***Zoco Duo****Jacob Cordover, guitar & Laura Karney, oboe & Cor Anglais*

Jacob Cordover and Laura Karney bring together the diverse elements of the oboe/cor anglais and guitar in their unusual partnering. ***Zoco Duo*** has been heard in concert in Australia, China, Canada, England, France, Germany, Italy, Spain and the USA; including performances at the Leicester Festival (UK), Festival Internazionale del Coros (Sardinia, Italy), the Festival de Musique Classique (Midi-Pyrénées, France), Music By The Sea (Bamfield, BC, Canada), and String-139 Festival (Beijing, China).

The Spanish derivative of the Arabic word for *souk*or*bazaar*, a *zoco*was a place where a myriad of sights, sounds and smells of the exotic mingled. It is a crossroad where merchants and travellers from all over would meet to sell goods, socialize and exchange news.  It is in this spirit that the guitar and oboe /cor anglais come together, merging their individual sounds to play a wide range of musical styles - from Baroque to Contemporary, Europe to the Americas, ***Zoco Duo*** creates an experience full of exotic sounds, musical textures and evocative atmospheres.

The pair met whilst Artists in Residence at the Banff Centre for the Arts in Canada, and in this setting they first performed together. The scarcity of repertoire originally written for this combination of instruments has meant that many of the arrangements have been done by the duo themselves. Inspired by their belief in the development of classical music and the further exploration of musical possibilities this combination offers, ***Zoco Duo*** has commissioned and premiered several works by both up-and-coming and well-established composers and continue to perform a variety of contemporary works.

Over the years ***Zoco Duo*** has worked with specialist Carlo Barone and studied the historically informed style and performance practice of early nineteenth century works inspired by *bel canto* era Italian opera. Applying the *bel canto*vocal traditions to early nineteenth century instrumental music, ***Zoco Duo*** have helped audiences to rediscover the excitement and drama of instrumental music inspired by Italian Opera.

 Mr Cordover received his formative training in the classical guitar with Timothy Kain at the Australian National University School of Music and subsequent post-graduate studies at the Escola Superior de Música de Catalunya and the Escola Luthier in Barcelona, Spain. Ms. Karney completed her undergraduate studies in oboe under Richard Killmer at the Eastman School of Music in New York and post-graduate studies with Nicholas Daniel at the Hochschule for Musik in Trossingen, Germany.

Coinciding with the 10th anniversary of their first performances together, ***Zoco Duo*** released their debut CD through Cala Records in 2014. Receiving rave reviews and attention, ***Historias*** has been featured on radio programmes in Australia, the USA and Taiwan. Whether capturing the haunting and mournful quality of Rodrigo’s Spanish songs, the sultry precision of the Argentinian Tango or the virtuosic excitement and drama of Mauro Giuliani’s potpourri of Italian Opera, ***Historias***illuminates the remarkable versatility of this unique pairing through thoughtful arrangements of both well-loved classics and unknown gems.

**Jacob Cordover, classical guitar**

Currently residing in Barcelona, Spain and enjoying a truly international career as both a concert and recording artist, **Jacob Cordover** “impresses with his intuitive musicianship and impeccable technique” (Leicester Mercury, UK). His “consummate artistry” (Adelaide Advertiser, Australia) has enticed audiences in over a dozen countries across four continents.

He has appeared as soloist with the Las Colinas Symphony, the Arlington Symphony, the Garland Symphony, the *Orquestra Simfònica de Balears “Ciutat de Palma”* and the Orchestra *dell’Accademia l’Ottocento*, and his performances have “demonstrated how much poetry and feeling can be obtained from the guitar in the hands of master musicians such as Jacob Cordover.” (The Mercury, Australia).

As a recording artist, Mr. Cordover has released two solo CDs to much critical acclaim; *Stélé* (independent release, 2004) was hailed by Classical Guitar Magazine (UK) as “wonderfully sympathetic and highly accomplished... Cordover managing to get to the very soul of this striking and brilliant music.” His most recent solo release Blackwattle Caprices (Cala Records, 2013) received the following review in the American Record Guide “His technique is flawless. His expression tasteful and always interesting and moving.” Mr. Cordover has also released two CDs with his long standing chamber ensembles; *Songs from the Forest*, (independent release, 2012) the debut CD from the Australian Guitar Duo (with Rupert Boyd) and *Historias* (Cala Records, 2014) the debut CD from Zoco Duo (with Laura Karney, oboe/cor anglais). As well as receiving rave reviews, all of his CDs have been broadcast on radio stations in Asia, North America and Australia.

His music has been used in television, he has been broadcast on radio stations and he has been a prize winner at major national and international music competitions including the *Concurso Internacional de Guitarra Festival de Córdoba* (Spain), the Sydney Performing Arts Challenge (Australia), the Australian Guitar Competition (Chamber Music Section), the *Certamen Internacional de Guitarra de Barcelona* (Spain) and the Performing Australian Music Competition (London, UK).

**Laura Karney – oboe & cor anglais**

Currently residing in Barcelona, Spain, Laura Karney is an oboist whose free-lance career has so far spanned 13 countries across 3 continents.  Hugely varied in her interests, Ms. Karney can be heard performing on both oboe and English horn, in concerts ranging from historically informed performances of Baroque and Classical repertoire to working with contemporary composers and ensembles and giving world premieres.

Ms. Karney has worked with the SEM ensemble, AlarmWill Sound, Cosmopolitan City Orchestra, Peconic Chamber Orchestra, Britten Sinfonia, the Lisbon Metropolitan Orchestra, theSüdwestdeutsche Philharmonie Konstanz and the Orquesta de Valencia in Spain. She is also a founding member of **Zoco**, a guitar and oboe duo, the **Prestige Quartet** a wind ensemble and ***dreamseminar*** a small chamber ensemble currently working on a chamber opera by a American composer Ellen Lindquist.

The foundations of her performing career came from her undergraduate and post graduate studies in oboe at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York, and the Hochschule for Musik in Trossingen, Germany under the tutelage of the internationally renowned oboists Richard Killmer and Nicholas Daniel, and her work with Martin Stadler and Carlo Barone on historical oboes.