

**The Los Angeles Guitar Quartet**  
 premieres Sergio Assad's  
*Interchange for Guitar Quartet and Orchestra*



Feb. 11 2009

“The LAGQ's performance with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra this weekend might then be considered crossover times four. It performs the East Coast premiere of a new concerto by Sergio Assad, one of the most celebrated guitarists of today. Titled *Interchange*, it will feature four distinct world styles that converge in the work's final movement.”

“The first movement was written with Kanengiser in mind; Assad considers him the "most classical member of the quartet" in his notes on the piece. But it's anything but classical.

The movement features Middle Eastern, Sephardic sounds.”

“Flamenco tones dominate the second movement, written for Tennant's strengths in rapid strumming in the dance's odd time signatures. The newest member of the group, Greif, showcases his jazz improvisation skills in the third movement. Part of Greif's cadenza, which Kanengiser calls a West Coast jazz with Pacific Rim overtones, will be free for the performer to create on the spot.”

“The fourth movement puts the spotlight on Dearman and his seven-string guitar in a Brazilian-influenced cadenza.”

**“There's a wonderful eclectic spirit to the piece, as it traverses such a wide range of world-music styles, all set within a symphonic frame. Sergio uses a variety of special orchestral colors, with lots of percussion, harp, and exquisite wind writing, and the way he balances the sound of the four guitars with the rest of the group is masterful.”**



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Feb. 14 2009

**“...the LAGQ and RPO gave a flashy rendition of Sergio Assad's new *Interchange for Guitar Quartet and Orchestra*.”**

“Written for the LAGQ, each of its first four movements is tailored to a different member's musical tastes. Traditional flamenco, Brazilian and Sephardic idioms commingle in the finale, creating a group portrait of the quartet and a personal vision of world music.

The LAGQ members are fabulous shape-shifters, eagerly trying on melodic styles like Mardi Gras costumes. And Assad knows how to exploit their technical flair.

This Brazilian composer-guitarist has written more than 50 works for his instrument, including many duos for himself and his brother, Odair. **His expertise shows in natural guitar writing and in transparent orchestration that lets the lightest plink be heard. Mini cadenzas gave each guitarist a chance to shine — building up to a dramatic group cadenza to kick off the fifth movement.**”

**“...it's hard to imagine any group but the fearless LAGQ playing it.”**