

March 26, 2022

Austin Classical Guitar
'Duo Noire'

March 26
4:30
The Rosette
3908 Ave B
Austin, TX 78751
[Austin Classical Guitar](#)

Anyone lucky enough to see a live presentation at the very intimate Rosette studio in Hyde Park, will be treated to a world class vintage experience. The staff at ACG have international programming of live events, while reaching deeply into the local communities with extensive outreach.

It is immensely impressive how actively they engage local school children with groups of classical guitar classes and performance opportunities. Never have I seen such magnificent world renowned artists giving so much to the next generation of classical music champions; while helping at risk youth with programs designed to particular emotional needs.

Beyond classes and schools, ACG reach out to the juvenile justice system and also have an entire program dedicated to using music as healing arts therapies. These programs deserve deeper research and personal involvement by all central Texas citizens.

Rosette is inside the historic Baker School, nestled into Hyde Park. Now immaculately refurbished into a modern Arts Collective Think Tank, with creative groups thriving and networking under the very inventive direction of Tim & Carrie League, of Alamo Drafthouse fame. Let the music festivities begin . . .

What a thrilling time it was to be inside the new Rosette studio space, the former school gym. About to see and hear their latest offering, in such a finely tuned room devoted to performance excellence.

Making their Austin debut, the inventive and genre-bending Duo Noire are an inspiration. Featuring San Francisco guitarist Christopher Mallett and New York composer-guitarist Thomas Flippin, these two masters of the nylon and wood created a symphony with 12 strings and twenty fingers. Each hand crafted piece

fit in perfect unison through every jaw dropping fiery explosion of unmatched skills . These young gentlemen left no fret untouched. Never have I witnessed anyone using the entire length of the fret board, while visiting every note playable on each string; multiple times, ascending into yet more heights of ecstasy.

I will quickly run out of superlatives to describe the cacophony of transcendent sounds emanating generously from both those acoustic guitars. These young men need a string endorsement deal, because they were merciless in their attacks upon the nylon's heavenly chorus from on high.

Before going off on my new fan boy tangents, let me give a proper shout out to the marvelous high school quartet ensemble, who opened the carefully curated program with a rousing four part orchestra of their own performance.

Living up to their Mission Statement, ACG gifted us with these future chamber music masters. They earned a well deserved encore, alas time constraints crowded by another sold out evening show kept the momentum moving robustly along, across several continents.

Duo Noire, roughly translates to quarter note, per our brief post performance encounter at their busy merch table, while the duet was swarmed by every young woman in the building. Guitar players always get the girls attention! Word to the wise, young fellows, put down the X Box and pick up a classical guitar, the world is watching.

Offering a program of diverse works ranging from the opening, 'Mobile, AL' , with it's soulful bottle neck slide, to the rambunctious 'Jongo'; an Afro Brazilian drum circle with a massive flourish to require an Encore, well deserved.

My limited metaphors will fall well short of the imagery I was flooded with during each piece. If you can imagine standing out in the middle of the track during an F1 race, with dozens of high performance finely tuned world class luxury vehicles whizzing past you at 120 mph, while skydiving out of the Space Station from outer space, you just might have a mere inkling of the Notes per Second, these two modern masters crowded into our fortunate ears!

I've covered two other Arts Events since this one, still hearing the endlessly 'cascading arpeggios', as the gents coined it, flowing down upon me like Twin Niagra Falls roaring through my sub conscious.

The wonderful endearing introductions between songs were an intimate engagement with the sold out adoring enraptured fans. The recurring gag was, "our professor always told us, 'Tune first then Talk'. Of course they broke that rule several times and were rewarded with warm bursts of laughter and charmed admiration. They each beat out rhythms on the expensive hand made instruments; pounded spoons up and down the frets; scraping metal across the nylon, yet somehow stayed in tune, often making tuning adjustments while playing!

'Ten Kingdoms' an original trio of works by Mr. Flippin, were based upon the book of the same name, leading us across oceans of imaginations off into exotic locales of our desires.

Sail, Trudge and Breathe caused me to envision fluttering butterflies; bee hives and humming birds working over time to entertain us with their marvelous mania.

'Hocus Pocus' by ACG Composer in Residence, Ms. Clarice Assad, provided yet another highlight upon the last one. 'Abracadabra!' 'Shamans' and 'Klutzy Witches'

Imagine you're in the Olympic Finals for downhill racing flying with complete abandon straight down a mountainside you've never touched, all while jumping out of a 747 jet going 220 miles per hour. Blindfolded. Go ahead. I'll catch my breath with this oxygen mask.

Their well deserved and warmly welcomed Encore 'Sonata, K, 466' by Domenico Scarlatti was written for them, as a gift. We were given many more gifts in the 75 minute world wind tour da force majuer.

Any pre conceived notions you may have of boring high brow stuffy old Classical Guitar music, { like myself, sadly }, please recycle them elsewhere, dear friends. Austin Classical Guitar is the Future of Modern Classical music, now and forever more!

Give yourselves and your entire family a huge year round gift right now. Become a subscriber to the wonderful music programming Austin Classical Guitar provides to Austin area audiences; schools and at risk youth. These shows can easily be seen in concert halls anywhere across Europe, New York or the Pacific Rim. You get the luxury of sharing the gift of music in a 75 seat living room, steps away from living Masters sharing their world renowned talents freely.

Subscribe online: [Austin Classical Guitar](#)

Rick Perkins www.CtxLiveTheatre.com

“Rick’s Picks” @ www.theRickPerkins.com

// 3 0 //