

## Charlotte Sun (Port Charlotte, FL)

February 24, 2015

Section: Our Town-B Section

Page: 5

### Guitarist electrifies crowd at symphony

*BILL JONES*

*Sun Correspondent*

Classical guitarist **Gerardo Perez Capdevila** electrified the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra Sunday evening at the Charlotte Performing Arts Center in Punta Gorda with a virtuoso performance on his six-string acoustical Spanish guitar. Under the baton of CSO maestro Raffaele Ponti, **Capdevila** brought the audience to its feet twice with long, loud applause and shouts of “bravo.”

**Capdevila**, a native of Cuba renowned around the world for his teaching and playing, who now lives in Port Charlotte, captivated first with a stirring rendition of Heitor Villa-Lobos’ “Concerto Guitar & Small Orchestra,” before being brought back by the audience for a rare, mid-concert encore, an up-tempo “El Colibri,” or “The Hummingbird.”

With his fingers moving along the strings literally with the speed of a hummingbird, the ovation was even louder the second time around.

It was the second time for Villa-Lobos and a heralded guest soloist for the orchestra. Last season, it was Villa-Lobos’ “Harmonica Concerto,” with Robert Bonfiglio, which also brought standing ovations.

The concert began with Howard Hanson’s “Symphony No. 5, Sinfonia Sacra,” the American composer’s miniature sacred symphony masterpiece, inspired by the Gospel of John, and the Resurrection of Christ — a passionate, emotional piece, expressing a depth of feeling, without words.

The second half of the program brought Russian pianist and composer Sergei Rachmaninoff’s powerful classic, “Symphonic Dances,” his last and most acclaimed composition.

In three movements featuring rich, lush orchestral colors, Dances covered Russian Church music, a lilting waltz and Spanish dances.

It featured strings, brass and tympani, with a rare trio of oboe, clarinet and saxophone, and a majestic, crescendo close, bringing another standing ovation.

In a post-concert interview, **Capdevila** said it was “so exciting” to appear before his hometown audience. “I had so much emotion. The applause was wonderful. Now they know I’m here.”

He also revealed that his guitar, costing well into four figures, was the product of another Port Charlotte resident recognized around the world, but apparently not well-known here.

He said his guitar was made by 86-year-old Pablo Quintana, who, he said, is the top maker of classical Spanish guitars in the world.

He also expressed concern that in this area electric guitars rule. “It’s a shame,” he said, “that they don’t realize the beauty of a (acoustic) Spanish guitar.”

He was set to entertain the audience in Ponti’s pre-concert 6:30 p.m. lecture Sunday, but technical problems with the stage lighting canceled the lecture, and at one point threatened the concert itself.

Ken Barber, orchestra chairman, said it was “very unfortunate” that the lecture had to be canceled, but he was glad the glitch was repaired in time to allow the concert to go on as scheduled.

The orchestra’s next concert is scheduled for 7:30 p.m., on Sunday, March 8, at the Charlotte Performing Arts Center, 701 Carmalita St., in Punta Gorda. It will feature the music of Johannes Brahms, Claude Debussy, Gustav Mahler and Johann Strauss Jr.

For information, 941-205-9703, or [www.charlottesymphony.com](http://www.charlottesymphony.com).

# Tuning in with guitarist Gerardo Perez Capdevila

Michelle L. Huey, Ruidoso News Published 9:37 p.m. MT Feb. 7, 2017 | Updated 6:48 a.m. MT Feb. 8, 2017



(Photo: Courtesy)

CONNECTTWEETLINKEDINCOMMENTEMAILMORE

Virtuoso; vir·tu·o·so, /vərCHə'wōsō/, noun; a person highly skilled in music or another artistic pursuit.

Synonyms: genius, expert, master, past master, maestro, artist, prodigy, marvel, adept, professional, doyen, veteran.

Anyone around Ruidoso that has heard guitarist Gerardo Perez Capdevila play the guitar can attest the definition fits him to tee. He has performed at various venues in town, but folks can see him, from 6 to 10 p.m. every Friday at Wendell's at Inn of the Mountain Gods.

Born in Guantanamo, Cuba, Perez Capdevila began music studies at eight years old Jose A. under the tutelage of Ramirez, Aldo Rodríguez, Víctor Pellegrini and Jesus Ortega.

Perez Capdevila was always interested in music, but as a youngster he did not lean towards the guitar. Instead, he had a keen interest in learning to play the accordion. Fortunately for us, the school didn't offer that class. After studying music theory for two years, he took to the guitar and the rest is history.

He graduated "Licentiate in Music with Specialization in Guitar." Perez Capdevila studied in master classes with teachers Costas Cotsiolis (Greece), David Russell (Great Britain), Eliot Fisk (United States) and Héctor García (Cuba) the Executive Director of the Emilio Pujol Foundation.

Perez Capdevila left Cuba in 1994 and has traveled to more than 20 countries, even living in Bolivia, Mexico and Germany.

Perez Capdevila earned five national prizes in Cuba, along with seven international prizes in Poland, Germany, Venezuela, Cuba, Mexico, Chile and France. In 1992, in Martinique, he obtained the "First Prize of Composition" with the work "Hemistiquio," for guitar, that he co-authored with Jorge L. Sosa.

Perez Capdevila has performed in the United States and in several countries in Europe. He performed in the world premiere of "Concert for Guitar and Orchestra," by the Spanish composer Carlos Cruz de Castro.

He also recorded the CD "Sedruol," and a segment for the Bolivian movie, "The Day that the Silence Died." In 1997, the periodical "Editorial Música Mundana Maqueda SL," of Madrid, Spain, published "13 Pieces," of the Bolivian

author Willy Claure. In 2001, Perez Capdevila founded the National Festival and Competition of Guitar-Cochabamba-Bolivia.

Before moving to New Mexico, Perez Capdevila and his wife Lourdes and their teenage son lived in Miami, Fla. for five years. Through his teacher and friend, Garcia, who now lives in Albuquerque, Perez Capdevila came to New Mexico and decided to move to Ruidoso. He credits local musician Tomas Vigil with helping him settle in and land the job at Wendell's.

When asked why an accomplished artist such as himself would settle in Ruidoso, Perez Capdevila said living a stress-free life was at the top of his list.

"Sometimes when you get older, you don't want to live in the big city," Perez Capdevila said. "When I moved from Miami, it was because of that."

Missing the ocean and driving in the snow are the draw backs, but simple mountain living and having the ability to do what he loves bring balance to those inconveniences.

"I'm very happy because now I have to do many versions for the guitar and I can compose music, I'm doing that now," he said.

Perez Capdevila has recorded another CD besides "Sedruol" and he plans on recording a fusion instrumental CD featuring his new compositions in the near future. The style will reflect his wide range of talents.

Perez Capdevila also was a teacher and a member of the National School of Music of Havana, Cuba, of the School of Music of Zacatecas's Autonomous University, Mexico, of the Conservatoire Milan, Laredo Institute of Cochabamba, Bolivia and the Miami Conservatory of Music.

His pupils have won more than 20 national prizes and have been accepted in several European's and American's conservatoires.

He still teaches today and offers private tutorials using a classical guitar with nylon strings. His classes focus on classical guitar, but he said once students learn the basics they can branch off into any direction they choose.

"If you have the technique, you can prepare your fingers for all of that, of course, it is better for you as a musician," Perez Capdevila said.

Besides his regular engagement at Wendell's, see Perez Capdevila play for the Lorenzo Pimentel Tribute in Albuquerque Feb. 18 and at 3 p.m. in the Sierra room in Alto Lakes Country Club Feb. 19. Tickets are available at Sacred Grounds Coffee and Tea House.

To learn more about Gerardo Perez Capdevila, visit his website at [gerardoperezcapdevila.com](http://gerardoperezcapdevila.com).



Hear Gerardo Perez Capdevila play at 3 p.m. in the Sierra room in Alto Lakes Country Club Feb. 19. Tickets are available at Sacred Grounds Coffee and Tea House. *(Photo: Courtesy)*

For more information on Gerardo Perez Capdevila, visit [gerardoperezcapdevila.com](http://gerardoperezcapdevila.com) or email him at [gepecap@usa.com](mailto:gepecap@usa.com)



[Home](#) → [Announcement](#) → Gerardo Perez Capdevila

## Gerardo Perez Capdevila

By Stephen Neal Dennis

After the success of Andres Segovia and Carlos Montaya in turning the guitar into a concert instrument, transcribing music by earlier composers into guitar arrangements, and encouraging great composers in the Hispanic world to write new pieces for the instrument, there is now a vast literature for the guitar, both classical and folk. Cuban guitarist GERARDO PEREZ CAPDEVILA, a winner of many international prizes, presented sixteen pieces and one encore at the residence of Romanian ambassador that hinted at the extent of this musical landscape. Capdevila teased his audience, mixing up music by major composers and music by less well-known composers, and avoiding any attempt to put things into a chronological sequence. Of course Ernesto Lecuona's immortal "Malaguena" was one of the three pieces by Lecuona, performed, but perhaps the high point of the evening was Capdevila's performance of Albeniz' "Asturias". There was no commentary from the performer, as the length of the program hardly left room for embellishments. When the great double doors of the dining room were opened after the concert, the Embassy Series audience discovered an immense table covered with marvelous Latin American and Cuban food. During the buffet, an Embassy Series board member encouraged guests to purchase a CD of Capdevila's abilities. Tempted by the opportunity to hear four Scarlatti sonatas performed on the guitar, guest bought most of the cds that were available.

### About This Sidebar

To edit this sidebar, go to admin backend's *Appearance* -> *Widgets* and place widgets into the *BlogSidebar* Widget Area

---

On August 24, 2009 / [Announcement](#)

# Symphony taking stage with Mozart, more



By SALLY VALLONGO | SPECIAL TO THE BLADE

Published on Nov. 5, 2015 | Updated 8:37 a.m.

f SHARE

🐦 TWEET

📌 SHARE

✉ EMAIL

💬 COMMENTS

🖨 PRINT

It's a busy time for the Toledo Symphony, which has concerts, reading sessions, and more in the next two weeks.

The Welltower Mozart & More Series will advance with a 7:30 p.m. concert Nov. 14 in the Franciscan Center of Lourdes University, Sylvania. Musicians will play with no conductor, an annual tradition for one event in this series.

Concertmaster **Kirk Toth** and his assistant, **Tea Prokes**, will take center stage for a performance of Vivaldi's *Two Violin Concerto from La Cetra* to launch the program. First performed in 1727, this sprightly work is part of a dozen violin concerti — the only one for two violins — named for the Cetra, a lyre-like instrument.

Guest guitarist **Gerardo Perez Capdevila** will follow that Italian piece with *Concierto del Sur*, written in 1941 by Manuel Ponce for Spanish guitarist Andres Segovia.

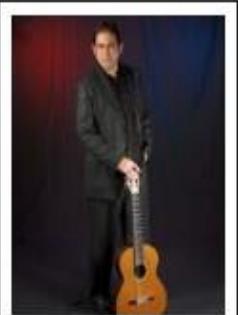
The evening will wrap up with Tchaikovsky's *Serenade for Strings*. The Mozart connection comes in the first movement: what the Russian composer intended to be a musical tribute to the famed Austrian musician. Often, the second movement, a waltz, is performed on its own, but this concert will bring the entire serenade.

Tickets are \$30-\$35 at [419-246-8000](tel:419-246-8000) or [toledosymphony.com](http://toledosymphony.com).

A neighborhood concert is set for 7 p.m. Sunday at St. Pius X Church, 3011 Carskaddon Ave. Guest conductor **Matthew Kraemer** will lead a patriotic program with music by Victor Herbert, John Williams, Samuel Barber, Richard Rodgers, and J.P. Sousa.

Tickets are \$15-\$20 at the parish office 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays or at the door.

In what has become part of the symphony's educational mission, the orchestra will perform works by select Bowling Green State University composition students in a session from 3:30 to 6 p.m. Tuesday in the Moore Musical Arts Center. Conductor Michael Lewanski will be on the podium for this dynamic workshop.



Classical guitarist Gerardo Perez Capdevila will perform with the Toledo Symphony at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 14 at the Franciscan Center of Lourdes University.

[Enlarge](#)

# La guitarra total de Pérez Capdevila

DANIEL FERNANDEZ

El Nuevo Herald

Era la primera actuación en Miami del guitarrista Gerardo Pérez Capdevila, sin embargo, el miércoles en la noche, el Clarke

Recital Hall de la Universidad de Miami se encontraba repleto de entusiastas de este maravilloso instrumento.

Patrocinado por la Escuela de Música de esa institución y por la Fundación Emilio Pujol, el variado programa sirvió para demostrar la extraordinaria técnica y la exquisita sensibilidad de este intérprete cubano que ha ganado distintos premios internacionales y ha tocado con prestigiosas orquestas.

La primera parte comprendió cuatro piezas epitome del barroco. Bach, Giuliani, Aguado, y finalmente, esa obra de majestuosa arquitectura *La catedral*, del maestro

Barrios, que despertó en el público la respuesta más entusiasta hasta ese momento.

Pérez Capdevila supo jugar con los rigores del contrapunto barroco, como sólo un intérprete de larga experiencia y abundante talento puede hacerlo.

Pero si brillante fue la primera parte, no menos fue la segunda. Arrancó con una obra del propio intérprete, *Changes*, que inició una tetralogía de piezas cubanas, en las que figuraron también Rojas, Martín, y el maestro Héctor García, que se encontraba en la sala. Su *Son montuno no. 1*, arrancó largos aplausos.

Cerró la noche una chispeante trilogía de obras españolas, a cuál más difícil y vistosa: *Zapateado*, de Rodrigo; la famosa *Asturias (Leyenda)*, de Albéniz, y una palpitante *Danza de La vida breve*, de Falla, en arreglo del guitarrista, que puso al público de pie en larga ovación.

Este fue el comienzo de Pérez Capdevila en Miami; pero su depurado arte podría llevarlo muy lejos.



GERARDO PEREZ Capdevila, puede llegar muy lejos.