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Angel Romero

CONDUCTOR/GUITARIST



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BIOGRAPHY

Hailed for his superior artistry as the Spanish maestro of the guitar, Angel Romero's eminence in the music world as soloist and conductor is heralded by audiences and critics alike. One of the most sought-after musicians of his generation, Angel Romero has appeared in the major cultural centers throughout the world including those of London, Paris, Berlin, Vienna, Madrid, Munich, Zurich, Chicago, Los Angeles and New York among others. He has appeared as soloist with such leading orchestras as the New York Philharmonic, the Cleveland Orchestra, the Royal Philharmonic, the New World Symphony, and the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra. As conductor, he has led numerous orchestras worldwide including the Pittsburgh Symphony, the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields, the Royal Philharmonic, Germany's NDR Symphony Orchestra and the Berlin Symphoniker, the Beijing Philharmonic, the Euro-Asia Philharmonic, the Shanghai Symphony, the Bogotá Philharmonic, the Chicago Sinfonietta, the Orquesta de Baja California, the Santa Barbara Symphony, the San Diego Symphony and the San Diego Chamber Orchestra among others. Regardless of his role on stage, his driving intensity and flawless control mark him as a true master of the arts.

Angel Romero's extensive discography includes highly acclaimed recordings for Delos International, RCA Victor Red Seal and RCA Victor Worldwide, Telarc and Angel/EMI. In 2001, Delos released "Bella," which includes monumental pieces such as Bach's Air on the G String to Romero's own father's Tango Angelita - a composition dedicated to his late mother. In 1999, "Romero Plays Rodrigo" was released featuring works written for and dedicated to Angel Romero through his long and close relationship with the Spanish composer. In 1998, he was featured as soloist and conductor in an acclaimed recording of Vivaldi's guitar concertos with the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields. In 1995, RCA released a crossover recording of flamenco and pop music, featuring Angel Romero playing a diverse repertoire spanning works from Pachelbel to Bill Conti. This particular recording features Mr. Romero's world-premiere transcriptions for one guitar.

In February 2000 he was presented with the highest honor that the country of Spain has to offer, the Grand Cross of Isabel la Católica and was knighted Sir Angel Romero in reverence of his astounding musical accomplishments. In 2007, Angel Romero was honored by the Recording Academy, producer of the Grammy Awards, with the Recording Academy President's Merit Award for his significant contributions to the music world and for his professional career achievements.

Angel Romero is noted for his activities in the film industry. In 1989, he performed the entire score for "The Milagro Bean Field War" directed by Robert Redford. In 1994, he composed and directed the musical score for the Gabriele Retes film "Bienvenido-Welcome," which opened at the Muestra del Cine film festival in Guadalajara. For his work on this film, Mr. Romero won the 1995 ARIEL (the "Academy Award" of Mexico) in the category of music written originally for film. He also performed and recorded the entire score for the film "By The Sword" composed by Bill Conti, and played a cameo role in the major motion picture "Bound by Honor," a Taylor Hackford film.

Born in Malaga, Spain, Angel Romero made his professional debut at the age of six and his United States debut at the Hollywood Bowl when he was 16 giving the West Coast premiere of the famed Rodrigo's "Aranjuez Concerto." This occasion also marked the first time a guitarist was featured as soloist with the Los Angeles Philharmonic. In 1991, he gave the world premiere of Joaquin Rodrigo's "Rincones de España" at New York's Lincoln Center. Mr. Romero studied conducting privately with Eugene Ormandy, the legendary conductor of the Philadelphia Orchestra. Angel Romero has played for numerous world leaders including his globally telecast 1992 appearance in the United Nations General Assembly Hall with the National Orchestra of Spain under the baton of Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos. The performance was by invitation of then Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali to promote world peace and to celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM

Detroit Symphony Orchestra – “Yet the evening’s ultimate pleasure arrived in the person of Sir Angel Romero, guitarist extraordinaire, who collaborated with (JoAnn) Falletta and company in a reading of Joaquin Rodrigo’s “Concierto de Aranjuez” that lit up the work’s bewitching facets of fire, tenderness and joy. Then Romero added a still more brilliant encore, a blazing account of his father Celedonio Romero’s “Fantasia,” a virtuoso flight that had to be seen to be fully appreciated.”

- ***The Detroit News***

“Equipped with a fluid baton technique and an expressive left hand, he coaxed and cajoled the musicians into giving him what he wanted. At times, as in the Beethoven (Seventh Symphony), he leaned forward as if to pull the sound from the players and their instruments...the excitement was undeniable, prompting many in Friday’s audience to respond with enthusiastic appreciation. He brought welcome verve to the occasion. And his confidence in conducting the 46 minute long performance from memory was further evidence of an uncommonly gifted, and versatile musician.”

- ***San Diego Union-Tribune***

“The handsome Romero charmed his orchestra, eliciting nods, smiles and strong body language from principal players...The Mozart Divertimento was light-hearted but full of energy. Romero seems to love life and have fun with it. He brings his own personality to the stage, reminiscent of the late Leonard Bernstein, who could coax superior work from his orchestra...Romero is serious about the music but wants it to be enjoyed, not just performed. His style of conducting reflects that, with unconventional gestures, exaggerated cues and shifts in emphasis that only a talented and well-rehearsed orchestra could match.”

- ***Arizona Daily Sun***

“As guest soloist and guest conductor of the Reno Chamber Orchestra, Romero was much more than a celebrated guitarist. That he demonstrated a sensitive and highly lyric approach to all he played was to be expected. That he also conducted with the same precision and nobility of spirit was a major plus. Romero conducted one of Reno’s most musically rewarding concerts in memory.”

- ***Jack Neal’s Music Reviews***

“It is perhaps to the credit of guest conductor Angel Romero, he of the famous Spanish guitar family, that the strings sounded so well rehearsed and so passionate. From the stately opening of the Handel piece, crisp, well-judged tempi and clean attacks prevailed. Details of dynamics and phrasing were nicely observed. This was no anemic “authentic” Handel with baroque bowing techniques, but a robust and highly satisfying reading that characterized Romero’s overall approach to everything. I don’t think I have ever heard the San Diego Chamber Orchestra strings playing so well.”

- ***sandiego.com***

“Romero’s taste for assertive playing was apparent in the way he brought out the intensity of the opening section of Handel’s Concerto Grosso, Opus 6, No. 10. His enthusiasm for brisk tempos was evident during peppy passages in Grieg’s “Holberg Suite.” But Romero also savored subtlety. He emphasized the alluring rhythms and tone colors of Turina’s “La Oracion del Torero.” The Spanish composer’s 1927 piece for string orchestra was alive with tremolos, pizzicatos, chromaticism and impressionism.”

- ***San Diego Union-Tribune***

“Maestro Romero’s enthusiasm as a conductor was transferred to both orchestra and audience. He possesses a formidable guitar technique and thoroughly enjoys making music. Following his solo performance he emerged as a most commanding conductor, shaping the picturesque sounds of “El amor brujo” in an engaging manner. The (Chicago) Sinfonietta responded with the most introspective playing of the evening.”

- ***The Chicago Crusader***

“But the real story of the evening lay in the performance of Romero. He appeared with his guitar, made his adjustments to his seating, tuned up carefully, pocketed his glasses and then lit into the Rodrigo with the energy of a young man in love. His face shone. His body swayed. His fingers flew over the fingerboard with great precision.”

- ***Fresno Bee***

“Unlike many younger players, he felt no need to display technique for its own sake. He had it in abundance, and he used it unobtrusively in the service of the music.”

- ***The Washington Post***

“Guitarist Angel Romero’s playing in “Concierto Aranjuez” was beyond reproach. Since he first recorded it in the 70s, he has made it his own. Every pluck, ornament, chord and arpeggio unfolded flawlessly and viscerally.”

- ***The Birmingham News***

New York Philharmonic – “Lovely accuracy, sweet tone and elegance.”

- ***The New York Times***

“A musician of rare quality, blandishing in his attacks, warm and insinuating in his phrasing.”

- ***The Los Angeles Times***

Pittsburgh Symphony – “Technical prowess, earnestness of purpose and sensitivity to the music.”

- ***Pittsburgh Press***

“His Spanish guitar music vibrates with the heroic digital work and high coloration associated with the repertory.”

- ***Time Magazine***

Cleveland Orchestra – “He played with clarity and crispness. In slow lyrical movements, he produced a lovely, singing tone, especially full and round in the lower register. His interpretations were simple, direct and tasteful.”

- ***The Plain Dealer***

London Philharmonic Orchestra – “These were the finest live performances of the works in question ever heard in London: clean, strong, eloquently phrased and delivered with unfailing beautiful tone.”

- ***Music and Musicians***

REPERTOIRE

Bach: Concerto No. 2 for Violin

Balada: Concierto Magico*

Boccherini: La Ritirata di Madrid

Bolling: Concerto for Guitar, Jazz Piano, Drums, Bass

David Chesky: Concerto for Guitar and Orchestra

Cordero: Concierto Antillano*

Giuliani: Concerto, Op. 30, Terzo Concerto in F Major, Op. 70

Marcello: Concerto in D Minor

Ponce: Concierto Del Sur

Rodrigo: Concierto De Aranjuez

Concierto Madrigal

Concierto Para Un Fiesta

Fantasia Para Un Gentilhombre

Rincones De Espana

Celedonio Romero: Concierto De Malaga

Schifrin: Concerto for Guitar and Orchestra*

Torroba: Homenaje A La Seguidilla*

Villa-Lobos: Concerto

Vivaldi: Concerto in C Major

Concerto in D Major

Concerto in A Minor (Guitar), Op. 3, No. 6

Concerto for Flute in G Major, Op. 10 No. 4

Chamber Concerto for Recorder and Two Violins in A Minor

Chamber Concerto for Lute and Two Violins in D Major, RV 93

Trio Sonata for Violin, Lute and Basso Continuo in C Major, RV. 82

Concerto for Viola d'Amore and Lute in D Minor, RV 540

Concerto for Two Mandolins in G Major, RV. 532

Concerto for Violin in E Major, Op. 3 No. 12/RV. 265

(Transcriptions for guitar)

***Composed especially for Angel Romero**

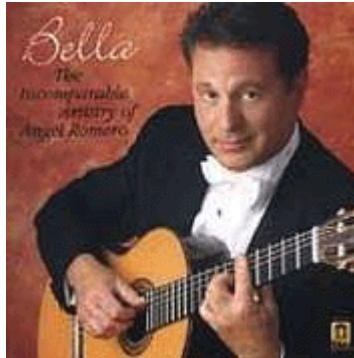
PODIUM ENGAGEMENTS

Angel Romero has a vast podium repertoire. He is equally at home conducting the great masterworks as he is in leading pops programs. The Maestro can also appear as conductor and soloist in the same orchestral program. Appearances as conductor include:

**Pittsburgh Symphony
Academy of St. Martin-in-the-Fields
Royal Philharmonic
The NDR Symphony (Germany)
Berlin Symphoniker
Beijing Philharmonic
Euro-Asia Philharmonic
Shanghai Symphony
Bogotá Philharmonic
Chicago Sinfonietta
Orquesta de Baja California
Santa Barbara Symphony
The Florida Orchestra
San Diego Symphony
San Diego Chamber Orchestra
Flagstaff Symphony Orchestra
Lincoln Symphony Orchestra
Miami Symphony Orchestra
Anchorage Symphony Orchestra
Reno Chamber Orchestra**

DISCOGRAPHY

Delos



“Bella: The Incomparable Artistry of Angel Romero”
Angel Romero, guitar
DE 3294

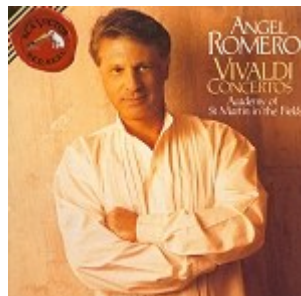
RCA Victor Red Seal



“Romero/Rodrigo – solo works for guitar”
Angel Romero, guitar



“Remembering the Future”
Angel Romero, guitar
RCA Victor CD-09026-68268-2



Vivaldi Concertos with the Academy of St Martin in the Fields
Angel Romero, guitar and conductor
RCA Victor Red Seal CD-09026-68291-2

“Noel”
Angel Romero, guitar (guest artist)
Canadian Brass
RCA Victor CD-09026-62683-2

Telarc



Granados: Twelve Spanish Dances
Angel Romero, guitar
Celedonio Romero, guitar
CD-80216



“Angel Romero Plays Bach: The Music of Bach Transcribed for Guitar”
Angel Romero, guitar
CD-80288



“A Touch of Romance: Spanish & Latin Favorites Transcribed for Guitar”
Angel Romero, guitar
CD-80213



“A Touch of Class: Popular Classics Transcribed for Guitar”
Angel Romero, guitar

CD-80134

“Movie Love Themes”
Angel Romero, guitar (guest artist)
Erich Kunzel, conductor
Cincinnati Pops Orchestra
CD-80243

Angel/EMI



Concierto de Aranjuez and Fantasia para un Gentilhombre
Angel Romero, guitar
Andre Previn, conductor
London Symphony Orchestra
EMI Angel CDC 47693
Angel S37440
EMI 5850642

Angel Romero: Spanish Guitar Virtuoso
Angel Romero, guitar
Angel Classics – EMI Seraphim CDR 74015
Angel S36094

Angel Romero: Classic Guitar Virtuoso
Angel Romero, guitar
Angel Clasiscs S36093

Music of Rodrigo and Moreno Torroba
Angel Romero, conductor
Angel Classics S37312

Guiliani: Guitar Concertos
Angel Romero, guitar
Raymond Leppard, conductor
English Chamber Orchestra
Angel Classics DS37312

Schifrin and Villa Lobos: Guitar Concertos
Angel Romero, guitar
Jesus Lopez-Cobos, conductor
London Philharmonic Orchestra
Angel Classics 4DS38126

Rodrigo: Elogio de la Guitarra and Moreno Torroba: Piezas Caracteristicas
Angel Romero, guitar
Angel Classics S37132

Music of Celedonio Romero
Angel Romero, guitar
Angel Classics DS37311

Moreno Torroba and Castelnuovo-Tedesco: Guitar Concertos

Angel Romero, guitar
Moreno Torroba, conductor
English Chamber Orchestra
Angel Classics DS37880

Claude Bolling: Concerto for Classic Guitar and Jazz Piano
Angel Romero, guitar
With: George Shearing, Shelly Mann, Ray Brown
Angel Classics DS37327

Villa Lobos: Bachianas brasileiras No. 2 & 5, Five Preludes for Guitar, Concerto for Guitar and Small Orchestra
Angel Romero, guitar
With: Barbara Hendricks, Irma Costanzo, Jesus Lopez-Cobos, Orchestre de Paris, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, London
Philharmonic Orchestra
EMI Classics – Red Line #5737612

Recordings with Los Romeros

Antonio Vivaldi: Guitar Concertos
Artists: Los Romeros
Polygram Records – Philips Concert Classics #426076

Rodrigo: Concierto Aranjuez/Concierto Andaluz
Artists: Los Romeros
Victor Alessondro, conductor
San Antonio Symphony Orchestra
Polygram Records #434369

Rodrigo: Concierto Madrigal/Concierto Andaluz
Artists: Los Romeros
Neville Marriner, conductor
Academy of St. Martin in the Fields
Philips #400024

Guitar Festival
Artists: Los Romeros
Philips Touch of Classics #422275

Vivaldi: Guitar Concertos
Artists: Los Romeros
Iona Brown, conductor
Academy of St. Martin in the Fields
Philips #412624

“The Royal Family of Spanish Guitar”
Artists: Los Romeros
Mercury/Polygram Records #434385