

# VIDA Guitar Quartet



The **VIDA Guitar Quartet** brings together four guitarists of exceptional artistry who share a passion for chamber music. After their debut at the World Youth Guitar Festival in 2007, the Quartet have rapidly gained a reputation as one of the most dynamic guitar ensembles in the UK, performing at venues including Kings Place (London), the Sage (Gateshead), St George's (Bristol) and other events such as London Guitar Festival in the Fall, Bath International Guitar Festival, Dillington Guitar Festival, and Winchester Guitar Festival.

**Mark Ashford** is an internationally renowned performer and teacher. A former scholarship student at both Chetham's School of Music and the Royal Academy of Music, Mark finished his studies with the eminent guitarist David Russell in Vigo, Spain. He is a prize winner at many national and international competitions including the Guitar Foundation of America, Alessandria International Guitar Competition, Scandinavian International Guitar Competition, Julian Bream Prize, and BBC Radio 2 Young Musician. He has performed as a soloist at major concert halls including, the Wigmore Hall, Purcell Room, Bridgewater Hall, Queens Hall (Edinburgh), St George's Bristol and the Guildhall London. Mark's latest solo CD is of Rodrigo's 'Concierto de Aranjuez' recorded with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Nicholas Cleobury. He teaches at the Birmingham Conservatoire of Music and in 2003 was elected an Associate of the Royal Academy of Music for his achievements in the music profession.

**Mark Eden** and **Christopher Stell** are well known as the Eden Stell Guitar Duo, one of the most innovative guitar ensembles in the world. They formed in 1990 whilst studying at the Royal Academy of Music, and continued their studies with Sérgio and Odair Assad in Brussels. The duo's career was launched auspiciously as winners of both the South East Young Musicians Platform and the Park Lane Group young artist concert series. Since then they have gone on to record eight CDs on the BGS, Docker and Hänssler Classic labels, their latest 'Music for an Island' BGS117 is a multimedia CD. Mark and Christopher have performed in over 20 countries at venues including London's Wigmore Hall and Southbank Centre and Germany's Stuttgart and Beethoven Halle. Concerto engagements have included performances with renowned ensembles such as the Prague Chamber Orchestra, and the duo are the only guitarists since Julian Bream to receive an 'Editor's Choice' in Gramophone Magazine. They hold teaching positions at the Royal College of Music, Birmingham Conservatoire and Guildhall School of Music and Drama Junior department, and give classes in other music academies and guitar festivals all over the world. They were elected Associates of the Royal Academy of Music in recognition of their performing achievements.

**Helen Sanderson** studied guitar at the Royal College of Music with Charles Ramirez, graduating with both the Madeline Walton prize for guitar and the prestigious Anthony Saltmarsh Bursary. Her active concert career has included concerts at major international guitar festivals and recitals at the Purcell Room, St Martin-in-the-Fields, Barbican Hall, the Academy of Arts (Berlin), the British Embassy in Vienna, Bath International Guitar Festival and Winchester Guitar Festival. In addition to her solo performances, Helen is also much in demand as an adjudicator, recording artist and accompanist for voice and guitar repertoire, working in partnerships with Mark Wilde (tenor) 'Ancient Melodies' (Docker Records), Susan Legg (mezzo-soprano), and the eminent countertenor James Bowman.

**Love, the Magician** (BGS118) is the VIDA Guitar Quartet's debut CD recording on the BGS label with a programme of distinctly Andalucian flavour.

**VIDA Guitar Quartet**  
play D'Addario strings.



[www.vidagq.com](http://www.vidagq.com)

