

BIO - Joao Figueiroa

Hailed as "an ambassador of Brazilian music" by The Washington Post, Dr. Joao Figueiroa (DM, MM, Florida State University; BMus, Universidade Federal da Bahia) is recognized today as one of the most influential classical guitar performers from Brazil. Dr. Figueiroa won several international guitar competitions across the US, and has performed at internationally recognized venues and organizations such as the Kennedy Center for the Performing and Arts, the Brazilian Endowment for the Arts in New York City and Movimento Violão in São Paulo. Dr. Figueiroa actively teaches and performs in guitar festivals throughout the United States and South America.

Dr. Figueiroa is also in demand as a teacher. From 1998-2002 he served as a faculty member at Escola de Música da Universidade Federal da Bahia in Brazil, from 2003-2008 as a Graduate Teaching Assistant at The Florida State University, and since 2012 he is the head of guitar studies at Catholic University of America. He maintains a vibrant private studio at his home in Alexandria-VA where he has worked with students who have distinguished themselves in competitions, music festivals, and have been accepted in top college music programs in the US.

In addition to his teaching and performing career, Dr. Figueiroa has worked as a community arts organizer since his arrival in the Washington DC area in 2009. Among organizations that Dr. Figueiroa has served are the Northern Virginia Music Teachers Association and the Embassy of Brazil in DC. Since 2014, Dr. Figueiroa has worked for Marlow Guitar International where in 2017 he was appointed as its Executive Director.

www.joaofigueiroa.com

Candice Mowbray

Biography

Regarded for her beautiful tone and sensitive music-making, guitarist Candice Mowbray shares the expressive and communicative qualities of her playing through programs of modern and classic works: from the playful acrobatics in *Danse rythmique* by French guitar virtuoso, Ida Presti, to the elegance and solemnity of Fernando Sor's *Fantaisie élégiaque*, listeners enjoy her artful programming and thoughtful interpretations.

Appearing as a soloist, ensemble musician and guest lecturer, Mowbray has been a featured artist at many festivals and concert series including the Philadelphia Classical Guitar Society Series, Toronto Guitar Weekend, Knoxville Guitar Series, Bethlehem Guitar Festival, Austin Peay GuitarFest, Charlottesville Guitar Festival, Lonestar Guitar Festival, Ibero-American Guitar Festival at the Smithsonian Museum of the American Indian and Guitar Foundation of America Convention in Los Angeles. She is the recipient of a 2020 Maryland State Art Council Independent Artist Award and has performed with Washington National Opera at the Kennedy Center, Maryland Symphony Orchestra, Wolftrap Opera, Satori, Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra of Greater Washington and National String Symphonia. Mowbray has been an active chamber musician performing with numerous esteemed artists in the greater Washington D.C. and Philadelphia area, and can be heard playing classical, electric and steel-string acoustic guitar in orchestral, theatrical and interdisciplinary arts productions.

Mowbray's CD, *Reverie*, been featured on radio shows such as *InTune (BBC Radio 3)*, *The Intimate Guitar (Dayton, OH)*, *G-Strings with Tom Cole (Washington D.C.)* and *Musica Mundi (Boulder, CO)*. Blair Jackson of *Classical Guitar Magazine* called the album, "a revelation!" and one of the Top 10 CD picks of the year. The album is comprised of twentieth century and contemporary French compositions intertwined by homage including solo works by the great guitar duo, Ida Presti and Alexandre Lagoya. Mowbray earned the Doctorate of Musical Arts in Classical Guitar Performance from Shenandoah Conservatory where she studied with Dr. Glenn Caluda. Also influential were private lessons and masterclasses with many internationally renowned artists including Berta Rojas, Carlos Barbosa-Lima, Sharon Isbin, Roland Dyens, Julian Gray, Serap Bastepe-Gray, Ron Pearl, Gerry Kunkel, Angel Romero, Ricardo Cobo, Eduardo Isaac, Maximo Diego Pujol and Victor Villadangos.

Dr. Mowbray has taught courses in music and appreciation of the broader humanities at Shepherd University, Shenandoah Conservatory, Hagerstown Community College and Frederick Community College. She has worked with students of all ages as a guest clinician and adjudicator, and greatly enjoys researching, writing and speaking about music.

An experienced lecturer, Mowbray's musical talks have been described as "enthusiastic" and "insightful" in *Classical Guitar Magazine* and *The Morning Call*. Although Mowbray lectures on a variety of topics, she has been an advocate for increasing awareness about the contributions of women in the history of guitar. Her doctoral thesis, "Ida Presti as a Solo Performer and Composer of Works for Solo Guitar" is published by ProQuest

and related publications include “Recordings to Revisit: Ida Presti’s Solo Recordings” and “Women in the History of the Classical Guitar” in *Soundboard*, and “Introducing Ida Presti” in *Prodigies*.

www.candicemowbray.com