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The EWU Department of Music presents

Arthur Corcoran

Senior Recital

Friday, May 27, 2011
7:30 p.m.
Music Building Recital Hall

Presented in partial fulfillment of the requirements for
Bachelor in Music Performance, Guitar

Studio of Professor Michael Millham

Program

Suite in E minor
Allemande
Courante
Sarabande
Gigue

Dietrich Buxtehude
1607 - 1707

Quintet for Guitar and String Quartet
Fandango

Luigi Boccherini
1743-1805

Sonata for Guitar
Allegro Moderato
Minuet

Antonio José
1902-1936

The History of Tango
Bordel 1900
Cafe 1930
Night Club 1960
Concert d'aujourd'hui (Concert of today)

Astor Piazzola
1921-1992

Program Notes

Dietrich Buxtehude was a 17th century composer and organist who is believed to have been born in Germany, although at the time of his death he recognized Denmark as his native land. He is best known as a composer of organ music. As such, he became one of the most widely respected composers before J.S. Bach. In 1705 Bach made a historic pilgrimage, walking almost 250 miles from Arnstadt to Lübeck to see Buxtehude perform. In addition to his organ works, he is also responsible for a large repertory of sacred vocal works and instrumental ensemble music.

This suite in E minor comes from a manuscript tablature containing 19 different suites and sets of secular variations. These compositions were published in Paris in 1687 and highlight the striking similarity between Buxtehude's German keyboard Suites and the French keyboard suites of the time. Many scholars have in fact commented on the way that Buxtehude's suites resemble the *style brisé*, which is French for broken or arpeggiated style.

Luigi Boccherini was an Italian cellist and composer of the classical era. He moved to Madrid in 1761 where he was employed as a composer in the court of King Charles III. There in Spain he was strongly influenced by the Andalusian gypsy musicians and dancers. The "*Fandango Quintet*" is Boccherini's incorporation of this popular gypsy dance into his own classical composition. The signature sound of the Fandango can be easily identified by its triple meter and distinctive descending chord progression (i-VII-VI-V).

Antonio José is one of the greatest composers ever to write for the guitar. Unfortunately he only composed one major work for the instrument before his life was tragically cut short at the age of 33. The *Sonata for Guitar* was one of the last pieces that José composed before his Death. The four movement work remains one of the greatest guitar compositions of the 20th century, and arguably of all time.

The Spanish Composer was born and lived much of his life in the northern province of Castilla. In 1936 José was arrested and imprisoned by one of the original parties in the Fascist movement in Spain known as the "Falangists" (the name comes from the Greek for phalanx, which is a military formation). He was charged with being a republican spy, Jewish sympathizer, and inciting people in a revolt. On October 8 of 1936, he was executed by a firing squad. José was incredibly prolific for his short life; his many works include *Danzas Bugalesas* and *Sonata Castellana* for piano, and later choral and vocal works such as the *Cinco Coros Castellanos* and *Cuatro Canciones Populares Burgalesas*, and even an unfinished opera *El Mozo de Mulas*; all of which are compositions that integrate his rich cultural exposure and life experience from Spain. Ravel is quoted as saying that he was "potentially the greatest Spanish composer of the 20th century".

Astor Piazzola created his own brand of tango composition. Combining classical technique and precision with the exciting and passionate style of tango Piazzola was groundbreaking as a composer. *The History of Tango* is a four part suite that takes the listener on a musical journey through the different eras of the tango form's development. Beginning in a bordel in Argentina in and ending in a modern concert hall the piece is meant to depict the different settings in which listeners have been hearing this music performed since it's early beginnings.