

Johan Smith, 2019 winner of the prestigious Guitar Foundation of America Competition, presents his dream programme in this recital. Bach's *Toccata* for harpsichord 'borders on the unplayable' for the guitar, especially in its final double fugue, while Manuel Ponce's *Variations on La folía de España and Fugue* is one of the most challenging peaks of the repertoire. Mertz's celebrated virtuoso *Concertino* is followed by Britten's *Nocturnal after John Dowland*, renowned for its blend of Elizabethan melancholy and contemporary strangeness. The recital concludes with a world premiere, the evocative *Sables Stellaires* by Josquin Schwizgebel, dedicated to Johan Smith.

JOHAN SMITH

Guitar Recital

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

Toccata in E minor, BWV 914 (c. 1710)

(arr. Stefano Grondona, b. 1958)

8:47

- ① (Toccata) 0:54
- ② Un poco allegro 1:56
- ③ Adagio 2:15
- ④ Fuga: Allegro 3:42

Manuel María Ponce (1882–1948)

- ⑤ Diferencias sobre la folía de España y fuga (‘Variations on *La folía de España* and Fugue’) (1929–31) 22:45

Johann Kaspar Mertz (1806–1856)

- ⑥ **Guitar Concertino** (1856) 8:00

Benjamin Britten (1913–1976)

- ⑦ **Nocturnal after John Dowland, Op. 70** (1963) 16:30

Josquin Schwizgebel (b. 1984)

- ⑧ **Les Reflets de l’Obscurité** (‘Reflections from the Darkness’) – III. *Sables Stellaires* (‘Stellar Sands’) (2019)* 4:21

***WORLD PREMIERE RECORDING**

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Playing Time
60:37



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