

Douglas James - BIO

Douglas James has appeared as a classical guitarist throughout the United States as well as in Europe and Mexico. He has been a featured recitalist for such notable venues as the Guitar Foundation of America annual convention, Guitar-Festival Iserlohn, Stetson International Guitar Workshop, Oberlin Conservatory, New York's Carnegie and Merkin Halls, and many more. He has won numerous music awards, including top prize in the Arturo Toscanini Solo Guitar Competition (Italy), and twice the National Endowment for the Arts Solo Recitalist Fellowship. James often features 19th century instruments in his performances of the Classical and Romantic literature, and plays regularly in a 19th c. period guitar duo with the Italian guitarist Pasquale Rucco.

James has recorded three critically acclaimed CD's for the *Cala Vista* label. The first, *Italian Romantic Music of the Early 19th century*, featuring 19th century solo guitar music on period guitars, was followed by two in duo with Pasquale Rucco, *Early Romantic Music for Two Guitars*, and *A Night at the Opera. Gitarr och Luta* (Sweden) notes that "Douglas James' playing on the record is for my taste totally splendid. His enthusiasm to explore the early guitar repertoire is obvious, and he has an ability to use the old instruments to their full capacity, with all of their timbral possibilities. He plays intensely and sensitively with flow, ease and elegance." *Classical Guitar* (England) states, "Douglas James clearly has a great deal of sympathy for this repertoire and a carefully worked out approach to its interpretation ... everything is animated by concern for the life of the music on its own terms and in its own time. This is a welcome addition to the choice of 19th century repertoire played on genuine instruments of the time."

Douglas James many teachers have included Patrick O'Brien, Carlo Barone, and Thomas Patterson at the University of Arizona (DMA '94). A past member of the Board of Trustees of the Guitar Foundation of America, Dr. James is Professor of Guitar in the Hayes School of Music at Appalachian State University, where he directs the annual *Appalachian GuitarFest*.