



Guitarrias

CD RELEASE PARTY

Sunday, February 16th, 2014 from 3 PM to 7 PM

Tall Boys Craft Beer House: 838 Bloor Street West, Toronto

www.tallboyscraft.com (416) 535-7486

Modern Day Troubadour Doug MacNaughton Travels New Musical Path

For Immediate Release: January 24, 2014 – Toronto, ON: Combining the simplicity of art song and the freedom of contemporary music with the intimate style of a troubadour, baritone **Doug MacNaughton** proudly launches his first self-produced recording, *Guitarrias*. The official CD release party takes place at Toronto's **Tall Boys Craft Beer House** on Sunday, February 16th. Between 3 PM and 7 PM, music enthusiasts can drop by the popular Bloor street establishment (Tall Boys features an outstanding collection of Ontario's finest craft beers, and a wide range of snacks) for a drink, a bite and a song as Doug performs selections from *Guitarrias*, while poets William Aide, Desi Di Nardo and Kateri Lanthier read from their latest works. Admission is free.

The CD is available as of now through <http://dougmacnaughton.com>

MacNaughton's first self-produced album is an intimate, poetic journey. *Guitarrias* includes compositions for voice and guitar (hence the name: guitar/arias) all performed by the singer accompanying himself: John Beckwith's *Beckett Songs* (three songs to poems of Samuel Beckett), Leslie Uyeda's *Flower Arranger* (a single song to a poem of Joy Kogawa), and William Beauvais' *The Truth of Matter* (four songs to poems of Linda Hogan), which were all commissioned by Doug MacNaughton. *Guitarrias* also features John Rutter's *Shadows* (eight songs to various poets of the 16th and 17th centuries), which were published in 1997. This is MacNaughton's fourth recording as a singer, but marks his debut recording as a guitarist. "I am fascinated by the artistic effect of playing and singing at the same time", explains MacNaughton. "The guitar's portability makes it possible to perform in intimate and unusual acoustics. There's a deeper connection between the voice part and the accompaniment, because the singer is the accompanist." For this recording project, Doug teamed up with sound engineer Paul Hodge and producer Sung Chung. "We considered recording the voice and guitar separately", he adds, "but in the end, we decided to record both together at the same time in the welcoming, resonant acoustic of St. George the Martyr Church.

About Doug MacNaughton

A multitalented artist, Doug began playing guitar when he was 13 years old; at the time, he dreamed of becoming the next Steve Howe, or Robert Fripp, or John McLaughlin. His life took an interesting turn when he went to university and discovered singing. The rest is... history! For almost 30 years, Doug has enjoyed a successful career as a classical singer, becoming a renowned figure from the music scene in Canada. "MacNaughton used his attractive voice to embrace all of the nuances of the libretto... he is a great singing actor", wrote Opera Canada. He performs regularly with the country's major opera companies, such as the Canadian Opera Company, Pacific Opera Victoria and Edmonton Opera, to only name a few. A versatile performer, Doug is also well known for having played Enjolras in the Canadian company of *Les Misérables*, and Miguel Cervantes/Don Quixote in *Man of La Mancha* for the Stirling Festival Theatre. His concert repertoire includes solos in *Messiah*, *Carmina Burana*, *Frankenstein* and *The Dangerous Kitchen* (a Frank Zappa tribute produced by ACREQ). For more information, please visit <http://dougmacnaughton.com>

Early reaction from some of the composers:

"Doug MacNaughton is a composer's dream come true: an outstanding voice, natural production, fine diction, a versatile character sense, penetrating interest in both music and text. He has performed my Six Songs to Poems by e. e. cummings always with striking effect, and I treasure his recording of this set with the pianist William Aide. He played the multiple-role baritone part in a revival of my opera *Crazy to Kill*, and with his encouragement I have composed *Singing Synge*, three character portraits from the writings of the Irish playwright, and *Beckett Songs*, a short set on poetry by Samuel Beckett. Working with him has always been enjoyable and deeply satisfying." - John Beckwith

"I am thrilled with Doug's performance of Flower Arranger. He sings every word with a warm, intimate understanding, and his playing is exquisite. Doug has captured the very essence of this song, enfolding us in an aura of loving tenderness." - Leslie Uyeda

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