, from the Purcell Room on London's South Bank to concert halls all over Europe, South America and the Middle East. He has released eight albums, each one focusing on a different area of music from traditional Spanish repertoire to his original compositions and his unique re-imaginings of traditional Welsh music.

"Charme de la Nuit" is Gerard's third recording with Prima Classic, following "The Poet Acts" and "Stay by my Side."

Credits

Executive producer: Edgardo Vertanessian

Recorded at Sally's Studio, Reading, UK, on August 26th, 2024

Mixing and Mastering: Edgardo Vertanessian

Guitar: Antonio Marin Montero (1992) with many thanks to Roger DeBree

Photographs by Robert Pugh

All Texts by Gerard Cousins

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