

PRIMA CLASSIC PRESENTS



Gerard Cousins' new album, *Charme de la Nuit*, showcases his signature blend of refined elegance and virtuosic guitar playing.

Gerard Cousins' deep connection to Ferrer's work began during his early studies, and this album is the culmination of years of exploration into the composer's overlooked gems.

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Tracklist

- 01.** Pensées Du Soir, Nocturne for Guitar, Op.44
(arranged by Gerard Cousins)
- 02.** Nocturne Op.11, Nr.1 (arranged by Gerard Cousins)
- 03.** Colección 12a de Ejercicios: No.9
- 04.** Veladas Íntimas, Nocturne Op.17, Nr.4
- 05.** Charme de la Nuit, Nocturne, Op.36
(arranged by Gerard Cousins)

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.

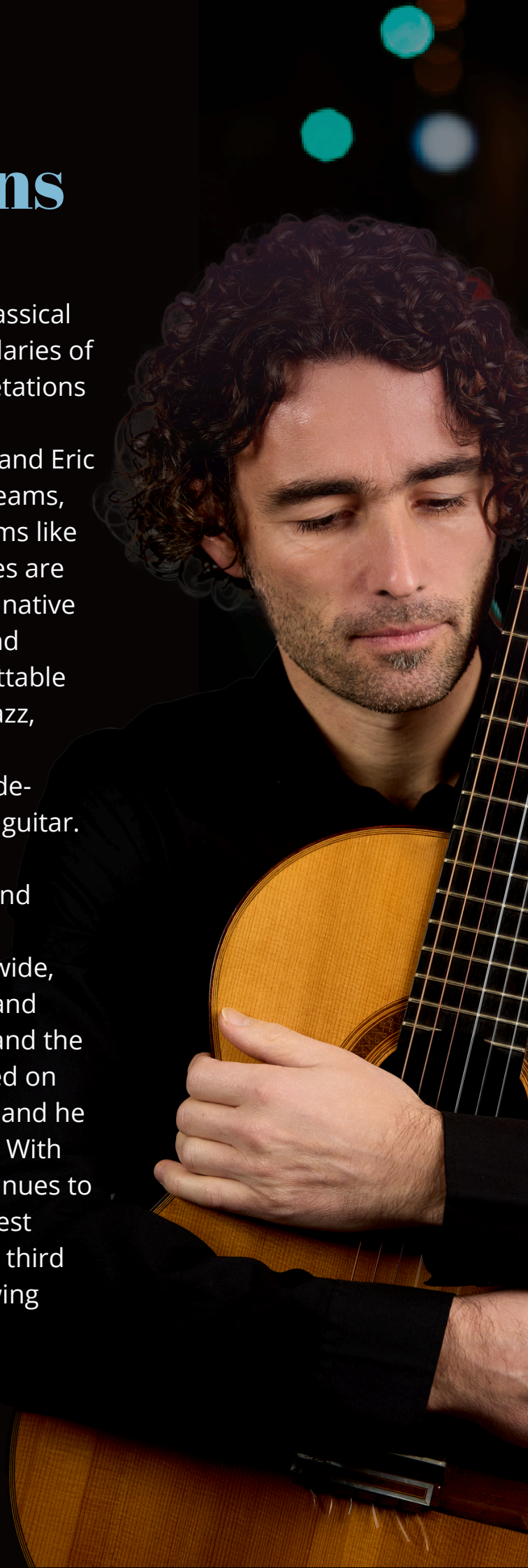
I humbly present this small collection of some of my favourite Nocturnes along with the little Ejercicio which has continued to bring me joy after all these years.

—Gerard Cousins

Gerard Cousins

Gerard Cousins is a groundbreaking classical guitarist, known for pushing the boundaries of his instrument with innovative interpretations and original compositions. His unique transcriptions of works by Philip Glass and Eric Whitacre have garnered millions of streams, earning prominent features on platforms like Apple Music. Gerard's live performances are immersive experiences, blending imaginative guitar arrangements, improvisation, and audience interaction to create unforgettable events. With a diverse background in jazz, rock, flamenco, and minimalist music, Gerard's artistic journey reflects his wide-ranging influences and passion for the guitar.

A graduate of the University of Leeds and Enschede Conservatorium, Gerard has performed in renowned venues worldwide, including the Purcell Room in London and stages across Europe, South America, and the Middle East. His work has been featured on BBC Radio Wales and France Musique, and he was a finalist on Sky Arts' "Guitar Star." With eight albums to his name, Gerard continues to explore new musical territories. His latest release, "Charme de la Nuit", marks his third collaboration with Prima Classic, following "The Poet Acts" and "Stay by my Side".



Credits

Executive producer: Edgardo Vertanessian

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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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Booklet : Romina Pacor

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