



KNOBLOCH
MUSIC

Ricardo Gallén

Preludes & Dances from

BRAZIL

SÉRGIO
ASSAD

HEITOR
VILLA-LOBOS



SUPER AUDIO CD

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Preludes & Dances from Brazil

SÉRGIO ASSAD

Renowned Spanish guitarist Ricardo Gallén has embarked on a fascinating musical journey with his latest CD, dedicated to the works of the legendary Brazilian composer Heitor Villa-Lobos. This album honors Villa-Lobos's profound influence on the classical guitar repertoire, featuring his iconic *Préludes* and the *Suite populaire brésilienne*, along with my own twelve preludes, which I, Sérgio Assad, wrote in admiration of Gallén's artistry.

02
03

Villa-Lobos, a towering figure in Latin American music, drew heavily from Brazilian folklore and traditional music, incorporating these elements into his compositions to celebrate the country's rich cultural heritage. His *Suite populaire brésilienne*, for example, skillfully blends European dance forms like the scottish, mazurka, and waltz with Brazilian musical elements, using the word "choro" to emphasize the Brazilian character.

In contrast, the preludes written by me do not rely solely on folklore but rather explore a broader spectrum of Brazilian popular music. This diversity reflects the vibrant tapestry of Brazil's musical landscape, showcasing influences from various traditions.

In this recording, Gallén approaches Villa-Lobos's works with great insight and authenticity, capturing their essence and offering listeners a fresh take on their timeless beauty. His interpretation of Villa-Lobos is enriched by an understanding of how folklore and tradition shape the composer's unique sound.

I'm equally honored to have my Twelve Preludes featured alongside Villa-Lobos's works. These preludes explore the twelve most common keys in guitar composition, using open strings to enhance resonance and ease of playing. Villa-Lobos masterfully utilized open strings, and Ricardo's performance brings out their full potential. His sensitivity and skill highlight the beauty and richness of each piece.

Gallén's performance is a testament to his exceptional talent and profound musicality. His ability to bring my compositions to life is a significant achievement that enhances the album's appeal for listeners and guitar enthusiasts alike.

This collaboration celebrates the enduring legacy of Heitor Villa-Lobos, one of the greatest Latin American composers, and reflects my lifelong admiration for his work. It is a privilege to have my pieces recorded for the first time by Ricardo Gallén, whose artistry brings fresh energy and life to them.

In conclusion, Ricardo Gallén's recording is more than a collection of works; it's a tribute to the rich tapestry of Brazilian classical music and a testament to music's unifying power across cultures and generations. His dedication to these pieces enriches the listener's experience, ensuring that the legacy of Villa-Lobos, and my own contributions, continue to inspire and captivate audiences worldwide.





Ricardo Gallén

Ricardo Gallén is a celebrated classical guitarist renowned for his exceptional technical skill, expressive depth, and unique approach to guitar interpretation. Born in Linares, Spain, Gallén's early musical training set the stage for a career that would propel him to international acclaim. He has collaborated with prestigious orchestras and established himself as one of the foremost classical guitarists of his generation, performing in major venues such as the Royal Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, the Auditorio Nacional de Música in Madrid, the Tchaikovsky Hall in Moscow, the Palau de la Música Catalana in Barcelona, the Auer Hall in Indiana University and the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki, and under the direction of conductors such as Maximiano Valdes, En Shao, Juan José Mena, Monica Huggett, Leo Brouwer, Jordi Savall and Seirgiu Comisiona.

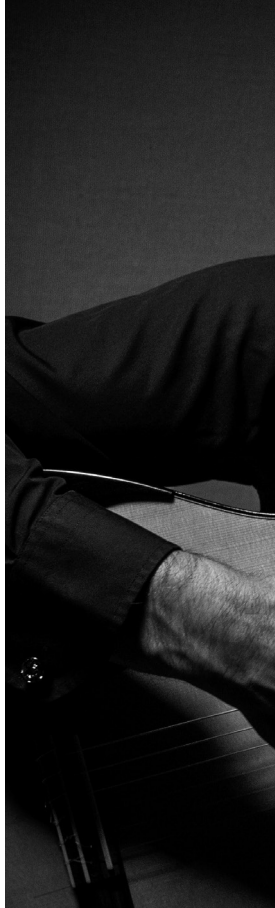
Gallén's approach to the guitar emphasizes an ergonomic and natural playing technique. For over a decade, he has co-led the renowned Guitar and Physiotherapy Course in Valencia alongside two physiotherapists, working to prevent injuries among guitarists. This program reflects his commitment to ensuring that musicians can play with ease and avoid strain, blending

his expertise with the insights of physical therapy to support healthier, sustainable performance practices.

He is a dedicated educator and was a professor at the Norwegian Academy of Music in Oslo for six years, concluding his tenure in July 2024. Currently, he continues to teach at the Hochschule für Musik Franz Liszt in Weimar, Germany, where he inspires and mentors the next generation of guitarists. He is also a frequent guest at international masterclasses, sharing his insights into the techniques and artistry of guitar performance.

Gallén has released numerous critically acclaimed recordings that showcase his artistry and interpretative insight, especially his interpretations of works by J.S. Bach, Joaquín Rodrigo, and contemporary composers. His recordings have received praise for their clarity, warmth, and intricate musicality, capturing the essence of each composition he interprets.

Ricardo Gallén's influence in the classical guitar community is profound, as he continues to shape the instrument's future with his innovative approach and dedication to excellence. His legacy as a performer and educator underscores his enduring impact on the classical music world.







RECORDING DATA

Recording: September 5-7, 2023, Auditorio de San Francisco, Ávila, Spain

Guitar: Paco Santiago Marín 50 Aniversario, Knobloch 400SSC strings

Producer and recording engineer: Gonzalo Noqué

DSD mastering: Tom Caulfield

Equipment: Sonodore LDM54, Neumann U89 & Schoeps microphones;
Merging Horus microphone preamplifier and AD/DA converter;
Pyramix Workstation; Hifiman headphones; Dutch & Dutch 8c speakers

This is an original immersive 7.0.4 DSD256 (11.289MHz) recording



BOOKLET INFO

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(pp. 4-5, 10-11), Paco Montañés (pp. 2, 8-9)

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This SACD was recorded using the DSD (Direct Stream Digital™) recording system. There are three programs contained in this SACD: the first is a standard CD stereo version that will play on any device that will play a CD, and that any CD player will simply find and play. The second and third versions are high definition DSD stereo and surround (5.0) versions that can only be played on an SACD player, which must be instructed as to which program you wish to play. MQA-CD plays back on all CD players. When a conventional CD player is connected to an MQA-enabled device, the CD will reveal the original master quality.

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SÉRGIO ASSAD (1952)

Colloquial Preludes*

01	No. 1, in C major	1:29
02	No. 2, in A minor	3:22
03	No. 3, in G major	1:48
04	No. 4, in E minor	3:02
05	No. 5, in D major	1:32
06	No. 6, in F major	2:53
07	No. 7, in D minor	2:11
08	No. 8, in B minor	1:48
09	No. 9, in A major	1:59
10	No. 10, F# minor	3:44
11	No. 11, E major	1:57
12	No. 12, in C# minor	3:06

HEITOR VILLA-LOBOS (1857-1959)

Préludes, W419

13	No. 1, in E minor	5:16
14	No. 2, in E major	2:55
15	No. 3, in A minor	6:48
16	No. 4, in E minor	3:47
17	No. 5, in D major	4:51

Suite populaire brésilienne, W020

18	I. Mazurka-Chôro	3:32
19	II. Schottish-Chôro	3:59
20	III. Valsa-Chôro	6:05
21	IV. Gavotta-Chôro	6:19
22	V. Chôrinho (Petit-Chôro) ...	5:06

*First recording, dedicated to and commissioned by Ricardo Gallén