

Quotes/Reviews for Mark Simons

“ Highly recommended! A warm, generous performer with a confident and engaging presence. Wonderful, musical playing. Listening to Mark Simons is always a delight!”
– Clare Callahan, Solo Recitalist’s Panel, National Endowment for the Arts

“ I was on the jury of the Great Lakes International Guitar Competition and I had the great pleasure of hearing Mark perform. I was immensely impressed by the depth of his musical understanding. His playing ranges from the fiery to the poetic. His technique is impressive, but is used solely in the service of his artistic vision. I give him my highest recommendation.”

– John Holmquist, Head, Guitar Department, The Cleveland Institute of Music

“ Mark has a secure technique and an excellent sense of musical style. He is very expressive and upholds the highest standards of interpretation and attention to detail.”
Frank Koonce, Chairman, Guitar Foundation of America

“ Congratulations on winning the 1996 Baltimore Chamber Music Awards Competition. Your talent has been recognized by professionals in the field of music and pays tribute to the vast talent of Maryland’s musicians. Again, my congratulations and thank you for your commitment to your art.”

– Kurt Schmoke, Mayor, City of Baltimore

“ Mark has always shown himself to be a highly intelligent, serious minded individual, with a natural expressiveness on his instrument. My confidence in Mark as a professional musician was demonstrated when my guitar ensemble, the Los Angeles Guitar Quartet, chose him to fill in for an indisposed member [Andrew York] during a residency of performances in Lake Tahoe. With less than two weeks preparation, Mark learned all his parts and performed with us at a very high level. In addition, he displayed a high degree of professionalism in his dealings with the presenters...”

– William Kanengiser, LA Guitar Quartet, Professor, USC School of Music

“ Mark has performed at numerous private and public functions in many places including the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, New England Aquarium, and Harvard Medical School to name a few. The Gig Office expects all performances referred to the musicians to be 100% successful in all aspects including business etiquette, and above all musicianship. Mark’s clients have always responded to us very positively and with praise.”

– Rob Lee, Gig Office Coordinator, The New England Conservatory

“ Mark is an excellent performer who consistently displays a very high level of musicianship both as soloist and in chamber music settings. He is not just another virtuoso, but shows a balanced, well-rounded musicianship with attention to style and sensitivity to his fellow performers.”

– Dusan Bogdanovic, Falla Guitar Trio, Professor, San Francisco Conservatory

“...an exceptionally fine guitarist and true professional in every sense
– Scott Tennant, LA Guitar Quartet, Professor, University of Southern California

" I am a big fan of Bach and an amateur musicologist. Your playing was not only technically flawless, it had the nobility and high feeling characteristic of Bach's aesthetic style."

– Philip Wilson- UC Berkeley

Quotes: praise for the San Francisco Guitar Quartet

"I love your "Black Opal" CD so much I'm going to feature it on the FRONT PAGE of CD Baby. We're REALLY picky about what goes on the front page. We get about 75 new albums a DAY coming in here now, (about 30,000 total), and yours is one of the best I've ever heard. . . "

Review: "As if one virtuosic classical guitarist were no longer enough to dazzle the mind and ears, here are four of them in rich, textured and colorful arrangements. Interacting and weaving these boggling works as one unit, carefully interlocked and interwoven as if to speak from one instrument with 24 strings, all four of these accomplished guitarists speak with meticulous technique and absolute clarity. Covering music from Australia to Cuba to Spain, this album shimmers with more brilliance than a morning's first dart of sunlight over the water."

– cdbaby.com

"The SFGQ play with the professionalism of any of the top instrumental ensembles on today's concert stages, yet play with a fresh enthusiasm and life force which one rarely experiences in the most seasoned performers.

Their performance of Bogdanovic' "Introduction and Dance" is like a gypsy caravan springing to life."

– Scott Tennant

"Congratulations on such a superb CD! Opals is wonderfully played! It is beautiful!"

– Phillip Houghton, composer

"The San Francisco Guitar Quartet is a group of passionate talented musicians who have put together a repertoire of music that not only just pleases but actually engages the listener on a deeper level.

When I heard their thrilling performances of Bogdanovic, Houghton and Assad, I really felt that this group had found a path to expressing their most powerful musical impulses."

– Marc Teicholz, San Francisco Conservatory of Music

"Many thanks for an extraordinary concert...a brilliant program. A true delight!" Brenda Chinn, Coordinator, City College of San Francisco, Concert Lecture Series

"Without a doubt the SFGQ's performance was an outstanding highlight of our festival. Your impeccable technique, warm sound and stage presence spilled over to the audience and set the tone for the rest of the festival. LAGQ look out, there is another guitar quartet to contend with."

– Reed Gilchrist, Artistic Director, International Festival "La Guitarra California"