

ABOUT ANDREW MAH

Canadian guitarist Andrew Mah is widely regarded for his virtuosity and fine musicality. He was born in Ottawa into a family of guitarists and from a very early age was exposed to the best of classical guitar music. His first instructor (outside the family) was Ottawa guitarist Garry Elliot, with whom he started in 1985.

He has performed professionally for the last 15 years, touring France in 1990 with the ensemble Guitares Nouvelle France and premiering some of the earliest work of Canadian guitarist/composer Patrick Roux. He concertizes regularly in Canada and abroad and has been a prize winner in competition at both the national and international level.

His formal studies took place at Canterbury High School for the Arts, University of Toronto with Norbert Kraft and the Conservatoire de Musique du Quebec in Hull with Patrick Roux. In addition, he has participated in numerous master classes with many other world-renowned musicians. (David Russell, Manuel Barrueco, David Tanenbaum, Sergio Assad etc.)

Andrew's debut CD was released in 2001. "Presenting Andrew Mah" has received rave reviews for its technical brilliance and unique style. It has received regular radio play across Canada on CBC and reached #8 on the CUIT charts. This recording has sold internationally via the internet and has resulted in exposure in many different countries. His second CD of Brazilian choro guitar will be released in spring 2005.

Along with his solo activities, Andrew is an avid arranger and ensemble musician who enjoys transcribing and arranging complex music by ear. His arrangements for string orchestra have been performed for the PM of Portugal, Premier of China, General Pervez Musharraf, South African President Thabo Mbeki, US President George Bush, and Kofi Annan. They have been performed in Spain as well as Canada.

As well as classical and modern erudite composers he enjoys world music from all cultures and is currently focusing on the study of Cape Verdean popular music, and Brazilian choro guitar. He takes special pleasure in collaborations with composers who blend erudite and world music genres.

He was recently invited by the Governor General of Canada as featured soloist at her Performing Arts Award ceremony, and in * 2005 was the first musician from the Americas ever to tour the Republic of Cape Verde.

*Supported by the Canada Council for the Arts

presenting

Andrew Mah

'a truly gifted concert artist with a very special command and understanding of the guitar music of Brazil'

Valdemar Carneiro Leão, Brazilian ambassador to Canada:

'astonishing technique and musicianship. I wish you great success in your artistic career'

Roberto Di Marino, Composer -Italy

'Your Interpretation Of La Catedral by Barrios Is Magnificent'

Vasco Martins, Composer/Guitarist -Cape Verde

"Mah's rendition of the famous Bach Chaconne is the best I've ever heard on guitar.....Mah, more than almost anyone else, remembers the Chaconne is a dance."

Ottawa Citizen



CAREER Highlights:

*'What strikes me is the precise articulation and phrasing,
a sense of always moving forward'*
CBC radio, Canada

*'Mr. Mah is a musician of exceptional talent and
dedication. He approaches his work with an honesty
and integrity that I am sure he will always develop
towards a most artistic level of performance.
He possesses a sizzling, refined technique and
powerful tone on the guitar.'*
Nicholas Goluses, D.M.A. Director of the guitar programs, and
Chairman of the string department at the Eastman School
of Music

'one of the most talented guitarists ever to cross my path'
Alan Torok
Acclaimed Canadian composer and guitarist

-**1990:** National finalist Canadian Music Competition.
Recipient of Jules Leger scholarship.

-**1992:** Semifinalist GOLD International guitar competition
(Oberlin OH)

-**1993:** Finalist ASTA North American competition (Cincinnati OH)

-**Sept 2001:** Debut CD released

-**August 2002:** Only Canadian prizewinner in the Web Concert
Hall International Competition, a worldwide contest for all
classical instruments.

-**Sept. 2002:** Internationally recognized as the only North
American invited to compete in the San Francisco International
Guitar Competition.

-**June 2003:** Invited as a guest artist and faculty to the
American Mandolin and Guitar Summer School, giving
seminars and lectures on guitar technique and Argentine
Tango Nuevo.

-**Nov. 2003:** Invited by the Governor General of Canada as a
guest soloist at Rideau Hall during her Performing Arts Awards
Ceremony.

-**Feb 2004:** Featured alumni professional artist at fundraiser for
Canterbury High School Arts Program

-**Feb 2004:** Featured in Danny Globermans CBC Making it
Work TV program.

-**Sept 2004:** Invited by Brazilian ambassador Valdemar
Carneiro Leao to perform a Brazilian solo guitar concert in
co-operation with the Brazilian Embassy in Canada. Full CD of
Brazilian solo guitar also recorded at the embassy's request.
(soon to be released.)

-**Feb 2005:** Tour of Cape Verde islands, West Africa. Invited
by composer Vasco Martins. First solo musician from the
New World ever to perform there.
(*supported by the Canada Council*)

Mr. Mah is currently working on a third CD of modern
virtuoso guitar music and recently recorded the world
premiere of composer Vasco Martins 'Molto Continuum
(dedicated to Andrew Mah)', and Patrick Roux's Valse Vertigo.



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As well as classical and modern erudite composers he enjoys world music from all cultures and is currently focusing on the study of Cape Verdean popular music, and Brazilian choro guitar. He takes special pleasure in collaborations with composers who blend erudite and world music genres.

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**Supported by the Canada Council for the Arts*

A few comments on Andrew Mah:

'a truly gifted concert artist with a very special command and understanding of the guitar music of Brazil'

Valdemar Carneiro Leão, Brazilian ambassador to Canada:

'one of the most brilliant guitarists of the new generation; his Barrios interpretations, especially "La Cathedral", are magnificent.'

Vasco Martins, Composer/Guitarist -Cape Verde

'astonishing technique and musicianship. I wish you great success in your artistic career'

Roberto Di Marino, Composer-Italy:

"...meticulous technique and a fine musical sense on his debut CD. A must have for guitar lovers....Mah's rendition of the famous Bach Chaconne is the best I've ever heard on guitar.....Mah, more than almost anyone else, remembers the Chaconne is a dance.....but the repertoire wasn't the main thing that made the night remarkable. Rather it was Mah's aggressive pursuit of technical excellence and the expressive power that his enormous prowess gave him." -

The Ottawa Citizen

"Mr Mah is a musician of exceptional talent and dedication. He approaches his work with an honesty and integrity that I am sure he will always develop towards a most artistic level of performance. He possesses a sizzling, refined technique and powerful tone on the guitar."

Nicholas Goluses, D.M.A. Professor of guitar, Director of the guitar programs, and Chairman of the string department at the Eastman School of Music

"Presenting Andrew Mah is a tremendous recording that shows Mr. Mah's thoughtfulness and attention to the tiniest of details on all accounts. He plays with an unabashedly exposed musicianship that is clear and absolutely direct, without the slightest taint of obscuring affectation. Mr. Mah's bristling rhythmic energy, rich, powerful sound, and complete technical command make this recording impossible to ignore" -

***Karl Wohlwend, Professor of Guitar, Capital University Conservatory of Music
Columbus, OH***

"one of the most talented guitarists ever to cross my path"

Alan Torok , Acclaimed Canadian composer and guitarist

'What strikes me is the precise articulation and phrasing, a sense of always moving forward'

CBC radio, Canada

'spirited and heartfelt'

Christopher Teves D.M.A Guitar Performance, Eastman School of Music

"We would like to thank Andrew Mah for the excellent playing he treated us to last night. If this young man continues on his present course, we could be witnessing the birth of another world class guitarist right here in Ottawa."

Ottawa Guitar Society circa 1986

ABOUT ANDREW MAH (Short Bio: (160 words))

Canadian guitarist Andrew Mah is widely regarded for his virtuosity, versatility, and fine musicality. He was born in Ottawa into a family of guitarists and from a very early age was exposed to the best of classical guitar music.

He has performed professionally for more than 15 years, touring France in 1990 with the ensemble Guitares Nouvelle France and premiering some of the earliest work of Canadian guitarist/composer Patrick Roux.

He was recently invited by the Governor General of Canada as featured soloist at her Performing Arts Award ceremony, and in *2005 was the first musician from the Americas ever to tour the Republic of Cape Verde.

He is currently collaborating with composers Roddy Ellias (Ottawa) and Vasco Martins (Cape Verde) helping to create exciting new repertoire for the guitar.

Andrew's latest CD "Shadows of the Bossa", was recorded at the request of the Brazilian Embassy of Canada, and will be officially released at the Ottawa International Chamber Music festival.

**Supported by the Canada Council for the Arts*

Biographie : Andrew Mah

Andrew Mah est un virtuose de la guitare. Il est considéré par ses pairs et son auditoire pour sa polyvalence et son excellence musicale. D'origine canadienne, il est né à Ottawa d'une famille de guitaristes. Dès son enfance, il a été exposé à la meilleure musique de guitare classique.

Andrew Mah joue la guitare professionnellement depuis plus de quinze ans. En 1990, il a parcouru la France avec le quatuor *Guitares Nouvelle France* et a interprété quelques-unes des premières pièces du guitariste et compositeur Patrick Roux.

Récemment, il a été invité, par le Gouverneur Général du Canada, comme soliste à la cérémonie des *Prix du Gouverneur général pour les arts de la scène*. En 2005, il a été le premier musicien des Amériques à parcourir la république de Cape Verde.

A 2004-2005 il collabore avec les compositeurs Roddy Ellias (Ottawa) et Vasco Martins (Cape Verde) à la création d'un nouveau répertoire excitant pour la guitare.

Son plus récent disque compact "Shadows of the Bossa" a été enregistré suite à la demande de l'Ambassade du Brésil – Ottawa et sera lancé officiellement au *Festival international de musique de Chambre d'Ottawa*.

Sample Program:

The North Atlantic triangle: Canada, Cape Verde, and Brazil.

Roddy Elias

Nothing to Gain...Nothing to Lose
Too Far
Bone Dance
Innocence

Patrick Roux

Valse vertigo
D'un ciel a l'autre
Le bourdon de l'ame

Intermission

Vasco Martins

Situacoes Triangulares
Gesto Flutuante i-ii
Num Varanda
Molto Continuum (dedicated to Andrew Mah)

Heitor Villa Lobos

Suite Populaire Bresilienne

i Mazurka-Choro
ii Schottish-Choro
iii Valsa-Choro
iv Gavota-Choro
v Chorino

Baden Powell

Valse Sem Nome

Ernesto Nazareth

Odeon

(many more programs and combinations are available all Bach, Barrios etc.- please inquire)

Contact:

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amah@ncf.ca
www.andrewmah.com

Technical requirements: Armless chair of normal height. (Stool not acceptable). Microphone and PA may be necessary depending on the specific circumstance of performance. Please inquire. Small diaphragm cardioid condenser mics preferred if possible.

Lighting must be of stage type adequate to highlight a solo performer, but need not be a full professional lighting rig. In church venues, the standard existing stage lights are usually fine.

High resolution versions of a selection of promotional photos can be downloaded anytime from my website at www.andrewmah.com. All program, composer, and artist information will be available there.

Please do not hesitate to contact Andrew Mah should you have any questions.