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INSTRUMENT OF THE MONTH

Concert guitar

The classical (Spanish) guitar is a member of the lute family and has six (gut or nylon) strings. Ancestors of this plucked instrument — in various forms and with different numbers of strings — date back thousands of years to ancient central Asia. The classical acoustic guitar as we know it today was established in the second half of the 18th century and is derived from the Spanish "vihuela" of the Renaissance. According to Greek mythology the "Kithara" was invented by Hermes who gave it later to Apollo.

Renowned composers such as Bach, Vivaldi, Schubert, and in the 20th century Berio, Carter, Ferneyhough, and Krenek have written pieces for the guitar. Due to its polyphonic nature but a limited dynamic range the instrument is primarily used as a solo and ensemble instrument that can rarely be found in symphony orchestras. However, one of the most popular works for solo guitar and orchestra is the "Concierto de Aranjuez", composed in 1939 by Spanish composer Joaquin Rodrigo. In 1960, jazz legend Miles Davis worked with composer/arranger Gil Evans to record a special version of the concerto's second movement (Adagio) that was released on the Grammy Award winning album "Sketches of Spain".



The concert guitar is included in our [Plucked Instruments](#) Bundle and you can purchase it separately as a *Single Instrument*. As with all *Single Instruments*, you will benefit from upgrade discounts when completing a Collection or Bundle later.

Best wishes from Vienna,

– Your Vienna Symphonic Library Team

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