ABOUT SLAVA & LEONARD GRIGORYAN

The Grigoryan brothers have been performing professionally as a duo for 8 years (they have been playing together since Leonard was 4 years old).

This partnership has taken them around Australia many times. They have also performed in Russia, Austria, Estonia, Japan, Malaysia, South Africa, the United Arab Emirates, and had their Wigmore Hall debut in London in 2006.

They have released three duo CD’s with ABC Classics:


As a duo they have worked with the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra, the Queensland Symphony Orchestra, The Academy of Melbourne and performed at the Melbourne International Festival of the Arts and The Brisbane Festival.

Although having performed much of the standard repertoire for two guitars, their passion is to expand the classical guitar repertoire through new arrangements, commissions and collaborations with contemporary composers as well their own compositions.

Coming from an eclectic musical background, improvisation has always been an important part of their musical language. This combination of influences sets their performances apart from other classical ensembles attracting a very diverse audience.

ABOUT SLAVA GRIGORYAN

Slava Grigoryan was born in 1976 in Kazakhstan and immigrated with his family to Australia in 1981. As a major prizewinner at the Tokyo International Classical Guitar Competition, Slava was signed by the Sony Classical Label in 1995 and has since released 6 solo albums and many collaborative recordings. At the age of 18, his first tour was with guitar legends Paco Pena and Leo Kottke.

Slava Grigoryan has performed as a soloist at international festivals such as Brighton, City of London, Harrogate, Newbury, Salisbury, and Chelsea Arts Festivals in the UK, the Dresden Musikfestpiel, the Guitar Festival of Great Britain, the Darwin International Guitar Festival, the GFA Festival in La Jolla, California, the Wirral International Guitar Festival, the Al Bustan
Festival in Beirut, the Hong Kong Arts Festival, the New Zealand Arts Festival, the Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Brisbane and Perth International Arts Festivals and WOMAD festivals in the UK, USA, Australia and South Africa.

He has appeared with many of the world's leading orchestras, including the London Philharmonic, BBC Concert Orchestra, the Northern Sinfonia, The Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Israel Symphony Orchestra, Dresden Radio Orchestra, the Klagenfurt Symphony Orchestra in Austria, the Halle Orchestra, the Hong Kong Sinfonietta, the New Zealand Symphony, numerous tours with the Australian Chamber Orchestra and all of the Australian Symphony Orchestras.

He has also performed with many string quartets and chamber ensembles. These have included The Goldner, Flinders and Australian String Quartets in Australia, and the Endellion, Skampa, and Chillingirian quartets in the UK, and the Southern Cross Soloists. He regularly performs with his brother Leonard and is a founding member of Saffire, the Australian Guitar Quartet, featuring Karin Schaupp, Gareth Koch and Leonard Grigoryan, with whom he has toured Europe and North America as well as regular performances in Australia. In 2005 he toured Australia with American great, Ralph Towner, and legendary jazz guitarist from Austria, Wolfgang Muthspiel. The first recording of this trio, known as MGT, will be released in 2008.

His debut classical album for ABC Classics, *Sonatas and Fantasies*, was released in March 2002 and was awarded Best Classical Album at the 2002 ARIA Awards. 2003 saw the release of two new albums on the ABC Classics label, *Play* (with Leonard Grigoryan) and *Saffire* (The Australian Guitar Quartet), which went on to win the 2003 Best Classical Album ARIA. Since then he has recorded a further two albums with Saffire, an album of music by Australian composer Shaun Rigney, a recording of the Rodrigo Concertos with his brother Leonard and the Queensland Orchestra, an album of music composed by Nigel Westlake entitled *Shadowdances*, and an album of Baroque guitar concertos with the Tasmanian Symphony.

The collaboration with brother Leonard is developing as his most significant one. They have now released their third duo recording (*Impressions*) and have performed together in the UK, USA, Germany, Austria, France, Italy, Spain, Russia, Estonia, Croatia, Hungary, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Indonesia, South Africa and the United Arab Emirates as well as regular tours of Australia.

**ABOUT LEONARD GRIGORYAN**

Leonard Grigoryan was born in 1985 and began studying the guitar with his father at the age of four. Having always performed with his brother Slava, the duo was an inevitable part of their careers. In 1999 they began performing regularly and have since toured the country many times.

In 2001, Leonard was the only guest artist on Slava's ARIA award winning album, *Sonatas and Fantasies*. The following year they released their first duo album *Play* which was also nominated for an ARIA.

Leonard has always dedicated himself to both the classical and jazz genres and is also an active arranger and composer. In 2005 Leonard joined the ARIA award-winning group Saffire - The Australian Guitar Quartet.

He regularly tours nationally for Musica Viva and has performed in Africa, Europe, America, Russia and Asia. In March 2006 Leonard had his debut performance at Wigmore Hall with Slava.

**Festival Appearances:**

- The Darwin International Guitar Festival,
- Iserlohn International Guitar Festival,
- Hong Kong Arts Festival,
- Melbourne Festival,
- Brisbane Festival,
- WOMADelaide,
- Huntington Festival

**Appearances as a Soloist:**

- The Melbourne Symphony Orchestra
- The Queensland Symphony Orchestra
- The Academy of Melbourne
- The Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra

**Collaborations with Classical Artists:**

- Simon Tedeschi (piano)
- Paul Wright (violin)
- Jane Rutter (flute)
- Jose Carbo (baritone)
- Brett Dean (viola)
Collaborations with Jazz/Rock/World Music Artists:

- Al Slavik (bass/vocals - Austria)
- Tony Gould (piano)
- Luke Howard (piano)
- Jeremy Alsop (bass)
- Phil Gould (drums – UK)
- Darryn Farrugia (drums)
- David Jones (drums)
- Joseph Tawadros (oud)
- Tim Rodgers (vocals)
- Fiona Burnett (saxophone)
- Becky Fox (vocals)
- Daniel Farrugia (drums)
- Chris Hale (bass)
- Ben Robertson (bass)
- Joe Chindamo (piano)
- Andre Jenken (vocals)

Collaborations with Other Guitarists:

- Tommy Emmanuel
- Doug de Vries
- Guy Strazz
- Karin Schaupp
- Gareth Koch