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El Paso Public Library

PRESS RELEASE

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CLASSICAL GUITARIST TO MAKE HIS EL PASO DEBUT

Classical guitarist Peter Fletcher, a resident of New York, will perform two Valentine's Day concerts at El Paso Public Library Branches. This concert will feature selections from Fletcher's 2008 CD release on Tower Hill Records, *Music of the Baroque*. Other repertoire will include the *E minor Lute Suite* of J. S. Bach; Fletcher's transcriptions of Erik Satie and Edvard Grieg; *Usher-Waltz*, an unusual and intense piece by Russian guitarist and composer Nikita Koshkin; Andrew York's *Sunburst* and music of Weiss and Reusner. The concert will culminate with *Koyunbaba*, by composer/guitarist Carlo Domeniconi. This is one of the most unique and exciting works in the classical guitar repertoire. **The performances will be held on Saturday, February 14 at 2:00 PM at the Westside Branch, 125 Belvidere and at 4:00 PM at the Dorris Van Doren Branch, 551 Redd Rd. Admission is free and open to the public. For more information visit www.elpasolibrary.org or call 543-5468.**

Fletcher's nationwide tours, combined with his unique approach to classical guitar, attracted the attention of Centaur Records, which signed him to multi-album contract. His first CD on Centaur, released in June 2002, is a celebration of Catalan composer Federico Mompou. Other than the *Suite Compostelana*, composed for guitar, Mompou's music is almost exclusively for piano. Fletcher's Mompou project is the first ever, classical guitar recording dedicated solely to the Catalan composer. "I heard Fletcher play the music of Mompou and was able to observe in him a fine sensibility, much affinity for the music, plus a high technical level that justifies his excellent artistic trajectory" [Carmen Bravo, Mompou's widow]

His February 3rd recital will feature some of the most popular works from the standard repertoire, such as the Bach *Chaconne*, *Variations on a Theme of Mozart* by Fernando Sor and Tarrega's *Recuerdos de la Alhambra*. However he has also programmed the rarely

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performed *Suite "in modo polonico"* by Alexandre Tansman - dedicated to Segovia and inspired by the ancient court dances of Poland.

There will be two selections from Fletcher's all-Satie album which was released on Centaur Records September 2005. States Steven Rings from *The American Record Guide*: "The works all sit very nicely on the guitar, and Fletcher's performances are taut and incisive, counteracting the common tendency to play Satie's music like sleepy New Age." Fletcher is very active in broadening the limited repertoire of classical guitar by transcribing music from other instruments and finding new music for the guitar, such as the powerful *Koyunbaba* by Italian guitarist and composer Carlo Domeniconi, which will be the last piece of the concert.

Classical guitarist Peter Fletcher commenced guitar study at age 9. He gave his concert, performing works by Albeniz, Bach, Torroba, Tansman and Guiliani at age 15. He further studied in Masterclasses with Jose Tomas and Pepe Romero. In 1988 Fletcher was chosen to perform in a Christopher Parkening Masterclass which was broadcast on National Public Radio, and in 1990 he was a prize winner on the 1990 Wurlitzer Competition.

In demand as a performer in cultural venues throughout the country, Mr. Fletcher has been invited to give recitals at the George Eastman House in Rochester, NY; Cincinnati's Memorial Hall; Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina; the Schwartz Center for the Arts in Dover, DE, and many others. A very special guest engagement was Fletcher's appearance in May 2005 at the World Music Series in Oceanside, California. In 2003 he performed on the Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concert Series in Chicago, IL. In January, 2005, Mr. Fletcher was invited to join the distinguished Jury of the 9th Annual Schadt String Competition in Allentown, Pennsylvania.

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