

Canadian Guitar Quartet

Julien Bisailon - Philip Candelaria - Bruno Roussel - Louis Trépanier

"...fantastic, spirited playing and sheer inventiveness..." wrote Julia Crowe in her *Letter from New York* column for *Classical Guitar* magazine, England (2008).

"The Canadian Guitar Quartet dazzled the audience with their second-to-none ensemble playing", said Benjamin Verdery in *Classical Guitar* magazine (2003).

Since their debut in 1999, the Canadian Guitar Quartet has toured extensively in North and South America, from one standing ovation to the next, establishing a reputation as one of the finest guitar ensembles in the world.

"**Portrait I**", the CGQ's debut CD, is "...quite impressive. Their tight ensemble and group virtuosity make them competitive with the best quartets" (*American Record Guide*). "One cannot imagine better ensemble playing", wrote Robert McColley of *Fanfare* magazine. "Real musical depth", said Richard Todd of the *Ottawa Citizen*.

On March 24, 2005, their second CD, "**Les Scènes de Quartiers**", was awarded "**Le Prix Trille Or**" for instrumental album of the year by the "Association des Professionnels de la Chanson et de la Musique". "This is really exciting, exhilarating chamber-music-playing ... If guitars or tangos appeal, then buy this CD and be delighted", wrote Paul Ingram in *Fanfare* magazine. "**Portrait II – Orchestral Music for four guitars**" will be the quartet's third CD on the Eclectra label.

The CGQ has often been featured on both English and French national CBC networks, on national broadcasts in Chile, Austria and on a "*Classical Guitar Alive*" world wide web cast from the United States. In Canada, they have appeared at the National Art Gallery, the Palais Montcalm series, the Glenn Gould Studio in Toronto, with orchestras and in recital across the country. They have performed at the Ottawa International Chamber Music Festival, Lachine Music Festival, Montreal International Classical Guitar Festival, Parry Sound's "*Festival of the Sound*", the Acadia Guitar Festival, Festival Vancouver and the Hornby Island Music Festival. Internationally, they have performed in Brazil, Argentina, Chile and headlined Yale University's "*Guitar Extravaganza*", Chile's "*Entre Cuerdas*" and "*Liliana Perez Corey*" festivals, Stetson University's International Guitar Workshop, the Mississippi Guitar Festival, the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival, and the Guitar Foundation of America festival.

The music of Patrick Roux has been performed and recorded all over the world. The Latin inspired rhythms and virtuosity make for drama and excitement, while a constant interchanging of voices among the quartet allow for complex but clear textures and for live panning and stereo effects on stage. In 2002, **Les Productions d'Oz** began the special "**Canadian Guitar Quartet Collection**" featuring music by Roux and transcriptions by Denis Donegani and Louis Trépanier. "The music of Patrick Roux is always entirely effective ... The result is compelling for its strength, vitality, breadth, and

sheer compositional challenge", wrote Geneviève Chanut in *Les cahiers de la guitare* (Paris).

In 2006, the G8 guitar octet project began with the CGQ joining the Salzburg Guitar Quartet for concerts in Austria and Germany and a national radio broadcast from Innsbruck. G8 continued to delight audiences in Canada in 2007 with a tour that also included a national Radio Canada broadcast on *Éspace Musique*. G8 is now scheduled to return to Europe in March of 2009 and to Canada in November of 2009. Several new works have been written especially for this ensemble and a debut recording is planned for a 2010 release.

The CGQ has been featured on a national Bravo! TV special, as well as in the March 2007 issue of England's *Classical Guitar* magazine. On December 8, 2007, the CGQ's New York city debut on the 92nd Street Y's "*Art of the Guitar*" series was enthusiastically received with several standing ovations. Wrote Don Witter Jr. of the New York City Classical Guitar Society, "*The Canadian Guitar Quartet made one of the greatest New York City Debuts of any artistic ensemble in decades ... STUNNING !!!*".

The Canadian Guitar Quartet is currently in residence at the University of Ottawa.

"The Canadian Guitar Quartet tackles all with great brilliance and an optimal mastery of their instruments ... thereby confirming a secure musical reality of international dimension" (*Guitart* magazine – ITALY)

Please visit www.canadianguitarquartet.com and www.productionsdoz.com