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# The Romeros



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# The Romeros- BIOGRAPHY

A veritable institution in the world of classical music and **one of 10 biggest brands of the industry**, The Romeros have dazzled countless audiences and winning the raves of reviewers worldwide.

The celebration of their **50th anniversary** during the 2008/2009 season included sold out performances in Asia (Beijing, Seoul, etc.), Australia, Europe (Vienna, Zurich, Munich, Hamburg, etc.) and throughout the US. Known to worldwide as "**The Royal Family of the Guitar**", the Romeros were founded by the legendary Celedonio Romero with his sons Celin, Pepe and Angel in 1960. With the introduction of Celin's son, Celino in 1990 and Angel's son, Lito in 1995, the Romeros encompass three generations of concert artists. To have so many virtuosi of the same instrument in one family is **unique** in the world of musical performance. In the realm of the classical guitar it is absolutely **without precedent**.

Celedonio Romero was a renowned soloist in Spain. As each of his sons reached the age of two or three, he began to teach them guitar. They made their debuts in Spain by the time they were seven. In 1957, the family immigrated to the U.S., where three years later, "The Romeros" walked onto the world stage as a guitar quartet for the first time while the boys were still in their teens. On May 8, 1996, Celedonio died in San Diego and his sons and grandsons have continued his legacy. As the family says, "**the spirit of the quartet is him; all our concerts now pay homage to him.**"

The reputation of The Romeros has been confirmed by repeated recital performances and orchestral appearances across the United States, including the **Cleveland and Philadelphia orchestras, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, and the Boston, Chicago, Detroit, Pittsburgh and San Francisco symphonies**, among many others. They have made frequent festival appearances throughout the country, including the **Hollywood Bowl, Saratoga, Flagstaff, Garden State, Blossom and Wolf Trap**.

The Romeros are particularly popular with college audiences, making regular appearances on university music series throughout the country as well as on fine arts series nationwide. In New York, they have appeared at **Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall in Lincoln Center, the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Grace Rainey Rogers Auditorium, the Cloisters in Fort Tryon Park, the 92nd Street Y and Rockefeller University**.

The Romeros have performed on multiple occasions at **the White House** and in 1983, they appeared at **the Vatican** in a special concert for John Paul II. In 1986, they gave a command performance for **His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales**. In 2000, His Royal Majesty King Juan Carlos I of Spain knighted Pepe and Celin into **The Order of "Isabel la Católica"**.

Perhaps The Romero's most lasting legacy is the creation of an entirely new repertoire for guitar quartet, both as a chamber ensemble and as a concerto soloist. For 50 years three generations of Romeros have inspired distinguished composers to either write new works or arrange existing ones, including **Joaquín Rodrigo, Federico Moreno Torroba, Morton Gould, Francisco de Madina and Lorenzo**

**Palomo.** Joaquin Rodrigo has said “**The Romeros have developed the technique of the guitar by making what is difficult to be easy. They are, without a doubt, the grand masters of the guitar**”.

The Romeros have built an enviable discography and in February of 2007, The Romeros were granted **The Recording Academy’s President’s Merit Award** from the GRAMMYS© in honor of their artistic achievements. In February 2009 Sony produced and released a new recital recording **Los Romeros: Celebration** which is soon to be released worldwide on the Red Seal Label. Decca has also released a two-disc retrospective, **Los Romero Golden Jubilee Celebration**, featuring recordings made between 1963-85 of works by Vivaldi, Scarlatti, Bizet, de Falla, Rodrigo, Torroba and Celedonio Romero.

Television fans have seen and heard The Romeros many times on such shows as **The Tonight Show and The Today Show**, PBS's Evening at the Boston Pops, the KPBS/PBS biographical documentary **Los Romeros: The Royal Family of the Guitar**, other PBS specials and the NDR documentary film **Los Romeros: Die Gitarren-Dynastie**.



# The Romeros-Dynasty



## Celedonio



Composer, guitarist and poet, Celedonio Romero was born on March 2, 1913, in Málaga, Spain. He studied classical guitar at the Conservatory of Málaga, and later at the Conservatory of Madrid, where he was a pupil of Joaquín Turina. He first performed in public at the age of 10. After his formal debut at age 22 he played widely in Spain, France and Italy.

The late Joaquín Rodrigo, one of Spain's greatest composers, said of Celedonio Romero: "**He has contributed immensely through his artistic interpretations for classical guitar music. More importantly, he has enlarged and enriched the repertoire of 20th century music with his own compositions**".

Deprived of artistic freedom under the oppressive government of Generalissimo Francisco Franco, Celedonio escaped with his family to the United States in 1957. Within two years the family settled in Southern California and Celedonio created a guitar quartet with his sons Celin, Pepe and Angel--The Romeros. Celedonio's voluminous discography, both in solo recordings and with the quartet on the Delos and Philips labels, brought his music to an ever-widening audience around the world.

Celedonio Romero was highly decorated for his contributions to Spanish culture and to the world of the classical guitar. King Juan Carlos I knighted Celedonio into the "**Orden de Isabel la Católica**". He received many other high honors and awards from leaders around the world including "**Caballero del Santo Sepulcre**" ("Knight of the Holy Sepulcher") given by His Holiness Pope John Paul II (for which he is subsequently addressed as Sir Celedonio Romero), the Gold Medal of the Japan Festivals, the "Placa" given by the Red Cross of Mexico, the "Insignia de Santiago el Mayor", and the "Artista de Honor y Amigo de San Diego" given by the Mexican and American Foundation. For his 80th Birthday, gala celebrations were held in Málaga, Seville, Berlin, London and San Diego. The city of Málaga named him "Hijo Predilecto con la Medalla de Oro" and created a museum and foundation in his name. In 1995 Celedonio was awarded the title of Doctor Honoris Causa by the University of Victoria, British Columbia.

Much of the credit for today's high regard for the classical guitar can be attributed to the work of Celedonio Romero. His compositions for classical guitar, numbering over 100 and including a dozen concerti, have emerged as masterpieces for the guitar. Once an instrument used only for folk music, the guitar is now firmly established in the symphonic setting and is a favorite for recitals in cultural arts performance series. Celedonio Romero was known and respected around the world, and The Celedonio Romero Method for the Classical Guitar is taught in Master and Doctoral programs at conservatories and universities worldwide.

## Celin



The illustrious career of The Romeros is one of the great success stories of twentieth century music. Celin Romero is one of the founding members of this internationally renowned ensemble, known to millions as “the Royal Family of the Guitar”. Throughout four decades Celin has proven to be a man of noble bearing who is noted for the virtuosity and elegance with which he performs.

Season after season, in countless appearances, he demonstrates his own personal style, as a soloist, with orchestra, in duo recitals with his brother Pepe or son Celino, and as a member of the famous quartet. The Angeles Times noted “Celin, the oldest son, wove another intoxicating spell with dazzling technical figurations...”

In February 2000 King Juan Carlos I of Spain, knighted Celin and his brothers with the "**Gran Cruz de la Orden de Isabel de la Católica**". As a member of The Romeros he has been invited to play at the White House, has performed at the Vatican for His Holiness Pope John Paul II, and has performed for the Prince of Wales and the King of Spain.

Celin Romero was born on November 28, 1936, in Málaga, Spain and is the elderest son of Maestro Celedonio Romero and Angelita Ines Romero. Upon reaching the age of two or three Celin Romero began learning the guitar from his father, the legendary Celedonio Romero. He had made his professional debut in his native Spain by the time he was seven years old at the Radio National de España.

Despite his busy concert schedule Celin Romero currently holds positions as a Professor of Music and Guitar at the University of California, San Diego, and San Diego State University. Music students from as far as Istanbul, Belgrade, Düsseldorf and Moscow come to San Diego to seek out the expertise of Maestro Celin Romero. Many of his students have become successful themselves. Additionally, Celin Romero has also been several times invited as judge for the NEA (National Endowment for the Arts) in California.

Celin's voluminous discography as one of the Romeros spans the history of music from the Renaissance to the present. They have inspired distinguished composers such as Joaquín Rodrigo, Federico Moreno Torroba, Morton Gould, Francisco de Madina and others to contribute works for the guitar quartet. Celin Romero has performed in every major city in the United States, Europe, and the Far East, and with virtually every major symphony orchestra in the United States.

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## Pepe



Celebrated world wide for his thrilling interpretations and flawless technique, guitarist Pepe Romero is constantly in demand for his solo recitals and performances with orchestra. His contributions to the field of classical guitar have inspired a number of distinguished composers to write works specifically for him, including Joaquín Rodrigo, Federico Moreno Torroba, Rev. Francisco de Madina, Lorenzo Palomo and Celedonio Romero.

Born on March 8, 1944 in Málaga, Spain, Pepe Romero is the second son of the legendary Celedonio Romero who was his only guitar teacher. His first professional appearance was in a shared concert with his father when Pepe was only seven years old.

His Majesty King Juan Carlos I of Spain knighted Pepe Romero and his brothers, Celin and Angel, into the **Order of "Isabel la Católica"**. The official ceremony for this high honor took place at the University of Southern California on February 11, 2000 and included a gala concert by The Romeros. Pepe Romero has also received the "Premio Andalucía de Música", the highest recognition given by his homeland for his contribution to the arts. He holds an honorary doctorate in music from the University of Victoria, British Columbia.

As a soloist Pepe Romero has appeared in the United States with the Philadelphia, Cleveland, Chicago, Houston, Pittsburgh, Boston, San Francisco and Dallas Symphony Orchestras, as well as with the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, the New York and Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestras, the Boston Pops Orchestra, and the London Symphony Orchestra. Orchestras with whom he has appeared in Europe and Great Britain include the Academy of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, the Monte Carlo Philharmonic, I Musici, the Zurich Chamber Orchestra, Philharmonia Hungarica, the Hungarian State Orchestra, the Spanish National Orchestra, the Spanish National Radio/Television Orchestra, L'Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, the New Moscow Chamber Orchestra, the Lausanne Chamber Orchestra, the American Sinfonietta and the Bournemouth Symphony. He has been a special guest at the festivals of Salzburg, Israel, Schleswig-Holstein, Menuhin, Osaka, Granada, Istanbul, Ravinia, Garden State, Hollywood Bowl, Blossom, Wolf Trap and Saratoga.

Pepe Romero is dedicated to passing along his knowledge of the guitar through his many students, many of them first-prize winners at international guitar competitions. He has been Professor of Guitar at several universities and has taught annual master classes at the Salzburg Summer Academy, at the Schleswig-Holstein Festival and at the Córdoba Guitar Festival.

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## Angel



Hailed as the Spanish maestro of the guitar, Angel Romero is known throughout the world as one of the leading performers of his generation and continues in the tradition of great guitar virtuosos like Segovia and his father Celedonio Romero.

In demand for his extraordinary artistry - both musically and aesthetically - as a guitarist and a conductor, Maestro Romero performs regularly in major cultural centers worldwide, including London, Paris, Berlin, Vienna, Madrid, Munich, Zurich, Chicago, Los Angeles, and New York. Audiences have listened to mesmerizing performances with Angel conducting the orchestra with The Romeros as the featured soloists, their



virtuosity and exhilarating interpretations, which is so unique in the world of guitar, only grows in familial splendor under his baton.

He has appeared as a recitalist and a soloist with such leading orchestras as the New York Philharmonic, the Cleveland Orchestra, the Royal Philharmonic, the New World Symphony, and the Royal Concertgebouw. Having studied under the baton of Maestro Eugene Ormandy, Maestro Romero has conducted major orchestras including the Pittsburgh Symphony and the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields, with which he has recorded his latest CD of Vivaldi Concertos. Regardless of his role, his driving intensity and flawless control mark him as a true master of the arts.

Born in Malaga, Spain, Angel Romero made his professional debut at the age of 6 and his United States debut at the Hollywood Bowl when he was 16. In 1991 he gave the world premiere performance of Joaquin Rodrigo's Rincones de España at New York's Lincoln Center.

In addition, Maestro Romero is noted for his activities in the movie industry. For his work on this film Mr. Romero was awarded the ARIEL, Mexico's equivalent of the Oscar in the category of music written originally for film.

Angel Romero has recorded exclusively for **RCA Victor Red Seal and RCA Victor worldwide**. Other performances by Maestro Romero can be heard on four Telarc recordings and 14 Angel/EMI recordings, and more recently, Delos.

In 1986 Maestro Romero was given Spain's **Grand Cross of Civil Merit**, becoming the youngest such honoree to date. On Feb. 11, 2000 in honor of his astounding accomplishments, the Maestro was presented with Spain's highest honor as he was **knighthood** Sir Angel Romero.



## Celino



Celino Romero displays a virtuosity synonymous with the Romero name. He has dazzled countless audiences playing solo, with major orchestras, in duo performances with father Celin, his uncle Pepe, or cousin Lito, and as a member of "The Romeros" quartet. His appearances worldwide include the Hollywood Bowl, Carnegie Hall and Metropolitan Museum, the Auditorio Nacional (Madrid), Gewandhaus (Leipzig), Concert Hall (Seoul), Cultural Center Concert Hall (Hong Kong) and Musikverein (Vienna). One critic called Celino and Pepe Romero "artistic blood brothers who are so closely matched."

Celino Romero is the youngest member of the world-renowned classical guitar quartet, "Los Romeros" but he has proved to be a true concert veteran with numerous brilliant performances. With the introduction of Celino into the quartet in 1990, their music has spanned three generations of virtuosity. After Celino's quartet debut, The New York Times observed: "One of the enduring mysteries of musical talent is how skills seem to flow genetically from musical parent to musical child. In the Romero family, the flow has been swift and unimpeded. The virtuosity of the four Romeros was uniformly solid and finely considered, as if these techniques had derived from a single mold".

In their review The Ann Arbor News declared Celino as **"a young prince among three kings of the guitar"**. Celino's journey on the guitar began at the young age of three, under the careful tutelage of his legendary grandfather, Celedonio, and his famous father, Celin. Celino's early start in the instrument is the same pedagogical process that has established the cornerstone of the Romero technique.

Celino can also be credited with bringing new audiences to the world of classical guitar, as he is extremely popular amongst college audiences throughout the United States. His performances at fine arts series in major cities include the Metropolitan Museum and Carnegie Hall in New York, the Hollywood Bowl in Los Angeles, the

Ambassador Auditorium in Pasadena, the Teatro Real in Madrid and Palacio de la Música in Barcelona, the Herkulesaal, Gewandhaus, and Musikhalle in Germany and the Musikverein in Vienna. His performances have also brought him to stages in Copenhagen, Paris, London, Madrid, Seoul, Hong Kong, Amsterdam, Milan, Vienna, Salzburg, Warsaw, and Turkey. A recent performance of Rodrigo's "Concerto de Aranjuez" at one of the most prestigious music festivals of Spain, "Cuevas de Nerja", brought him tremendous acclaim as one of the greatest virtuosos of the guitar. Highlights of the summer of 2002 included a very successful performance with Maestro Lockhart and the San Francisco Symphony in Davies Hall.

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## Lito



Lito Romero is the newest member of the renowned Romeros Quartet, whose illustrious history is unmistakably a milestone of twentieth century music. Celedonio Romero, with his sons Celin, Pepe and Angel, founded the internationally renowned ensemble known to millions as "The Royal Family of the Guitar."

With the introduction of Angel's son Lito, replacing Celedonio upon his death in 1996, and together with his cousin Celino, The Romeros encompass three generations of virtuosity. With an outstanding sense for ensemble playing, Lito has proven in numerous performances to be a worthy successor of his grandfather in the family's quartet. Since the age of 19 Lito has performed in concert with his father, Angel Romero, in Tokyo, Madrid, Los Angeles, Chicago, New York, Seoul, Mexico City, Puerto Rico, and in various music festivals including the Blossom Music Festival. In 1988 he joined his father in recording *A Touch of Class* for Telarc, and in 1995 they recorded Vivaldi's guitar concertos with the Academy of St. Martin-in-the-fields for the RCA label. His first public appearance as a soloist was performing the "Concierto de Aranjuez" by Joaquin Rodrigo with the Wyoming Symphony Orchestra in 1991 and his first solo recital was during the 1994-95 season.

Proud to carry on the family tradition, Lito and his cousin Celino display the virtuosity synonymous with the name Romero. To have so many virtuosi of the same instrument in one family is unique in the music world, and in the realm of the classical guitar it is absolutely without precedent. The New York Times observed **"One of the enduring mysteries of musical talent is how skills seem to flow genetically from musical parent to musical child. In the Romero family, the flow has been swift and unimpeded. The virtuosity of the four Romeros was uniformly solid and finely considered, as if these techniques had derived from a single mold"**.



# The Romeros-Reviews

The Romeros have developed the technique of the guitar by making what is difficult...to be, easy! They are, without a doubt, the grand masters of the guitar.  
**Joaquin Rodrigo, Spanish Composer**

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Collectively, they are the only classical guitar quartet of real stature in the world today; in fact, they virtually invented the format.  
**New York Times**

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Guardians of the Holy Grail of the Classical Guitar. What the Three Tenors are to the world of opera, The Romeros are to the classical guitar.  
**Leipzig Volkszeitung**

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By turns precise and showy, the quartet elicited all manner of sounds from their instruments: from snare drum-like rat-a-tatting to castanet clacking. The playing reached an energetic high point during the two encores: "Noche en Malaga" by Celedonio Romero, and a rousing Flamenco improvisation to close out the show.  
**Ethan Gilsdorf, Globe Correspondent**

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Mester led the ensemble in a wonderfully balanced reading of Joaquín Rodrigo's Concierto Andaluz for four guitars. It's a piece that The Romeros commissioned in 1967 and that has become one of their signature works. We got a chance to marvel at the ease with which the elder Romeros — brothers Pepe and Celin — performed the complex fret work that produced richly colorful Spanish accents. Not to be outdone, the next generation of Romeros — Celin's son Celino and nephew Lito — matched their mentors chord change for chord change, emphasizing Rodrigo's wonderfully folksy music.

**Cathalena E. Burch, Arizona Daily Star**

# The Romeros-Discography

Contemporary CD

**Flamenco Fenomino!**

(Digitally remastered re-release by Fantasy Studios)

Contemporary CD

**Celedonio Romero and Celin Romero: Spanish Guitar Music**

(Digitally remastered re-release from Fantasy Studios)

Philips CD

**Vivaldi Guitar Concertos, Los Romeros**

(Celedonio, Celin, Pepe, Angel, San Antonio Symphony, V. Alessandro)(re-release 1997)

Philips CD

**Vivaldi Guitar Concertos, Los Romeros**

(Academy of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Iona Brown)

Philips CD

**Rodrigo-“Concierto Andaluz”, “Concierto de Aranjuez”, The Romeros**

(San Antonio Symphony, V. Alessandro) (Mercury Living Presence label)

Philips CD(set of 2)

**Giuliani Complete Guitar Concertos**

(Pepe Romero with Academy of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, N. Marriner)

Philips CD

**Boccherini Guitar Quintets Nos. 4,5 & 6**

(Pepe Romero, Academy of St. Martin-in-the-Fields' Chamber Ensemble)

Philips CD

**Boccherini Guitar Quintets Nos. 3 & 9 “La ritirata di Madrid”**

(Pepe Romero, Academy of St. Martin-in-the-Fields' Chamber Ensemble)

Philips CD(set of 2)

**Boccherini: The Guitar Quintets including “La ritirata di Madrid” & “Fandango”**

(Pepe Romero, Academy of St. Martin-in-the-Fields' Chamber Ensemble)(Re-release of Quintets 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,9)

Philips CD(set of 2)

**Best of Boccherini** (includes guitar quintets Nos.4, 9)

(Pepe Romero, Academy of St. Martin-in-the-Fields' Chamber Ensemble)

Philips CD

**Joaquín Rodrigo: “Concierto Madrigal”, “Concierto Andaluz”, Los Romeros**  
(Academy of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, N. Marriner)

Philips CD (set of 3)

**Joaquín Rodrigo Conciertos: Aranjuez, Madrigal, Andaluz, Para una fiesta, and Fantasia para un gentilhomme**

(Pepe Romero, Los Romeros, Academy of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, N. Marriner)

Philips CD

**Rodrigo: “Concierto de Aranjuez”; “Fantasia para un gentilhomme”; “Concierto Madrigal”**

(Pepe Romero, Los Romeros, Academy of St. Martin-in-the-fields, N. Marriner;  
“Splendour of Spain” label)

Philips CD (set of 3)

**Joaquín Rodrigo Conciertos: Aranjuez, Madrigal, Andaluz, Para una fiesta, Fantasia para un gentilhomme, and works for guitar solo**

(Pepe Romero, Los Romeros, Academy of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, N. Marriner)

Philips CD

**Pepe Romero: Bach Partita BWV 1004 & Suite BV 1009**

Philips CD

**Famous Spanish Dances-Albeniz,Falla,Granados** (Pepe and Celin Romero)

Philips CD

**Famous Spanish Dances-Albeniz,Falla,Granados** (Pepe and Celin Romero;  
Splendour of Spain” label)

Philips CD

**Jeux Interdits, Recuerdos de la Alhambra, Asturias** (Pepe Romero)

Philips CD

**Jeux Interdits and other guitar favorites** (Pepe Romero; Re-release of above on  
“Eloquence” label)

Philips CD

**Rodrigo: “Concierto para una fiesta”, Romero/Torroba: “Concierto de Málaga”**

(Pepe Romero, Academy of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, N. Marriner)

Philips CD

**Rodrigo: “Fantasia para un gentilhomme”, “Concierto de Aranjuez”**

(Pepe Romero, Academy of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, N. Marriner)

Philips CD

**Rodrigo: “Concierto de Aranjuez”, “Fantasía para un gentleman”**

(Pepe Romero, Academy of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, N. Marriner; “Academy Jubilee” label)

Philips CD (set of 2)

**Rodrigo: Complete Concertos for Guitar and Harp**

(Includes Aranjuez, Madrigal, Andaluz, Para una fiesta, Fantasía para un gentleman)

Philips CD

**Bizet Carmen Suite – Falla Dances** (Celedonio, Celin, Pepe, and Angel)

Philips CD

**Villa-Lobos, Castelnuovo-Tedesco Guitar Concertos, Rodrigo: “Sones en la Giralda”**

(Pepe Romero, Academy of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, N. Marriner)

Philips CD

**Pepe Romero Guitar: Albeniz/Tarrega/Moreno Torroba/Romero**

Philips CD

**Villa-Lobos: Five Preludes, Etude No.1, Suite populaire brésilienne**

Philips CD

**Pepe Romero: Flamenco, Chano Lobato, Maria Magdalena, Paco Romero**

Philips CD

**Carulli, Molino: Guitar Concertos, Mozart: Adagio KV 261, Rondo KV373**

(Pepe Romero, Academy of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Iona Brown)

Philips CD

**La Paloma: Spanish and Latin American Favorites(Pepe Romero)**

Philips CD

**Vivaldi Guitar Concertos, I Musici, Pepe Romero, Massimo**

Philips CD, Laser CD, NTSC/VHS

**Rodrigo: Concierto de Aranjuez, Fantasía de un gentleman, Cançoneta, Invocación y danza, Trois petites pièces**

(Pepe Romero, ASMF, N. Marriner, Agustin Leon Ara; Released also as Laser CD-Video disc and VHS cassette in “Shadows and Light: Rodrigo at 90,” a film by Larry Weinstein and Rhombus Media)

Philips CD

**Noches de España: Romantic Guitar Classics** (Pepe Romero)



Philips CD

**Spanish Guitar Favorites** (Celedonio, Celin, Pepe, and Celino)

Philips CD

**Opera Fantasy for Guitar** (Pepe Romero)

Philips CD

**Songs My Father Taught Me** (Pepe Romero)

UNICEF

**Boccherini: Quintetti con chitarra n.2,6,7,4**(Pepe Romero with Quartetto Stadiovari;  
(Released 2000 by IL CANALE)

Philips CD

**Pepe Romero Spanish Nights** (“Harmony” label)

Philips CD

**Pepe Romero: Guitar Solos** (“Insignia” label; Contains solos and duos w/Celin)

Philips CD

**The Royal Family of the Spanish Guitar** (Compilation 1997)

Philips CD

**Guitar Festival: Vivaldi/Telemann/Bach/Flamenco, Los Romeros** (Guitar solos and w/San Antonio Symphony, V. Alessandro; Pepe-flamenco solos from Mercury SI-75092) (Re-release on “Touch of Classics” label and “Classics on Tour” label)

CPA Hollywood Records

**The Romeros: Generations** (Recorded Aug 2000, Released Spring 2003)

RTVE

**Homenaje a Joaquín Rodrigo, Los Romero con Orquesta Sinfónica de RTVE** (Released 2001, contains live performance of Andaluz)

Deutsche Grammaphone

**Joaquín Rodrigo Homenaje** (Compilation released 2000: contains Para una fiesta, Andaluz)

Philips

**Los Romeros Die Konige der Spanischen Gitarre** (German compilation – re-release of the World of Flamenco 1967)

DECCA

**Essential Guitar: 33 Guitar Masterpieces** (Compilation 2 CD set includes Pepe and Quartet)

Tritó

**Homenatge a Montsalvatge** (Orquesta de Cadaqués, Gianandrea Noseda)

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Price Rubin & Partners 310-254-7149 or email jp@pricerubin.com

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Albany Records

**Chihara Guitar Concierto** (London Symphony, Neville Marriner, Pepe Romero; Released 2005)

PentaTone

**Giuliani Guitar Concerto No.1, Rodrigo Concierto Madrigal** (Academy of St. Martin-in-the-fields, Marriner, Pepe and Angel Romero, Released 2004)

Philips

**The Art of Pepe Romero** (2 CD set compilation, Released 2005)

Philips

**The Rodrigo Collection** (CD/DVD including "Shadows and Light" film, Released 2005)

CPA Hollywood Records

**Corazón Español** (Pepe Romero; Recorded February 2003, Released September 2005)

CPA Hollywood Records

**Classic Romero, Pepe Romero** (Recorded May 2005, to be released)

Philips Classics: Eloquence Label

**Guitarrenmusik: Bach, Sor** (Pepe Romero; German compilation)

Philips Classics: Eloquence Label

**Recuerdos de la Alhambra: Spanische Gitarrenmusik** (German compilation of Pepe Romero and Romeros)

Universal Classics

**The Age of Elegance** (Compilation with Boccherini Fandango)

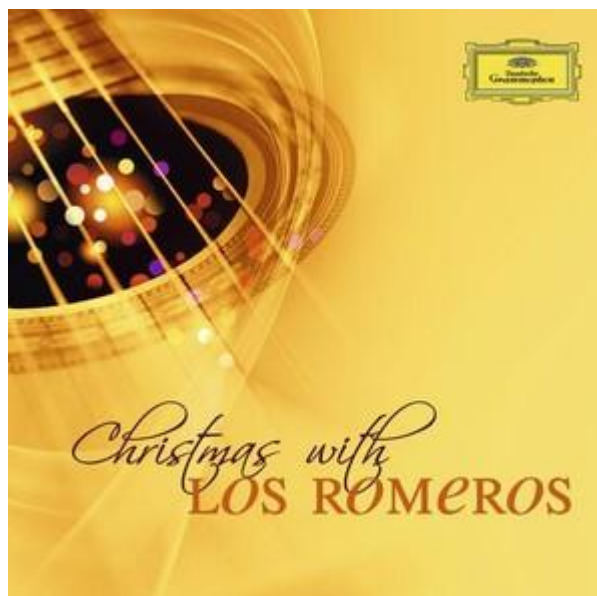
Claves

**Aita Madina Los Romero/De Maistre/Orfeon Donostiarra/Basque Natl Orchestra/Mandea**(Concierto Vasco; dir.: Cristian Mandea; Recorded June 2005, Released November 2005)

Naxos

**Palomo: Nocturnos de Andalucia. Canciones Española**; Pepe Romero, guitarra, Maria Bayo, soprano. Real Orquesta Sinfónica de Sevilla. Dir.: Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos  
(Recorded 2000, Released 2006)

# The Romeros-New Recording



## **Christmas with Los Romeros - Los Romeros**

Los Romeros, Int. Release 04 Nov. 2011 1 CD

For 50 years on stage and three generations Los Romeros have proven to be "The Royal Family of the Guitar". A veritable institution in the world of classical music, Los Romeros has dazzled countless audiences and won the raves of reviewers world wide. The world famous Los Romeros are presenting a Christmas CD in new arrangements featuring tunes from Spain, Germany and the United States. They are joined by Concerto Malaga under Massimo Paris. Celebrated worldwide for their thrilling interpretations and flawless technique Los Romeros are iconic performers who are leading a renaissance of classical guitar on the concert stage as well as in recordings

### Christmas with Los Romeros

The history of the Christmas carol extends back to the Middle Ages, producing a rich tradition over centuries which continues to the modern era. This selection of new and familiar Christmas music presents the genre in unique musical colours featuring the world's foremost guitar ensemble, Los Romeros, playing arrangements for four guitars and in company with the orchestra, the Concerto Málaga, directed by conductor and composer, Massimo Paris.

This extraordinary family of musicians, known as Los Romeros, has been a powerful presence on the international concert platform for nearly five decades. When Los Romeros made their first European tour in 1969/70, they were described by an ecstatic press as “**Segovia times four**”, “**the Paganinis**”, and “**the royal family of the guitar**”.

The patriarch of the family, Celedonio Romero (1913–1996), emigrated to the USA in 1957 with his young sons Celin (b. 1936), Pepe (b. 1944) and Angel (b. 1946). Celedonio taught his talented children from an early age to play the guitar, the result being a remarkable family saga which has ensured for itself a permanent place in the pantheon of guitar history.

The music of Los Romeros goes on through the generations as Angel Romero’s son, Lito, has joined the ensemble following the death of Celedonio, while Celino (Celin’s son) replaced Angel in the quartet in 1990 when his uncle decided to concentrate on his solo career. In all, seven of Celedonio’s grandchildren play the guitar. However, Pepe Jr. has acquired an **international reputation** as a maker of guitars, having studied the craft in Germany and elsewhere.

Thus Los Romeros have become a legend of guitar virtuosity and artistic integrity, whether as members of the renowned ensemble or as soloists in their own right. In February 2000, King Juan Carlos of Spain awarded the family a collective knighthood in the form of the Grand Cross of the Order of Isabella the Catholic.

Among their hundreds of concerts, Los Romeros have performed at the White House and the Vatican, for Prince Charles, Queen Sofía of Spain and Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands, and have appeared with the world’s leading orchestras. Many fine works have been written for them, including concertos by Joaquín Rodrigo and Federico Moreno Torroba.

Each culture has its own approach to the concept of carols, the international nature of the form bringing together a vast array of diverse characteristics. Though carols may express similar religious sentiments, various musical idioms are available ranging from straightforward folk melodies sparsely harmonized to intricately woven large-scale compositions.

On this recording the more traditional carols are interpreted through the vibrant sounds of the guitar quartet itself – the incomparable ensemble playing of Los Romeros. In this context, familiar items such as Away in a Manger, Silent Night, El Noi de la Mare, Carol of the Bells, The Little Drummer Boy, etc., take on a new and highly charged significance, the intricate sonorities being presented with appropriately intimate artistry, as well as a sense of spontaneity and freshness.

Where the guitars are accompanied by the orchestra in Handel's "For unto us a Child is born" and the "Hallelujah" chorus, the listener may well experience the sensation of discovering a Baroque concerto, combining brilliance with symmetry. In the two arrangements of Ave Maria (by Schubert and Gounod respectively), familiar works take on excitingly different perspectives, the guitar ensemble being one of the most flexibly expressive combinations, especially when matched with superb orchestral accompaniments.

Included on this recording is also a recent work, the X'mas Suite by Massimo Paris, Italian composer, conductor and virtuoso viola player, who in 2003 was appointed conductor and artistic director of the orchestra, Concerto Málaga.

Maestro Paris's solution to the problem of composing contemporary carols is to bring together evocative themes in four movements with traditional tonalities, the fifth being a fiery saltarello, a celebratory dance which pays homage to past customs and the demands of the 21st century. The composer skilfully integrates the ensemble expertise of Los Romeros with subtle orchestral textures, both parties complementing the other in accordance with the distinct moods of each movement of the suite.

As may seem appropriate, Los Romeros are permitted the final statement, a rendering of O Christmas Tree, from the German carol O Tannenbaum, based on an ancient folk tune, and a gently contrapuntal approach to We Wish You a Merry Christmas, a carol which originated in 16th-century England. The poised assurance of Los Romeros, the harvest of so many decades in the musical spotlight, brings to these lovely carols an enhanced beauty and meaning.

**Graham Wade**

### Track List

#### **George Frideric Handel**

Messiah

1. For Unto Us a Child is Born (arranged by Yoon Kwan Park / Massimo Paris) Los Romeros, Concerto Malaga, Massimo Paris, James Ramsey Murray
2. Away in a Manger (arranged by Patrick Kerber / David Bryan) Traditional
3. Joy to the World (arranged by Patrick Kerber) Los Romeros

#### **Franz Schubert**

4. Ave Maria (arranged by Federico Moreno-Torroba)

#### **George Frideric Handel**

Messiah

5. Hallelujah (arranged by Christopher Dobrian / Massimo Paris) Los Romeros, Concerto Malaga, Massimo Paris

### **Mykola Leontovych**

6. Carol of the bells - arranged by Patrick Kerber / David Bryan, Traditional
7. El Noi de la Mare - arranged by Christopher Dobrian / Pepe Romero
8. Silent Night - arranged by Christopher Dobrian
9. The Little Drummer Boy - arranged by Patrick Kerber

### **Michael Praetorius**

10. Es ist ein' Ros' entsprungen (Speierisches Gesangbuch, Köln,1599) (Lo, How a Rose - arranged by Stephen C. Siktberg) Los Romeros

### **Massimo Paris**

- X'mas Suite for 4 guitars and chamber orchestra
11. Pastorale and Bells
- X'mas Suite for 4 guitars and chamber orchestra
12. Little Comet Minuet
- X'mas Suite for 4 guitars and chamber orchestra
13. Three King's Gavotte
- X'mas Suite for 4 guitars and chamber orchestra
14. Holy Child Lullaby
- X'mas Suite for 4 guitars and chamber orchestra
15. X'mas Saltarello
- Los Romeros, Concerto Malaga, Massimo Paris

### **Vince Guaraldi, Lee Mendelson**

16. Christmas Time is Here - arranged by Patrick Kerber, Los Romeros

### **Johann Sebastian Bach, Charles Gounod**

17. Ave Maria - arranged by Federico Moreno-Torroba, Los Romeros, Concerto Malaga, Massimo Paris, Traditional
18. O Christmas Tree / We Wish You a Merry Christmas (arranged by Stephen C. Siktberg), Los Romeros

Total Playing Time 1:05:57