

DUO MANTAR



Duo Mantar is comprised of two virtuosos, American classical guitarist, Adam Levin, and Israeli Mandolinist, Jacob Reuven. They are described as “viscerally and imaginative” and “transcendental and exuberant,” respectively. This novel pairing is rare in the chamber music world, however, the two plucked instruments are complimentary and are natural extensions of one another. Levin and Reuven began playing together in Fall 2017 and share a passion for Israeli Music, Hebrew and Jewish songs. Both of them are committed to expanding the repertoire available for mandolin and guitar by actively commissioning today’s most sought after Israeli composers. They have already commissioned four renowned Israeli composers, including Josef Bardanashvili, Ittai Rosenbaum, Oren Lok, and Jan Freidlin. Additionally, they are performing works originally written for mandolin and guitar by Yehezkel Braun and fresh arrangements of traditional Hebrew songs by Marc Lavry and Maurice Ravel. They gave their debut in April 2018 at the University of Rhode Island Guitar Festival. In 2018/19, they toured in the United States, Israel and Spain. Their debut recording on Naxos Label (June 2021) reached no.1 on the Billboard Traditional Classical Album Chart and they already planning another record with the Sonatas by Gabriele Leone. They are touring the US in fall 2021 and premiering a ground-breaking double concerto by Israeli-American composer, Avner Dorman in Fall 2022. www.adamlevinguitar.com. www.jacobreuven.com.



Photo: Tatiana Daubek

ADAM LEVIN, GUITAR

Praised for his “visceral and imaginative performances” by the *Washington Post*, top prize winning classical guitarist and recording artist **Adam Levin** has performed on four continents across the globe. Levin has performed extensively across the United States at renowned venues such as Chicago’s Pick Staiger, Nichols, and Mayne Stage concert halls as well as at the prestigious Art Institute of Chicago; Boston’s Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, the Museum of Fine Arts, and Jordan Hall; Spivey Hall in Atlanta; repeat appearances at Le Poisson Rouge in New York City; and the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC. In Europe, Levin has performed in some of the finest venues across Spain, and in Italy, Germany, and Switzerland. In the 2018-19 season, Levin makes several solo, chamber, and orchestral appearances in Israel, Spain and the Faroe Islands, as well as across the United States. Adam Levin’s live performances have been featured nationally numerous times on NPR’s *Performance Today*, the nationally syndicated *Classical Guitar Alive*, and studio performances on top radio stations including WFMT Chicago and WCRB Boston.

In the 2018-2019 season, Levin toured across the US including appearances at Guitar Foundation of America, Philadelphia Classical Guitar Society, Old First Church in San Francisco, Boston Classical Guitar Society, Berklee College of Music, The National Gallery in Washington D.C, and Miami New Music Festival, among others. Internationally, Levin made his debut in Israel performing with duo partner and virtuoso mandolinist, Jacob Reuven, as Duo Mantar. Additionally, Levin’s 2019-20 season includes international touring in the Faroe Islands, as well as Spain and a return visit to Israel.

From 2008-2011, Levin was honored as a Fulbright Scholar as well as grant awards from the Program for Cultural Cooperation Fellowship (promoting cultural understanding between Spain and the United States) and the Kate Neal Kinley Fellowship, to research contemporary Spanish guitar repertoire in Madrid, Spain. His three-year residency resulted in a major collaboration with 30 Spanish composers spanning four generations, who each wrote works commissioned by and dedicated to Levin. In 2012, production began on a four volume encyclopedic recording project with Naxos. The first two recordings in the series, *21st Century Spanish Guitar, Volume 1* and *Volume 2* have been released by Naxos to rave reviews from *Classical Guitar Magazine*, *Soundboard*, *American Record Guide*, and featured *Recording of the Month* and *Recording of the Year* awards from *Music-Web International*. In November 2017, Naxos released *Volume 3* of the series, with six world premieres of solo works dedicated to Levin, including pieces by three of

Spain's most renowned composers, Antón García Abril, Leonardo Balada, and Cristobal Halffter, plus three works by rising composers Eduardo Morales-Caso, Laura Vega, and José Luis Greco. Volume four is expected to be released in 2020. In November 2018, Adam Levin as a member of the guitar trio, The Great Necks, released an album on the Sony/Frameworks label with original arrangements by Sibelius, Bach, Marqués, Villa-Lobos, and Scriabin. Adam's latest release (February 2019) was with his duo partner and violinist, William Knuth, called *Wild Dance* (Naxos Label). This is the first of three volumes of arrangements by guitarist/arranger, Gregg Nestor. Vol. 1 showcases works by Foss, Szymanowski, Gershwin, Ravel, Ponce, and Korngold. Both albums reached the top ten on the *Traditional Classical Billboard Chart*.

As an ambassador of the guitar, Mr Levin is dedicated to sharing the guitar in underserved and unconventional spaces. He was director of the Concert for Golf Coast Aid for Hurricane Katrina victims, which raised \$10,000. He was awarded the Albert Schweitzer Fellowship to conduct 200 hours of innovative community work in Boston public schools, prisons, and rehabilitation centers. Demonstrating his long-term commitment to music advocacy, Levin is a founding member of *Kithara Project* (www.kitharaproject.org), an organization whose mission it is to improve the lives of children and youth through the classical guitar. They currently run three year-round guitar education programs in Boston, Albuquerque, and Mexico City.

A native of Chicago's North Shore, Adam holds bachelor's degrees from Northwestern University in Music Performance, Psychology, and Pre-Med. Under the tutelage of Eliot Fisk, Levin completed his master's degree in guitar performance at New England Conservatory in Boston. His esteemed teachers have included Oscar Ghiglia, Gabriel Estarellas, Anne Waller, Mark Maxwell, and Paul Henry. Adam is a director of Young Guitarists' Workshop (www.ygwboston.org) at Boston Guitarfest, which also meets twice throughout the year for weekend workshops. Levin is a professor of guitar at the University of Rhode Island and also teaches at the University of Massachusetts, Boston. Levin also serves as artistic director of the annual University of Rhode Island Guitar Festival (www.uriguitarfestival.org). Adam Levin is an **Augustine Artist** and performs on a guitar by luthier Stephan Connor. WWW.ADAMLEVINGUITAR.COM



JACOB REUVEN, MANDOLIN

Renowned worldwide for his musical integrity and effortless brilliance, Israeli mandolin player Jacob Reuven is one of the most sought-after virtuosos of his instrument. Reuven's broad musical horizons encompass everything from baroque to contemporary music, bringing an exuberance matched with uncompromising musical standards to all he does.

Studying under the guidance of Prof. Simha Nathanson at the Beer Sheva Music Conservatory, and later Prof. Motti Smidt at the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance, Reuven mastered the interpretations of repertoire for solo violin, consequently becoming the first mandolin player to ever perform violin repertoire on a mandolin with an Israeli orchestra.

His precision and technical mastery, matched by his transcendental performances, have brought Reuven a worldwide following and recognition. He has performed as a soloist at various prestigious international festivals including Dresden Music Festival, Potsdam Sanssouci Music Festival, and Festival Mandolines de Lunel, and he has played under the baton of conductors such as Zubin Mehta, Mstislav Rostropovitch, Antonio Pappano, Mendi Rodan and Zsolt Nagy. Nationally, Reuven has performed as a soloist with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, and the Israeli Sinfonietta, among others.

A highly regarded mandolin pedagogue, Reuven is a professor at the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance, and a director of the Beer-Sheva Music Conservatory. He plays a custom-made mandolin by Israeli luthier Arik Kerman, and is a founder of the award-winning Kerman Mandolin Quartet and the 16 Strings duo. **WEBSITE:** WWW.JACOBREUVEN.COM

When Adam meets Jacob

Israeli Music for Mandolin & Guitar

Adam Levin, Guitar - Jacob Reuven, Mandolin

"Oriental Pantomime "

Jan Freidlin
(b.1944)

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Three Songs Without Words

Paul Ben-Haim
(1897-1984)

I. Arioso

II. Ballad

Arr. Gregg Nestor

III. Sephardic Melody

Sonata for mandolin and guitar

Yehezkel Braun
(1922-2014)

I. Fantasia

II. Aria

III. Variazione

Duo for mandolin and guitar

Ittai Rosenbaum
(b.1966)
Arr. Gregg Nestor

Three Jewish Dances

Marc Lavry
(b.1945)

I. Sher

II. Yemenite Wedding Dance

Arr. Gregg Nestor

III. Hora

*Dedicated to Duo Mantar