

Louis Valentine Johnson

Guitarist/Composer

Louis Valentine Johnson has performed as a soloist and with orchestras in the U.S.A., South America, Mexico and Canada. A Recording Artist with four CDs on the Dos Almas Label, Louis Valentine Johnson's recordings were reviewed by Carlos R. Alicea, BMG Records, New York City, who wrote:



*“...rarely recorded works coupled with
Louis Valentine Johnson's great playing.”*

Recent concert bookings include Seattle, Pullman, Chico, Sacramento, Fairfield, and San Francisco, and international performances in Norway, Denmark, France, Italy and Spain. Radio and television credits include Classical Broadcasts, KQED-San Francisco, KVMR-Nevada City, and KWSP-Santa Cruz.

A fourth CD, **Goodbye to Mexico**, has received funding from **Meet the Composer, Inc.** provided with the support of the **National Endowment for the Arts, ASCAP, and the Virgil Thomson Foundation** and was released in October 20, 2002. This recording features Johnson's recently composed solo guitar work, **American Reflections**, a composition consisting of four movements, **Goodbye to Mexico**, written in memory of thirteen Mexican citizens who died in the USA at the Arizona-Mexico border in May, 2001; **Children Dancing**, dedicated to Johnson's children; **Walking the Yuba River**, a tribute to the peace and beauty of nature, and **September Eleventh**, which questions and memorializes the human tragedy in Manhattan, Washington D.C. and Philadelphia.

On Louis Valentine Johnson's third CD, **The Blue Hour**, he recorded a piece dedicated to him by well-known New York composer, Mark A. Radice, **Tocatta, Evocation, and Fandango**. Louis Valentine Johnson also transcribed Tartini's **The Devil's Trill**, Corelli's **La Folia**, and several other pieces for guitar, adding to the performance repertoire. Richard Middleton in **Victory Review**, Seattle, WA, said, “Johnson is a skilled and sensitive interpreter, not only of pieces by venerable masters...but also those by contemporary composers such as Jose Luis Merlin and Mark Radice...A beautiful album.” (Selected recordings can be heard at www.dosalmas.com)

A graduate of Idaho State University with an undergraduate performance scholarship and a Bachelor of Music degree in guitar, Johnson also graduated with honors from San Francisco State University, receiving a Master of Arts Degree in the Guitar Performance Program. Master class studies include classes with Narciso Yepes, Christopher Parkening, Abel Carlevaro, Julian Bream, and Alirio Diaz. Louis Valentine Johnson performs and records with a Jose Oribe “Gran Suprema” guitar. Maestro Ken Hardin, Conductor of Orchestra Panache recently wrote:

“Louis Valentine Johnson is a polished artist. He is creative in performances and continues to bring new works to the concert stage. It has always been a pleasure collaborating on our orchestral performances with Lou.”

Dos Almas Music

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Louis Valentine Johnson

Professional Reviews

“Louis Valentine Johnson plays the guitar with amazing clarity. Each note is perfectly articulated and beautifully formed. His tone is full of light and richly colored. His playing of this music embodies a profound respect for its history and gives the listener an illuminating personal encounter with the composer and the period.”

—Dr. Suzanne Gasster,
Aquinas College, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

“Johnson is at his best bringing out moods, expressions, and subtle tones. While most guitarists play Bach like well-tempered metronomes, Johnson can transcend geometry to a warm, fluid sensitivity.”

—Joan LaLiberte, The Idaho State Journal

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—Maestro Ken Hardin, Conductor of Orchestra Panache

“Rarely recorded works couple with Louis Valentine Johnson’s great playing.”

—Carlos Alicea, BMG Records NYC

“The lyrical collection of solos by classical guitarist Louis Valentine Johnson is both meditative and passionate, featuring works spanning over three hundred years of classical repertoire. Johnson is a skilled and sensitive interpreter, not only of pieces by venerable masters such as Fernando Sor and Heitor Villa Lobos, but also those by contemporary composers such as Jose Luis Merlin and Mark Radice. There are also several guitar transcriptions by Johnson himself, including Tartini’s well-known string sonata, “The Devil’s Trill,” which Johnson plays with fire and finesse. A beautiful album.”

—Richard Middleton, Victory Music Review, Seattle Washington
June 2002