

# Rucco-James Duo

The duo of Pasquale Rucco and Douglas James specializes in the guitar literature of the early 19th century performed on authentic instruments of the period. The two first met and became friends at guitar festivals in northern Italy during the early 1990's. They have now been performing together for over ten years, charming audiences worldwide with their interpretations of music from the first true "golden age" of the guitar.

The duo's repertoire features some of the most famous of the early 19th century guitar duo masterpieces as well as newly discovered gems. Their concert programs frequently include works by the more familiar composers such as Carulli, Giuliani and Sor combined with their lesser known contemporaries including Filippo Gragnani, François de Fossa, Antoine Baron de Barcó, Frederic Spina, and Antoine de Lloyer. Their debut CD featured works by Gragnani, Fossa and Barcó as well as Giuliani's arrangements of Rossini's popular overtures to *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* and *La Gazza Ladra*. This critically acclaimed disc was recently followed by *A Night at the Opera*, an all-Rossini recording featuring 19th century arrangements of popular opera overtures and the famous *La Danza tarantella*.

Rucco and James are internationally recognized authorities in the early Romantic style. Combining an historically informed approach with world-class musicianship, they play exclusively on authentic 19th century guitars. Recent seasons have included concerts throughout the United States, Italy, and Austria. Rucco and James have performed for such prestigious venues as the Oberlin Conservatory, the Cleveland Institute of Music, Early Music Houston, and the Stetson International Guitar Summer Workshop. In the U.S. they have also presented concerts and masterclasses for universities and guitar societies in Georgia, Florida, Texas, Tennessee, Virginia, Mississippi, New Mexico, Ohio, and North and South Carolina.