



Catherine Thom

*Classical Guitar*

Catherine Thom, Ireland's renowned classical guitarist, has given concerts, masterclasses, workshops, and broadcasts on television and radio from the age of twelve, and internationally from the age of fifteen. At fourteen, Catherine Thom achieved LTCL (Licentiate), and at sixteen, FTCL (Fellow of Trinity College, London), when she was asked to teach at the University of Ulster, Stranmillis University College, and the City of Belfast School of Music. She was also co-writer, presenter and recitalist for her own regular BBC radio music series, *Music Around*.

Her performing, broadcasting, and workshop commitments continued nationally and internationally after moving to England to take two degrees in music. Catherine's Master's Degree thesis analysed guitarists' posture and the use of the hands and arms in classical guitar technique. Amongst her publications are *The Classical Guitar Workbooks*, which develop her ideas on technique and make them accessible to guitarists of all ages.

Catherine was awarded funding by South East Arts and The Countess of Munster Musical Trust, to exchange and explore ideas on guitar technique with Abel Carlevaro (Uruguay), Alirio Diaz (Venezuela), Ernesto Bitetti (Spain), John Duarte, John Mills (England), Ricardo Fernandez Iznaola (Cuba), Pieter van der Staak (Holland) and Angelo Gilardino (Italy), amongst others. Seven composers, including Reginald Smith Brindle, have dedicated music to her, and Catherine's own compositions have been premiered worldwide.

Concert touring has brought many memorable occasions in its train, such as being transported in full concert regalia in a tractor on the Island of Sark, where there are no cars; being entertained by murderers and international drug dealers to



*Catherine in Japan*

afternoon tea in Maidstone Prison; a concert chair carried by special messenger across Kyoto, Japan, for a recital in the Emperor's Residence, where there are no chairs; and an unwitting duet in an English church at 10pm with the church clock, a bell tuned beautifully to E, which struck on the beat in perfect alternation with the repeated E bass notes in Isaac Albeniz's *Preludio (Asturias)*, being played as an encore, to the wondering delight of audience and performer alike.

Catherine Thom's guitar playing has delighted audiences both within the usual recital and concerto format, and in concerts for people from all walks of life, sponsored by Yehudi Menuhin's *Live Music Now*. She has performed in many countries, including Sweden, Italy, Holland, Spain, Germany, France, and Japan. Her London Wigmore Hall recitals have received critical acclaim. In all her appearances, Catherine Thom's warm Irish combination of humour and dignity emerges, whether with students in a workshop, or when introducing her music to audiences on tour. →



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*'The Irish guitarist Catherine Thom has a captivating platform personality, which is entirely complementary to her refined musicality.'*

*The Times*

*'A guitar player of a very exceptional calibre'*

*Reginald Smith Brindle*

*'With an aplomb which concealed a carefully considered approach to every item on her programme, she provided an evening's music which provided equally careful listening. The reward, for those who got the message, was the detailed and accurate interpretation of works familiar to most guitarists, played with a freshness and individuality which never overbalanced into eccentricity: Catherine Thom knows what she wants, and usually gets it with deceptive ease.'*

*Classical Guitar*

*'A memorable evening'* *Guitar*

*'Her phrasing was, once again, lucid and convincing, poised and secure.... The playing was as clear as a pool.'*

*Classical Guitar*

*'Remarkably gifted'*

*Banjo, Mandolin & Guitar*

*'The guitar...is a "fretted instrument", a phrase totally inadequate to describe what it becomes in the hands of someone like Catherine Thom..... the poise and confidence of the true professional.'*

*Radio Times*

### **Selected Publications:**

***The Classical Guitar Workbook: Level One***, Insight Centre Publications, ISBN 978-1-85580-041-0

***The Classical Guitar Workbook: Level Two***, Insight Centre Publications, ISBN 978-1-85580-045-8

***The Complete Classical Guitar Workbook***, Insight Centre Publications (due January 2012)

***The Classical Guitar Ensemble***, Insight Centre Publications (due January 2012)

### **Selected Works for Classical Guitar Solo:**

*Île Saint-Louis*

*Scenes of Tranquillity*

*Kingdom of Mourne*

*Fairytale Fragments*

*Scenes from Alice in Wonderland*

### **Recordings:**

***Cherry Blossom***, CD. Release date 5/8/11. Insight Centre Music Publications, Order code: CD 11.600. Barcode: 5060109096187

***Scenes of Tranquillity***, CD. Due November 2011. Insight Centre Music Publications. Recorded at Cotehele House, Cornwall.

***Île Saint-Louis***, CD. Due January 2012. Insight Centre Music Publications.