

# Duo Sonidos

www.duosonidos.com

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## William Knuth, violin | Adam Levin, guitar



**Duo Sonidos** brings together the talents of violinist William Knuth and classical guitarist Adam Levin. Based in New York and Boston, Duo Sonidos is at the vanguard of the guitar chamber music world. The duo was formed in 2006 through a chance pairing of Knuth and Levin in a chamber music class at New England Conservatory. In November 2010, Duo Sonidos released their self-titled debut album, including works by Manuel de Falla, Astor Piazzolla, Salvador Brotons, and the premiere of a commissioned work by Eduardo Morales-Caso. They subsequently won 1st Prize at the 2010 Luys Milan International Chamber Music Competition in Valencia, Spain. The duo has enjoyed widespread critical acclaim for their first recording. Kenneth Keaton of *American Record Guide* hailed the CD as “exquisite music-making... an exciting discovery, recommended to all lovers of great chamber music playing.” The disc was awarded a May, 2012, US Choice award by *BBC Music Magazine*, in which music critic Julian Haylock wrote, “Duo Sonidos plays with a loose-limbed, easy virtuoso ‘cool’ and beguiling tonal warmth that combines laid back intuitiveness with classical sophistication... stunning performances.”

For their first international season in 2011-2012, Duo Sonidos completed an extensive concert tour of Spain and made their US debuts in New York, Chicago, Boston, and San Francisco. In 2012-2013, the duo performed throughout the US, including Boston GuitarFest, the Chicago Latino Music Festival, Queens New Music Festival in New York, the University of Texas at Dallas, Pilgrim Chamber Players of Chicago, Indiana University South Bend, Chamber Music North, Viterbo University, and the University of Wisconsin at Parkside, sharing an eclectic program of music that included transcriptions of masterpieces by composers such as Astor Piazzolla, Manuel de Falla, Arcangelo Corelli, G.F. Handel, Xavier Montsalvatge, Eduardo Morales-Caso, Joaquin Rodrigo, and Robert Beaser, as well as the world premieres of commissioned duos by Jorge Muñiz and David del Puerto. The duo performed a live concert at WGBH Boston’s Fraser Studio that was simultaneously broadcast on WFMT Chicago in April, 2013.

Duo Sonidos is a bid to amalgamate the vast capabilities of two ambassadorial instruments basic to the fabric of contemporary and classical music alike and to imprint the aural qualities of their combination in the ears of listeners. Their mission is also nothing short of building a standard and expansive repertoire for violin and guitar duos. Duo Sonidos has forged relationships with several contemporary composers who have adapted existing music for them, or written them entirely new works. The duo has commissioned works from Allen Krantz (USA), Gregg Nestor (USA), Jan Freidlin (Israel), Jorge Variego (Argentina), Jorge Muñiz (Spain-USA), David del Puerto (Spain), Jorge Sastre (Spain), and Eduardo Morales-Caso (Cuba-Spain). Levin and Knuth have also been honored as US Fulbright Scholars in the field of music performance in Madrid, Spain and Vienna, Austria respectively.

Highlights of the duo's 2013-2014 season include several major US debuts. They will appear in Baltimore for the first time at An Die Musik, their Washington, DC, debut at the Music Center at Strathmore Center, and their Detroit debut with a weeklong residency and multiple concerts with the Chamber Music Society of Detroit. The duo will record their second disc featuring folk-inspired works by Béla Bartók, Xavier Montsalvatge, Karol Szymanowski, Lukas Foss, and others. With their commitment to perform also in non-traditional venues, Duo Sonidos will also present a special program of works by Jewish composers and non-Jewish composers inspired by Judaism in Synagogues and Jewish cultural institutions throughout the US. [www.duosonidos.com](http://www.duosonidos.com)



**Adam Levin** has performed worldwide and been praised for his “visceral and imaginative performances” by the Washington Post. Levin has performed extensively across the United States at renowned venues such as Chicago’s Pick Staiger, Nichols, and Mayne Stage concert halls as well as at the prestigious Art Institute of Chicago; Boston’s Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, the Museum of Fine Arts, and Jordan Hall; Spivey Hall in Atlanta; repeat appearances at Le Poisson Rouge in New York City; and Kennedy Center in Washington, DC. In Europe, Levin has performed in some of the finest venues across Spain, and in Italy, Germany, and Switzerland. In the 2017-2018 season, Levin makes several debut solo, chamber, and orchestral appearances in China, Finland, and Ireland as well as return appearances in Brazil and Spain. Adam Levin’s live performances have been featured nationally numerous times on NPR’s Performance Today, the nationally syndicated Classical Guitar Alive, and studio performances on top radio stations including WFMT Chicago and WCRB Boston.

The recipient of numerous top prizes, Adam Levin has been recognized by Asociación Cultural Trujamán, the Society of American Musicians, the Lake Forest Concerto Competition, Minnesota’s Schubert Competition, Boston GuitarFest, and Certamen Internacional Luys Milan de Guitarra in Valencia. In 2008, Levin was honored as a Fulbright Scholar in the field of music performance, researching contemporary Spanish guitar repertoire in Madrid, Spain. He was awarded the Program for Cultural Cooperation Fellowship, promoting cultural understanding between Spain and the United States and the Kate Neal Kinley Fellowship, for research and performance of contemporary Spanish music in Madrid. Levin has commissioned over 30 solo guitar works from four generations of Spanish composers and has completed three out of four planned albums for Naxos to document all of these works. Levin’s six albums to date have all received rave reviews from international guitar and classical music publications, including Classical Guitar Magazine, Soundboard, and BBC Music Magazine, among others.

A native of Chicago's North Shore, Levin holds BM and BA degrees from Northwestern University in Music Performance, Psychology, and Pre-Med. Under the tutelage of Eliot Fisk, Levin completed a MM at New England Conservatory in Boston. His esteemed teachers have included Oscar Ghiglia, Gabriel Estarellas, Anne Waller, Mark Maxwell, and Paul Henry. Levin is co-director of the annual Boston Young Guitarists Workshop, co-founder of the not-for-profit organization, Kithara Project, and is a professor of guitar at the University of Rhode Island and the University of Massachusetts-Boston. Adam Levin is a D'Addario Artist and performs on a guitar by luthier Stephan Connor.



**William Knuth**, violinist, has earned recognition for his artistry as a solo and chamber musician and has been praised by American Record Guide for his “perfect intonation, wide range of timbre... expressive phrasing, and great sensitivity”. Mr. Knuth spent two years as a Fulbright scholar in Vienna, Austria studying at the Vienna Universitat fur Musik und darstellende Kunst. He was a featured performer multiple times for members of the United Nations Council as well as foreign ambassadors from Russia, Spain, Germany, and Austria.

As a member of Duo Sonidos with guitarist Adam Levin, Knuth has performed extensively throughout the United States, Europe, Africa, and South America. In 2010, Knuth and Levin released their debut album *Duo Sonidos* and subsequently were awarded First Prize at the 2010 Luys Milan International Chamber Music Competition in Valencia, Spain. Julian Haylock of BBC Music Magazine chose *Duo Sonidos* as the “BBC Top Choice US Release Album” when he wrote: “Duo Sonidos plays with a loose-limbed, easy virtuoso ‘cool’ and beguiling tonal warmth that combines laid

back intuitiveness with classical sophistication...stunning performances.”

Recent concerts in the US have included a debut at Lincoln Center Alice Tully Hall, performances in New York's Carnegie Hall, Brooklyn Academy of Music, Fundacao Oscar Americano Sao Paulo, Columbia University's Miller Theater, Boston's Jordan Hall, Boston Symphony Hall, Harvard Sanders Theater, Boston WGBH Radio, Chicago WFMT Radio, WCNY Radio, NPR Radio, Mayne Stage Chicago, guest solo appearances with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, Syracuse Symphony Orchestra, the Boston International Guitarfest, and ensemble work with Discovery Ensemble, Signal Ensemble, Boston Philharmonic Orchestra, Harvard Group for New Music, IMPULS Festival Austria, June in Buffalo festival, and the Ojai Festival. Special projects have included collaborations with Steve Reich, Kaija Saariaho, Salvador Brotons, Eduardo Morales-Caso, Jorge Muniz, Phillip Glass, Julia Wolfe, David Lang, Lukas Foss, Norah Jones, Radiohead's Jonny Greenwood, Goldfrapp, David Byrne, and Jon Brion.

William holds a MM degree from the New England Conservatory of Music where he studied violin with Nicholas Kitchen of the Borromeo Quartet and Chamber Music with Eliot Fisk and Paul Biss, a Fulbright certificate for work with Ernst Kovacic at the Vienna University of Music and Performing Arts, and a BM from the Eastman School of Music where he was a student of Lynn Blakeslee.

## CONTACT

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## SELECTED PERFORMANCE CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

Recording Session with Norbert Kraft	Toronto, ON	June 2017
Center for the Performing Arts	Newnan, GA	June 2017
Friday Musicale	Jacksonville, FL	April 2017
University of Rhode Island Guitar Symposium	Kingston, RI	April 2017
Chicago Bach Week	Chicago, IL	March 2017
Trinity Concerts by the Cove	Naples, FL	November 2016
Duxbury Arts Complex	Duxbury, MA	April 2016
Chamber Music Society of Utica	Utica, NY	February 2016
WCNY Radio	Syracuse, NY	February 2016
Carnegie Mellon University	Pittsburg, PA	Sept 2015
St Vincent College	Latrobe, PA	Sept 2015
Utah Classical Guitar Society	Salt Lake City, UT	April 2015
Winter Jewish Music Festival	Miami, FL	January 2015
Chamber Music Society of Detroit	<i>Detroit, MI</i>	March 2014
Lincoln Center	<i>Fort Collins, CO</i>	March 2014
Music Center at Strathmore	<i>Washington, DC</i>	January 2014
An Die Musik	<i>Baltimore, MD</i>	January 2014
North Shore Congregation Israel	<i>Chicago, IL</i>	July 2013
Queens New Music Festival <i>World premiere of 'Jardin Bajo la Luna' by David del Puerto</i>	<i>New York, NY</i>	May 2013
WBGH/Boston and WFMT/Chicago LIVE Simul-cast	<i>Boston/Chicago</i>	April 2013

University of Wisconsin – Parkside	<i>Kenosha, WI</i>	March 2013
Chamber Music North	<i>Traverse City, MI</i>	March 2013
Indiana University South Bend <i>World premiere of 'Funk' by Jorge Muniz, composer present</i>	<i>South Bend, IN</i>	March 2013
Pilgrim Chamber Players	<i>Chicago, IL</i>	March 2013
University of Texas – Dallas	<i>Dallas</i>	January 2013
Chicago Latino Music Festival	<i>Chicago</i>	November 2012
Luther Memorial Concert Series	<i>Erie, PA</i>	September 2012
View Arts Center	<i>Old Forge, NY</i>	July 2012
Boston GuitarFest with Eliot Fisk	<i>Boston</i>	June 2012
Saratoga ArtsFest	<i>Saratoga Springs, NY</i>	June 2012
New York City Classical Guitar Society	<i>New York, NY</i>	February 2012
Institut Valencia de la Música	<i>Alicante, Spain</i>	December 2011
Olin Performing Arts Center, Bates College	<i>Lewiston, ME</i>	November 2011
Casa de Sefarad-Israel	<i>Madrid, Spain</i>	April 2011
La Sociedad de Guitarra Española <i>Guitarist José Luis Rodrigo present</i>	<i>Madrid, Spain</i>	April 2011
La Sociedad Amigos de la Guitarra	<i>Valencia, Spain</i>	April 2011
Live from Mayne Stage, WFMT	<i>Chicago, IL</i>	January 2011
Electric Works Gallery	<i>San Francisco</i>	July 2010



## DISCOGRAPHY



### *Duo Sonidos*

[2010]

*“Duo Sonidos plays with a loose-limbed, easy virtuoso ‘cool’ and beguiling tonal warmth that combines laid back intuitiveness with classical sophistication... stunning performances from Duo Sonidos.”*

*-- Julian Haylock, BBC Music Magazine*

Adam Levin and William Knuth unite two ambassadorial instruments – guitar and violin – in their debut recording. They explore the diversity of Ibero-American music (Spain, Argentina, Cuba) and begin the process of expanding the repertoire for this chamber music combination through arrangements and new commissions. The CD contains a riveting arrangement of *Histoire du Tango* by the tango master Astor Piazzolla; the world premiere recording of *Volavérunt*, a commissioned score by Eduardo Morales-Caso, *Tre Divertimenti* by Salvador Brotons, and *Siete Canciones Populares Españolas* by Manuel de Falla.

## COMMISSIONS AND PREMIERES

Adam Levin and William Knuth have active professional relationships with the foremost Spanish composers of the last four generations. New commissions from American composers are in progress, as well as exciting original transcriptions of Baroque, classical, and contemporary masterworks.

<u>Commission</u>	<u>Composer</u>	<u>Year Premiered</u>
<i>Kafka Sonata</i> <i>(Adapted for Duo Sonidos from the original version for clarinet and guitar)</i>	Jan Freidlin	2007
<i>Urban Design</i>	Jorge Variego	2010
<i>Episodes</i> (2011)	Jorge Sastre	TBD
<i>Voloverunt</i>	Eduardo Morales-Caso	2010
<i>Funk</i> (2011)	Jorge Muñoz	March, 2013
<i>Sonata da Camara</i> (2011)	Manuel Millán	TBD
<i>Suite-Jardín Bajo La Luna</i> (2011)	David del Puerto	May, 2013
<i>Homenajes</i>	Eduardo Morales-Caso	2014

## CRITICAL ACCLAIM

“Duo Sonidos plays with a loose-limbed, easy virtuoso ‘cool’ and beguiling tonal warmth that combines laid back intuitiveness with classical sophistication... stunning performances from Duo Sonidos.”

– *Julian Haylock, BBC Music Magazine, “US Choice”*

“Knuth plays violin with perfect intonation, a wide range of timbre, sprightly rhythm, expressive phrasing, and great sensitivity. He never overwhelms his partner...and his affinity for this music is ideal. Levin is every bit as fine. This is exquisite music-making... an exciting discovery, recommended to all lovers of great chamber music playing.”

- *Kenneth Keaton, American Record Guide*

“At times relaxed and lyrical, at others fiery and exuberant, their playing reminds me so very much of a classically oriented Grappelli-Reinhardt collaboration. Both musicians involved are evidently highly trained virtuosos, but luckily for us, they don’t let that training get in the way of their sheer enjoyment of this material... Duo Sonidos plays with exactly the right balance of elegance and élan, never once falling into cheap showmanship for its own sake. These are really dedicated musicians who want people to enjoy what they’re doing, yet refuse to lower their standards in order to broaden that audience... an absolute gem.”

-- *Lynn René Bayley, Fanfare Magazine*

"Alternating between fiery, passionate, and beautifully melodic... Knuth provides the fire with a virtuoso performance on violin, Levin's guitar practically lights up the theatre with passion when he plays... Together, they have a wonderful sound."

- *Stephanie Sirovatka-Marshall, University of Wisconsin - Parkside*



## SAMPLE RECITAL PROGRAMS

### Folk/Heritage Program A

Romanian Folk Dances, Sz. 56

- I. Dance with Sticks
- II. Waistband Dance
- III. Stamping Dance
- IV. Hornpipe Dance
- V. Romanian Polka
- VI. Quick Dance

Béla Bartók  
(1881-1945)

Canciones Populares Españolas

- I. El Paño Moruno
- II. Asturiana
- III. Jota
- IV. Nana
- V. Canción
- VI. Polo

Manuel de Falla  
(1876-1946)

The Dawn  
Wild Dance

Karol Szymanowski  
(1882-1937)

### -Intermission-

Funk

\* *Dedicated to Duo Sonidos*

Jorge Muñiz  
(b. 1974)

Three American Pieces

- I. Early Song
- II. Dedication
- III. Composer's Holiday

Lukas Foss  
(1922-2009)

Selections from *Porgy and Bess*

- I. Summertime
- II. It Ain't Necessarily So

George Gershwin  
(1898-1937)



## Mixed Repertoire Program B

Partita No. 1 in B Minor, BWV 1002 I. Sarabande/Double II. Tempo di Bouree/Double	Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)
Sonata No.4 in D Major, Op.1/13 I. Affettuoso II. Allegro III. Larghetto IV. Allegro	George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)
Variations on a Theme by Corelli ( <i>In the style of Tartini</i> )	Fritz Kreisler (1875-1962)
Sonata No. 12 in D minor, “ <i>La Follia</i> ” Op. 5/12	Arcangelo Corelli (1653-1713)

### -Intermission-

Homenajes I. Homage to Joaquín Rodrigo II. Homage to Frederic Mompou III. Homage to Manuel de Falla	Eduardo Morales-Caso (b. 1969)
Selections from <i>Canciones Negras</i> + I. Punto de Habanera II. Chévere III. Canción de cuna para dormir a un negrito IV. Canto negro	Xavier Montsalvatge (1912-2002)
Funk ( <i>Dedicated to Duo Sonidos</i> )	Jorge Muñiz (b. 1974)
Selections from <i>Mountain Songs</i> I. House Carpenter II. He’s Gone Away III. Hush You Bye IV. Cindy	Robert Beaser (b. 1954)

### OTHER SPECIAL PROGRAMS (PLEASE INQUIRE)

Jewish Heritage and Culture – Ravel, Bloch, Gershwin, Beaser, Foss, Palomo, Castelnuovo-Tedesco

Latin and American Pops – Piazzolla, Falla, Muñiz, Beaser, Gershwin

Baroque/Remix – Bach, Handel, Corelli, Kreisler, Paganini-Szymanowski