

Summergarden The Museum of Modern Art

NO. 53

FOR RELEASE: June 12, 1974

CLASSICAL GUITAR AND LUTE IN TWO SUMMERGARDEN CONCERTS

WILLIAM MATTHEWS presents works for guitar and lute by Dowland, Ponce, Krenek and Villa-Lobos in free SUMMERGARDEN concerts at 8 pm Friday and Saturday, June 14 and 15 in the Sculpture Garden of The Museum of Modern Art. A grant from Mobil Oil Corporation enables the Museum to open the Sculpture Garden as a free public park every Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 6 pm to 11 pm all summer and to present unusual entertainment, selected by Ed Bland, every Friday and Saturday at 8 pm. Entrance is through the Garden gate at 8 West 54 Street. Seating is informal and in case of rain at performance time, concerts are at 8 pm on Sundays.

Matthews' first recording was released early this year by Turnabout/Vox and features little-known baroque works by Logy, Baron and Weiss. Keenly interested in the works of contemporary composers as well, he appeared with Speculum Musicae conducted by Pierre Boulez on the occasion of his retrospective concert at the Whitney Museum and has also appeared with the Contemporary Chamber Ensemble. His performances include the Marlboro Music Festival, Marlboro, Vermont; the Festival of Two Worlds, Spoleto, Italy; appearances with the Metropolitan Opera and the New York City Opera; and solo concerts and college workshops throughout the country. Matthews studied guitar with Alexander Bellow and did graduate work in English Literature at Brooklyn College.

Next week, June 21 and 22, SUMMERGARDEN presents Manju Prasad, Hindu dancer, in a program of classical Indian dances featuring Bharata Natyam, a 2,000-year-old ritual; Kathak, an animated Mogul Court dance; and Pradams, based on Indian love songs.

The Ambrosian Chamber Ensemble appears June 28 and 29.

(more)

Additional information available from Earl Hatleberg for Summergarden, and Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 W. 53 St., New York, NY 10019. Phone: (212) 956-7504; 956-7501.

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ALBUM: William Matthews, guitar
Turnabout/Vox TV-S 34538 (released January, 1974)
LOGY - Partita in A Minor
BARON - Suite No. 2
WEISS - Suite II
Tombeau sur la mort de M: Cajetan Baron D'Hartig

"A breathtaking performance, Matthews' technique is no less astonishing than is his feeling and approach. He manages to execute the most difficult trills and intricate runs with apparent ease, approaching the agility of the finest pianists in his ability to include passing tones that go almost unnoticed, but are felt along with the rest of the composition."
-- from Harold Mosher's review of Matthews' album in Guitar Player, March 1974

"... Bach's Lute Suite No. 1 [is] exquisitely performed on the guitar by William Matthews."
-- from Judith Crist's review of Elia Kazan's film "The Visitor" in New York Magazine

"An admirable classical guitarist."
-- The New Yorker

"He is talented and extremely proficient. In all this music he proved himself expert at seeking out and sustaining the enormous range of color available to the guitar."
-- The New York Times

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