

was of Polish origin -- in Paris, and they were married in 1958. Their union produced three children, one of whom, Ignacio, became a conductor, and another, Ana, a choreographer with the Paris Opera. In the 1960s, Yepes was especially active as both a guitar soloist and composer. He achieved acclaim for his score of the 1961 film *La fille aux yeux d'or*. In 1964, Yepes developed and thereafter played a ten-string guitar, which he asserted was superior to the six-stringed guitar especially in the realm of the transcription. In the 1970s and 1980s, Yepes remained active in all facets of his career, but made fewer concert appearances. He received many awards during this period, including an honorary doctorate degree from the University of Murcia, and various artistic, radio, and television citations. In 1980, he made his highly praised recording of the Rodrigo *Concierto de Aranjuez* with the Philharmonia Orchestra conducted by García Navarro. In 1993, Yepes was forced to sharply curtail his concert activity owing to his declining health. He gave his final concert in Santander, Spain, in 1996.

A black and white photograph of Narciso Yepes, an elderly man with glasses, wearing a dark suit jacket, a white shirt, and a dark bow tie. He is looking down intently at a guitar he is playing. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting his face and the instrument against a dark background.

ROMANCE NARCISO YEPES GUITAR RECITAL

Narciso Yepes was one of the finest virtuoso classical guitarists of the twentieth century, generally ranked second after Andrés Segovia. Despite a strong interest in music from the Baroque period, his overwhelming preference was for the serious compositions of Spanish composers from the early twentieth century, though he also showed interest in flamenco music. He displayed a special fondness for the works of Joaquín Rodrigo and was instrumental in the rediscovery of many previously neglected Baroque compositions. He also achieved distinction as a composer, especially in the realm of film music.

Narciso Yepes was born in the small town of Marchena, Spain, located near Lorca. He showed musical talent in his pre-school years, prompting his peasant father to give him his first guitar when he was only four. He soon played with great proficiency and his father arranged for young Narciso to take lessons in guitar and solfeggio in Lorca from Jesús Guevara. Yepes enrolled at the Valencia Conservatory at age 13 and was instructed (though not in guitar) by composer/pianist Vicente Asencio. He gave his first public performance in Valencia at the Teatro Serrano, then returned with

his family to Lorca. There he played for Ataulfo Argenta, conductor of the Spanish National Orchestra, who was so impressed by his skills that he convinced Yepes to travel to Madrid to launch his career. There, the young guitarist met some of the most influential musicians in the country, including Joaquín Rodrigo, who had completed his guitar masterpiece, the *Concierto de Aranjuez*, several years earlier. Yepes found the work most attractive and decided to play it for his official concert debut in 1947, for which he was partnered with Argenta, who led the *Orquesta de Cámara*. His further performances of the work during the early years of his career are now seen as crucial to the current popularity of the Rodrigo concerto. Yepes' concerts were well-received and he quickly became one of the most highly regarded guitarists in Spain. He gave a successful tour of Europe in 1948 -- with notable success in Geneva, Switzerland -- then two years later relocated to Paris for further study with George Enescu and Walter Gieseking. He also spent time with Nadia Boulanger, though apparently never became a student. Yepes wrote and performed the music for the 1952 film *Jeux interdits*, which garnered awards at Cannes, Venice, and Hollywood. Yepes met his wife -- who

ROMANCE

NARCISO YEPES GUITAR RECITAL

- 1 Romance 2:20
- 2 Minuet Rameau 3:30
- 3 Sonata In E Minor Scarlatti 3:20
- 4 Suite Espanola Sanz 10:50
- 5 Minuet No. 5 In D Major Sor 2:05
- 6 Minuet No. 6 In A Major Sor 2:25
- 7 Variations On A Theme Of Mozart Sor 7:00
- 8 Prelude No. 1 Villa-Lobos 4:40
- 9 Danza No. 1 Pipo 1:50
- 10 Malaguena (Rumores De La Caleta) Albéniz 3:55

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