

The Claremont Duo

An exceptional and exciting combination: the cello's rich warmth and the guitar's delicate timbres are unified in the hands of MAXINE NEUMAN AND PETER ERNST. Since 1998, this duo has enthralled its international public with its brilliant virtuosity, interpretive elegance and refreshing performance presentation. Neuman and Ernst's broad repertoire ranges from the Renaissance and Baroque to Classical and Romantic, to the Contemporary, including commissioned works written for them.

The Claremont Duo recently released its second CD, 'Divertimento', on Artek Records. Fanfare Magazine praised these unique musicians' first CD: "fascinating repertoire, plus excellent performances, plus ideal sonic reproduction... a winner..."

Cellist **Maxine Neuman's** solo and chamber music career spans North America, South America, Europe and Japan. A grant recipient from the Rockefeller and Ford Foundations and the National Endowment for the Arts and a three-time Grammy Award winner, her biography appears in "Who's Who in the World." She is a founding member of the Claremont Duo, the Crescent String Quartet, the Vermont Cello Quartet, Breve, and the Walden Trio, groups with which she has traveled and recorded extensively.

Her long list of recording credits includes Deutsche Grammophon, Columbia, Angel, EMI, Nonesuch, Biddulph, CRI, Orion, Leonarda, Argo, Opus One, SONY/Virgin, AMC, Thorofon, Vanguard, Musical Heritage, Albany, Northeastern and CBS World Records.

She has appeared as soloist before a sold-out audience in New York's Town Hall in the American premiere of Giovanni Battista Viotti's only cello concerto, and for Austrophon, she recorded Schumann Cello Concerto in Count Esterhazy's historic palace in Austria. She can also be heard in such diverse settings as the Montreux Jazz Festival, the films of Jim Jarmusch, and with the rock band Metallica. She has expanded the chamber ensemble repertoire - especially for multiple celli and cello and guitar - by arranging and transcribing works from every period. A longtime champion of contemporary music, she has commissioned and premiered works by many of today's leading composers.

Distinguished as a teacher as well as performer, Ms. Neuman has served as a judge for numerous international competitions. On the faculty at the New York's School for Strings, she has taught at Bennington College, Williams College and C.W. Post University.

Her cello is a J.B. Guadagnini, dating from 1772.

Guitarist **Peter Ernst** is widely recognized and celebrated for his interpretations of solo and chamber music, including Repertoire from the Renaissance until present as well as folkloristic music from South America. Among the many prizes he received are the prizes at the German National Youth Competition „Jugend musiziert“ as well as international prizes of both solo- and chamber music competitions in Germany, Italy, France and Spain.

He has toured throughout Europe, Japan, the Middle east and the USA and performed at music festivals in Europe, among them the ones in Torroella de Montgri (Spain), Iserlohn (Germany), Lublin and Pzermysl (Poland) as well as Mikulov (Czech Republic). In February, 2001, Mr. Ernst appeared as soloist in Joaquin Rodrigos “Concierto de Aranjuez” in two concerts with the „Bergische Sinfoniker” and conductor Peter Leonhard in Germany.

In addition to concertizing with the CLAREMONT DUO, as a chamber musician he regularly performs with guitarist Karin Scholz as DUO BERGERAC, with Karin Scholz and Maxine Neuman as BELMONT TRIO, with flutist Barbara Rosnitschek and with Argentinian charango virtuoso Diego Jascavich. He collaborated with ensembles for modern music such as “Musik der Jahrhunderte, Stuttgart”, Germany, and the „New Juilliard Ensemble”, New York City.

Mr. Ernst has recorded six CDs. As a recording artist he appears exclusively on Thorofon Classics with the DUO BERGERAC and the BELMONT TRIO. As guest musician he appears on Dreamtheater - Keyboarder Jordan Rudess´ solo album „Feeding the wheel“ (2001).

As a full scholarship holder Mr. Ernst studied with Sharon Isbin at the Juilliard School in New York. His teachers in Germany were Michael Tröster, Thomas Müller-Pering, Dieter Kreidler and Jürgen Ruck.