

MUSIC AT ST. PHILIP  
CONCERT SERIES



2016  
2017  
SEASON

• PRESENTS •

# Susan McDonald

Live Classical Guitar with Film

*Animal Ballets*



**Sunday**  
**January 15**  
**6:00 pm**

St. Philip Presbyterian Church  
4807 San Felipe St | Houston



**FREE** (DONATIONS WELCOME)

## ABOUT THE ARTIST

**Susan McDonald** has delighted audiences the world over — from the Amazon to Iraq and from community concerts to Carnegie Hall. Her audiences have ranged from Holocaust survivors in Vienna to the President of the United States, and her music has been enthusiastically received in concert halls, universities, festivals, elementary schools, and hospitals. At her Carnegie Hall debut, the *New York Concert Review* described her performance as “. . . one of the most satisfying recitals in recent memory . . . all the skill and insight that a Bel Canto master brings to a Bellini cadenza . . . masterful Bach playing . . .” In addition to her masterful playing of others’ works, Susan has become known as an exciting composer herself, with features in *Soundboard*, *Austin Woman Magazine*, and on the internationally syndicated radio program *Classical Guitar Alive*.

A protégé of the legendary guitar master Pepe Romero, Susan fell in love with the guitar when she was four and began playing when she was six. Her studies took her from the University of St. Thomas here in Houston to the Mozarteum in Salzburg, Austria, and finally to a residency at the Banff Centre for the Arts in the Canadian Rockies. Susan’s many recordings and live performances have been heard on radio and television broadcasts worldwide. See [www.facebook.com/GuitaristSusanMcDonald](http://www.facebook.com/GuitaristSusanMcDonald)

Susan is on the touring rosters of Texas Commission on the Arts, Mid-America Arts Alliance, and Young Audiences of Houston, and she is actively involved in cultural diplomacy through the international NGO American Voices. Under their auspices, she has developed guitar programs for the YES Academies in Iraq and Lebanon, where she has performed and taught students from Iraq, Kurdistan, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. She has joined with Fine Arts Foundation to form an international program supporting her work with artists from war-torn countries. See [www.remembertheriver.org](http://www.remembertheriver.org)

## ABOUT *Yasuní: Dances from the Rainforest*

In 2012 and 2013 Susan traveled by canoe deep into the Ecuadorian Amazon, accompanied by her guitar and her Kichwa guide, in order to film wildlife and to compose music inspired by the sights and sounds of the world's most bio-diverse region.

The resulting creation is her new **Animal Ballet**, *Yasuní: Dances from the Rainforest*, in which the animals featured in the film are the “dancers” and she is their “orchestra.” Combining folk rhythms with themes taken from the sounds of birds, insects, and amphibians, the music ranges from ethereal to boisterous and takes the listener into a rare and fragile world whose mysteries are hidden from modern civilization. See [www.animalballets.com](http://www.animalballets.com)

**Yasuní National Park** encompasses 9820 square kilometers and contains the greatest level of biodiversity of any place on earth, boasting 596 species of birds, 382 of fish, 117 of bats, 121 of reptiles, and 150 amphibian species. In addition to the jaguars, capybara, tapirs, giant anteaters, sloths, ocelots, nine-banded armadillos, pumas, and endless monkeys, the region contains at least 100,000 insect species per single hectare! It is also believed to contain approximately 800,000 barrels of crude oil beneath its fragile surface. As well as being the ancestral home of the rather warlike Huaorani people, it is home to the last two uncontacted indigenous tribes in Ecuador.

Be on the lookout for Susan’s new book, *Yasuní: Dances from the Rainforest: a musician’s journey into the Ecuadorian Amazon* to be published in 2017.

## TONIGHT'S PROGRAM

### ***Las Puertas de San Miguel***

Susan McDonald

1. Los Repatriados
2. Tango Ten Ten Pie
3. Después de la Fiesta
4. Los Pájaros en el Mercado
5. La Vida San Miguel



### ***Suite del Recuerdo***

José Luis Merlin

b. 1952

1. Evocación
2. Zamba
3. Chacarera
4. Carnavalito
5. Evocación
6. Joropo

### ❖ INTERMISSION ❖

### ***Yasuní: Dances from the Rainforest***

Susan McDonald

(a multi-media **Animal Ballet** from the Ecuadorian Amazon)

1. Night and the Common Potoo
2. The Musician Wren
3. Bambuco Amazónico
4. Tiputini Tango
5. Flying Colors
6. Prayer of the White-Necked Thrush
7. Yumbo Yasúnico
8. El Lago Misterioso
9. Las Serie de Posibilidades
10. Milonga de los Espíritus

**Please join us for a reception in the gathering area following the program.  
A freewill offering in support of this concert series will be received at all sanctuary exits.  
Your presence and your generosity are welcome.**

Tonight's program is made possible in part by the



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## ◆ JOIN US FOR THESE UPCOMING PROGRAMS ◆

Saturday, **February 11** at 7:00 pm | **Houston Baroque, Julia Fox & Megan Stapleton**  
Music of Telemann

Friday, **March 10** at 7:30 pm | **Baroque Trio Concert**  
Elizabeth Blumenstock, Mary Springfels, and Matthew Dirst

Saturday, **April 15** at 5:00 pm | **Musical Reflections for Holy Saturday**  
Tony Boutté, Colin St. Martin, Barret Sills, and Matthew Dirst

Sunday, **April 23** at 11:00 am | **Jazz Communion**  
Paul English and friends

Sunday, **April 23** at 6:00 pm | **Organ Concert in Honor of Robert Bates**  
Retirement celebration featuring current and former students of Dr. Bates

Sunday, **May 14** at 11:00 am | **Vivaldi Gloria**  
St. Philip Choir, Julia Fox and Cecilia Duarte with period instruments

St. Philip Presbyterian Church ◆ 4807 San Felipe Street ◆ Houston, Texas 77056



VISIT US ON FACEBOOK FOR MORE INFORMATION  
**Music at St. Philip Concert Series**

