

Dynamic duo visits Merritt

By Heather Thomson

The third time is always a charm.

Even though they have some pretty hard acts to follow, that is bound to be true when it comes to the third concert this season for the Nicola Valley Community Arts Council Concert Committee. This Friday, March 4, they present the Nesrallah-Bolshoy Duo.

The duo is made up of mezzo-soprano Julie Nasrallah and guitarist Daniel Bolshoy, and according to Bolshoy they have a little something to offer everyone.

"We are definitely not your typical uptight, tuxedo wearing classical group," he said. "Although we are two highly trained classical performers, we don't take ourselves very seriously."

Bolshoy said their music is a mix of many influences. Their concert will offer a variety of musical selections that are influenced by world music.

This only makes sense since the pair come from a varied background:

Nasrallah is a first generation Canadian with Lebanese roots. She grew up in Ottawa and received her BA in Music from Carleton University. She then continued on to receive an Artist Diploma – highest distinction in voice. Since graduating she has been active in the Canadian opera scene as well as receiving critical acclaim for numerous solo performances.

Bolshoy came to Canada from Israel. He has since become known as one of Canada's top guitarists, performing at the country's most prestigious venues. He grew up in Ottawa and is now an associate instructor at Indiana University. He teaches guitar performance and lectures on the history and repertoire of this instrument.

Bolshoy said although they both have well established solo careers, they enjoy touring together. He said many people find their style is a reflection of who they are and sends a strong message.

"We draw on our backgrounds," he said. "People



Daniel Bolshoy and Julie Nesrallah

relate to the message we send with our music that music brings so much together."

The concert will start at 7:30 p.m. this Friday at the

Civic Centre.

Because the duo enjoys meeting the audience following their concerts, a reception will be held after their performance.