

Candice Mowbray, guitarist

Biography

Praised for her beautiful tone and natural lyricism, guitarist Candice Mowbray shares with audiences the expressive and communicative experience in a program of modern and classic compositions. From the playful acrobatics in *Danse rythmique* by French guitar virtuoso, Ida Presti, to the dignified solemnity of Fernando Sor's *Fantaisie élégiaque*, listeners around the world delight in her thoughtful programming and elegant interpretations. Her delightful playing once elicited from a legendary ballerina, "It makes me want to dance!" And Irish guitar virtuoso John Feeley described her as "a beautiful player, so expressive and musical."

Appearing as a soloist, ensemble musician and guest lecturer, Mowbray has been a featured artist at a wide array of festivals and concert series including the Philadelphia Classical Guitar Society Series, Marlow Guitar Series, Toronto Guitar Weekend, International Guitar Competition "Ida Presti," Knoxville Guitar Series, Bethlehem Guitar Festival, Austin Peay GuitarFest, Charlottesville Guitar Festival, Lonestar Guitar Festival, Ibero-American Guitar Festival at the Smithsonian Museum of the American Indian, and Guitar Foundation of America Convention in Los Angeles. She has performed with Washington National Opera at the Kennedy Center, Maryland Symphony Orchestra, Wolftrap Opera, Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra of Greater Washington and National String Symphonia. Mowbray is a remarkably versatile chamber musician having performed with numerous esteemed artists in the greater Washington D.C. and Philadelphia area. She can frequently be heard playing classical, electric and steel-string acoustic guitar in musical theater and interdisciplinary arts productions.

Mowbray's CD, *Reverie*, has been featured on radio programs such as InTune (BBC Radio 3), The Intimate Guitar (Dayton, OH), G-Strings with Tom Cole (Washington D.C.) and Musica Mundi (Boulder, CO). Blair Jackson of *Classical Guitar Magazine* called the album, "a revelation!" and one of the Top 10 CD picks of the year. The album is comprised of twentieth-century and contemporary French compositions, including solo works by members of the great guitar duo Ida Presti and Alexandre Lagoya.

Mowbray is a natural pedagogue and loves to share her knowledge and experience with students. She has served as professor of classical guitar studies at Shepherd University, Shenandoah Conservatory, Hagerstown Community College, Frederick Community College, and other schools in the mid-Atlantic region. She has worked with students of all ages as a guest clinician and adjudicator.

An avid scholar and lecturer Mowbray greatly enjoys researching, writing and speaking about music. Her musical talks have been described by audience members as "engaging and thoroughly-researched." Writers in *Classical Guitar Magazine* and *The Morning Call* have referred to Mowbray as an "enthusiastic" and "insightful" speaker. Although Mowbray lectures on a variety of topics, she is a particularly

passionate advocate for increasing awareness of contributions made by women to the history of the guitar. Since 2006, Mowbray has regularly given talks about women in guitar history for schools, libraries, concert series and guitar festivals, each garnering positive feedback and interest. Her doctoral thesis, "Ida Presti as a Solo Performer and Composer of Works for Solo Guitar" is available through ProQuest and her articles have been included in *Soundboard* and *Prodigies*, publications of the Guitar Foundation of America. She contributed years of research and writing to *Legado*, the 2022 recording project by Berta Rojas which one two Latin GRAMMY Awards in the categories of Best Classical Album & Best Contemporary Classical Composition.

Mowbray earned the Doctorate of Musical Arts in Classical Guitar Performance at Shenandoah Conservatory where she studied with Dr. Glenn Caluda. Also influential were private lessons and masterclasses with many internationally renowned artists including Berta Rojas, Carlos Barbosa-Lima, Sharon Isbin, Roland Dyens, Julian Gray, Serap Bastepe-Gray, Ron Pearl, Gerry Kunkel, Angel Romero, Ricardo Cobo, Eduardo Isaac, Maximo Diego Pujol and Victor Villadangos.