WILLIAM MATTHEWS PLAYS WORKS FOR GUITAR AND LUTE IN SUMMERGARDEN

WILLIAM MATTHEWS presents works for guitar and lute in The Museum of Modern Art's SUMMERGARDEN at 8 PM, Friday and Saturday, August 8 and 9. On the program will be pieces by Dowland, Mudarra, Martin, Ponce, Lauro and Villa-Lobos. Free admission is through the Sculpture Garden gate at 8 West 54 Street.

Matthews' recording of little-known works by Logy, Baron and Weiss was released last year on Turnabout/Vox and he is presently recording an album of guitar music by Latin American composers. Keenly interested in contemporary music, he has worked with Pierre Boulez in his retrospective concert at The Whitney Museum of American Art, and has played with The Contemporary Chamber Ensemble. Of Matthews' performance during a concert by The Contemporary Chamber Ensemble at The Smithsonian Institute, Washington Post critic Paul Hume said, "A suite for solo guitar by Ernest Krenek brought a virtuoso performance by Mr. Matthews."

(more)
In addition to solo concerts and college workshops throughout the country, Matthews' performances include The Marlboro Music Festival; The Festival of Two Worlds, Spoleto, Italy; and appearances with The Metropolitan Opera and The New York City Opera. Matthews studied guitar with Alexander Bellow.

Selected critical comment on Matthews' performances in concert and on record:

"Matthews' viruosity places him among the greatest of the guitar greats."
-- Fono Forum, Germany

"Not since John Williams have I heard a player whose whole approach so thoroughly dismisses any notion that he has technical problems, for he plays with what amounts often to joyous abandon."
-- John Duarte, Records and Recording

"Matthews is a pure musician, completely relaxed and secure in his command of a brilliant virtuosity. The entire program was a most satisfying musical experience and a visible expression of the love the artist bore for his instrument, the music and the audience. His performance was characterized by musical taste, scholarly refinement and delicate sensibility."
-- Jacksonville Chronicle

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

ALBUM: WILLIAM MATTHEWS, guitar
Turnabout/Vox TV-S 34538

LOGY - Partita in A Minor
BARON - Suite No. 2
Weiss - Suite II
Tombeau sur la morte de
M: Cajetan Baron D'Hartig

A grant from Mobil Oil Corporation enables The Museum of Modern Art to open its world-famous Sculpture Garden as SUMMERGARDEN, a free public park from 6 PM to 10 PM every Friday, Saturday and Sunday through September 28. Short informal concerts are presented at 8 PM every Friday and Saturday.

August 15 and 16 -- works for various ensembles by members of The League of Women Composers

August 22 and 23 -- Beverly Radin, flute; David Morgan, piano

August 29 and 30 -- The New Music Consort

Additional information available from Earl Hatleberg, Project Director, and Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, NY 10019. phone: (212) 956-7298; 956-7501.