

UNLV

**Department of Music
College of Fine Arts**

presents an

Artist-In-Residence Recital

Matthew Dunne, guitar

PROGRAM

Matthew Dunne
(b. 1959)

Twenty Miniatures for Guitar (2009)

1 – 5
6 – 10
11 – 15
16 – 20

Thursday, April 28, 2011

5:30 p.m.

**Dr. Arturo Rando-Grillot Recital Hall
Lee and Thomas Beam Music Center
University of Nevada, Las Vegas**

Program Notes

I composed the *Twenty Miniatures for Guitar* in the summer and fall of 2009, as a result of winning a grant from the Artist Foundation of San Antonio. Most of my prior works for guitar were commissioned by virtuoso performers and ensembles. Consequently, I wanted to write some music that many guitarists could play, including serious students, amateurs, and professionals. My inspiration for this work has been the few sets of very high quality short compositions for guitar composed in the 20th century, especially the *24 Preludes* by Manuel M. Ponce and the *20 Estudios Sencillos* by Leo Brouwer.

As it turned out, the *Miniatures* are a little longer and more challenging than either the Ponce or Brouwer short pieces. I found it invigorating to try to write short, accessible pieces that have musical depth and focus. The compositional style of the *Miniatures* reflects my jazz influences, interest in harmonic development, and admiration for implied counterpoint. I have tried to stay quite focused with regards to textural and rhythmic settings, relying on those to provide continuity while (hopefully!) allowing melodic and harmonic development to provide variety. There are bits of milonga, jazz waltz, folk music, even a touch of celtic influence. The set concludes with a theme and four variations, which explore differing moods on the same melody.

Biography

Matthew Dunne, guitarist and composer, was the 2008 winner of the Tobin Grand Prize for Artistic Excellence from the Artist Foundation of San Antonio. He has performed and taught throughout the United States and Mexico in both the classical and jazz genres. The San Antonio Express News has called his playing "beautiful...elegant, well crafted and sophisticated" He received the DMA degree in guitar performance, jazz emphasis, from The University of Texas at Austin, the first guitarist to receive this degree. Since 1992, he has been on the music faculty of the University of Texas at San Antonio. He is a frequent collaborator with the Los Angeles Guitar Quartet, having composed music for three consecutive LAGQ CDs on Telarc, including the GRAMMY winning *Guitar Heroes*. He also composed the set piece for the 2005 Guitar Foundation of America Competition, *Appalachian Summer*, which has since been recorded on Naxos. Matthew has recorded three CDs; *Forget the Alamo*, a collection of his compositions for jazz quintet; *Music in the Mission*, a classical guitar CD recorded in Mission San Jose,; and *The Accidental Trio*, with vocalist Joan Carroll and accordionist Mark Rubinstein. Matthew has directed the Southwest Guitar Festival in San Antonio biennially since 1995. This festival has included collaborative projects with many arts organizations in San Antonio and has garnered considerable critical acclaim and international recognition.