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El Paso Pro-Musica Chamber Music Festival presents Harpist Yolanda Kondonassis and Guitarist Jason Vieaux

Thursday, January 11, 2018 at 12pm – *Free Preview*
El Paso Museum of Art | 1 Arts Festival Plaza | El Paso, TX

Thursday, January 11, 2018 at 7:30pm – *Festival Concert*
NMSU Center for the Arts | 100 E. University | Las Cruces, NM

Friday, January 12, 2018 at 7:30pm – *Festival Concert*
UTEP Fox Recital Hall | 500 W. University Ave | El Paso, TX

Festival Concert Tickets: \$25 Adult; \$20 Senior; \$5 Student
available at www.eppm.org or 915.747.8163

Photo by Laura Watilo Blake available in high-res
at www.jensenartists.com/yolanda-kondonassis

“conversing with an almost rapturous sense of cohesion”
– *Gramophone*

Watch their NPR Tiny Desk Concert: <http://bit.ly/YolandaJasonNPR>

www.yolandaharp.com | www.jasonvieaux.com

Las Cruces, NM & El Paso, TX – Grammy-nominated harpist **Yolanda Kondonassis** and Grammy-winning classical guitarist **Jason Vieaux** join forces for three performances presented by the month-long **El Paso Pro-Musica Chamber Music Festival** on **Thursday, January 11, 2018** and **Friday January 12, 2018**. The evening festival programs on **Thursday, January 11, 2018 at 7:30pm** at **NMSU Center for the Arts** (100 E. University | Las Cruces, NM) and **Friday, January 12, 2018 at 7:30pm** at **UTEP Fox Fine Arts Recital Hall** (500 W. University Ave | El Paso, TX) will feature selections from their duo debut album, ***Together***, which was released in 2015 on Azica Records to critical acclaim, including **Alan Hovhaness’** Sonata for Harp and Guitar, Op. 374 (“Spirit of Trees”), **Máximo Diego Pujol’s** *Suite mágica*, **Gary Schocker’s** *Hypnotized*, and Xavier Montsalvatge’s Fantasy for Harp and Guitar. Kondonassis and Vieaux will also each perform a solo work, **Carlos Salzedo’s** *Chanson dans la nuit* for harp and **Johann Sebastian Bach’s** Prelude and Allegro, BWV 998 for guitar.

On **Thursday, January 11, 2018 at 12pm**, Kondonassis and Vieaux will preview their January 11 and 12 evening festival programs on **Bach’s Lunch**, a free lunchtime series presented at the **El Paso Museum of Art** (1 Arts Festival Plaza | El Paso, TX). Artistic Director and acclaimed cellist **Zuill Bailey** will join the duo for an in-depth conversation, too. Seating is limited and is on a first come, first served basis in the C2 Gallery.

Since 2012, Kondonassis and Vieaux have performed together to critical acclaim in cities across the United States. Their **NPR Tiny Desk Concert** was unprecedented in that it was both artists’ second time performing on the series. *The Cleveland Plain Dealer* has praised the duo's as “a joy from top to bottom,” adding that “Kondonassis and Vieaux deserve to be termed magicians for the way they shaped phrases with natural fluidity, grace and, when required, fiery drama.” *The Buffalo News* describes, “Their diverse expressive capabilities and intimate sonorities suggest that they are interchangeable parts of one whole . . . it was difficult to hear where one instrument ends and the other begins - the mystical effect of one great intangible apparent throughout the program: the intuitive synchronicity of Kondonassis and Vieaux.”

In addition to their 2015 album *Together*, Vieaux also recorded Ginastera's Sonata for Guitar for a Ginastera Centennial album, *Ginastera: One Hundred*, produced by Kondonassis, released in fall 2016 on Oberlin Music. The album also features performances of Ginastera's music by violinist Gil Shaham, pianist Orli Shaham, and Kondonassis, whose career has been powerfully influenced by Ginastera, and estimates that she has performed his Harp Concerto nearly 200 times.

Founded in 1977, **El Paso Pro-Musica** is a non-profit chamber music organization devoted to making the art of chamber music available to the community by bringing world-renowned artists to delight and educate audiences. The **El Paso Chamber Music Festival** spans the entire month of January and receives national and international critical acclaim each year with a history of bringing artistic excellence to the border region.

Yolanda Kondonassis is celebrated as one of the world's premier solo harpists and is widely regarded as today's most recorded classical harpist. With "a range of colour that's breathtaking" (*Gramophone*), she has been hailed as "a brilliant and expressive player" (*Dallas Morning News*), with "a dazzling technique unfailingly governed by impeccable musical judgment" (*Detroit News*). She has appeared around the globe as a concerto soloist and in recital, bringing her unique brand of musicianship and warm artistry to an ever-increasing audience. Also a published author, speaker, professor of harp, and environmental activist, her many passions are woven into a vibrant and multi-faceted career.

With hundreds of thousands of discs and downloads sold worldwide, Kondonassis' extensive discography includes twenty titles and her 2008 release, *Air* (Telarc), was nominated for a Grammy Award. Her latest album, *Ginastera: One Hundred*, celebrates Ginastera's 2016 centennial and was released in October 2016 on Oberlin Music. Her many albums have earned universal critical praise as she continues to be a pioneering force in the harp world, striving to push the boundaries of what listeners expect of the harp.

The recipient of two Solo Recitalists Grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and a 2011 recipient of the Cleveland Arts Prize, Kondonassis has been featured on CNN and PBS as well as Sirius/XM Radio's *Symphony Hall*, NPR's *All Things Considered* and *Tiny Desk Concerts*, *St. Paul Sunday Morning*, and *Performance Today*. In addition to her active solo, chamber music and recording schedule, Kondonassis heads the harp departments at Oberlin Conservatory of Music and The Cleveland Institute of Music, and presents masterclasses around the world.

For more information on Yolanda Kondonassis, visit www.YolandaHarp.com.

Grammy-winner **Jason Vieaux**, "among the elite of today's classical guitarists" (*Gramophone*), is the guitarist that goes beyond the classical. His most recent solo album, *Play*, won the 2015 Grammy Award for Best Classical Instrumental Solo.

Recent highlights include performances at Caramoor Festival as Artist-in-Residence, Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Philadelphia Chamber Music Society, Buenos Aires' Teatro Colon, Amsterdam's Concertgebouw, New York's 92Y, Ravinia Festival, and many other distinguished series. A first-rate chamber musician and programmer, he frequently collaborates with artists such as the Escher Quartet, accordion/bandoneon virtuoso Julien Labro as well as harpist Yolanda Kondonassis. He has performed as soloist with over 100 orchestras and his passion for new music has fostered premieres by Avner Dorman, Dan Visconti, Vivian Fung, José Luis Merlin, and more. Vieaux continues to bring important repertoire alive in the recording studio as well. Vieaux has upcoming releases on Azica, BIS, and Naxos, and recent recordings include *Infusion* (Azica) with accordionist/bandoneonist Julien Labro; Ginastera's Guitar Sonata, which is featured on *Ginastera: One Hundred* (Oberlin Music) produced by harpist Yolanda Kondonassis; and *Together* (Azica), a duo album with Kondonassis.

In 2012, the Jason Vieaux School of Classical Guitar was launched with ArtistWorks Inc., an interface that provides one-on-one online study with Vieaux for guitar students around the world. In 2011, he co-founded the guitar department at the Curtis Institute of Music, and in 2015 was invited to inaugurate the guitar program at the Eastern Music Festival. Vieaux has taught at the Cleveland Institute of Music since 1997, heading the guitar department since 2001. He has received a Naumburg Foundation top prize, a Cleveland Institute of Music Distinguished Alumni Award, GFA International Guitar Competition First Prize, and a Salon di Virtuosi Career Grant. Vieaux was the first classical musician to be featured on NPR's "Tiny Desk" series. Jason Vieaux plays a 2013 Gernot Wagner guitar with Augustine strings.

For more information, visit www.jasonvieaux.com.

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