

Eliot Fisk Biography

Guitarist Eliot Fisk is known worldwide as a charismatic performer famed for his adventurous and virtuosic repertoire. He is also celebrated for his willingness to take art music into unusual venues (schools, senior centers, and even logging camps and prisons!). After nearly 50 years before the public he remains as his mentor Andres Segovia once wrote, “at the top line of our artistic world.”

In the 2016- 17 season Fisk continues to break new ground for the guitar with marathon performances of his transcriptions of all 6 Bach solo cello Suites at the National Gallery in Washington D.C. and a new quintet for guitar and strings being composed for Fisk and the famed Arditti String Quartet by eminent German composer Wolfgang Rihm to be featured in multiples performances on two continents starting in 2017. 2016 will also see the long awaited release of Robert Beaser’s monumental *Guitar Concerto*, dedicated to Eliot Fisk, with Jose Serebrier leading the Royal Scottish National Orchestra on LINN Records.

Eliot Fisk has performed as soloist with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Houston Symphony, the Rochester Symphony, the Orchestra of St. Lukes, the Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra, the Pro Arte Orchestra, the American Composers Orchestra, Boston Modern Orchestra Project (BMOP) and numerous other prominent orchestras around the world. He returns regularly to major concert series such as Stanford Lively Arts, Spivey Hall (Atlanta), Duke University Performances, Newman Center for the Performing Arts in Denver; Lincoln Center, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the 92nd Street Y in NYC, Da Camera Society of Houston, Da Camera Society of Los Angeles, San Francisco Chamber Music; Segovia Series at Pick Staiger Hall at Northwestern University; Jordan Hall, Boston; Orange County Performing Arts Center; Brahms, Mozart and Schubert Saal (Vienna); Mozarteum Grosser Saal (Salzburg); Wigmore Hall and Queen Elizabeth Hall (London) and at numerous guitar festivals such as those of Cordoba, Spain; Belgrade, Serbia; and Iserlohn, Bad Aibling and Hersbrueck, Germany.

Eliot Fisk has performed with a dizzying array of chamber music colleagues including flutist, Paula Robison; clarinetist, Richard Stoltzman; cellist Yehuda Hanani; the late violinist Ruggiero Ricci; the Shanghai, Juilliard, Miro, Borromeo and Miro String Quartets. He has invented numerous cross over projects with among others Paco Pena (flamenco guitar); Joe Pass and Bill Frisell (jazz guitar) chanteuse Ute Lemper and Turkish music specialist Burhan Oecal.

The repertoire of the classical guitar has been transformed through Fisk’s innumerable transcriptions (including works by Bach, Scarlatti, Haydn, Mozart,

Paganini, Schubert, Mendelssohn, Granados, Albeniz and many others). In addition, numerous new works have been dedicated to him by composers as varied as Luciano Berio, Leonardo Balada, Robert Beaser, Nicholas Maw, George Rochberg, Daniel Bernard Roumain and Kurt Schwertsik.

Eliot Fisk remains a prolific recording artist. Recent releases include Ralf Gawlick's *Kollwitz Konnex* for soprano and guitar (Musica Omnia) Anthony Paul de Ritis's *Pop Concerto* with Gil Rose leading the Boston Modern Orchestra Project (scheduled for 2016 release), a pair of CDs of new music dedicated to and transcribed by Fisk of works by Beaser, Corigliano, Schwertsik, and Rochberg (Willdner Records) and duo discs with flamenco legend, Paco Pena (on Nimbus Records) and cellist, Yehuda Hanani (Albany Records).

Eliot Fisk was the last direct pupil of Andres Segovia and also studied interpretation with the legendary harpsichordist Ralph Kirkpatrick at Yale University, from which he graduated "summa cum laude" in 1976, and where directly following his own graduation in 1977, he founded the guitar department at the Yale School of Music.

Described by one *New York Times* headline as a "Fiery Missionary to the Unconverted", Eliot Fisk is Professor at the Universitaet Mozarteum in Salzburg, Austria, where he teaches in 5 languages, and in Boston at the New England Conservatory where in 2010 he received the Krasner Award as "Teacher of the Year".

In June 2006, King Juan Carlos of Spain, awarded Eliot the "Cruz de Isabel la Catolica" for his service to the cause of Spanish music. Earlier recipients of this honor have included Andres Segovia and Yehudi Menuhin.

Eliot Fisk is Founder and Artistic Director of Boston GuitarFest (www.bostonguitarfest.org) an annual cross- disciplinary event cosponsored by the New England Conservatory and Northeastern University and now entering its 11th consecutive year.

In summer of 2014 he toured China performing with his wife, classical guitarist Zaira Meneses, and the couple's young daughter, pianist Raquel Fisk.