

# Classical guitarist Bolshoy welcome annual visitor

CLASSICAL guitarist Daniel Bolshoy is becoming a welcome annual visitor to Winnipeg, with his third concert in as many years coming up this Sunday.

The 31-year old Moscow-born, Israel-bred musician will be opening the Women's Musical Club of Winnipeg's eclectic concert series at 2 p.m. at the Winnipeg Art Gallery.

Bolshoy has made a name for himself as a performer, recording artist and teacher, but he is also known and appreciated for his personable approach with his audience. He provides fascinating information about the music he is about to play, giving useful background that enhances the listening experience.

This should be enlightening for students attending Bolshoy's recitals as part of a 2008 outreach tour early next year of schools in the Northwest Territories.

"I'll be doing about 60 concerts," he said in a telephone interview from Montreal, where he teaches at Concordia University.

Bolshoy has come a long way from his early musical days in Israel.

"The reason I started playing guitar is that I thought that girls love boys who



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## Bolshoy: in concert on Sunday

play guitar, like every other guy who ever bought a guitar or tried to learn it."

Bolshoy soon came to love the instrument.

"I was lucky enough to find a great teacher who was a very good classical player, and he opened up the classical music world to me. At the time, I was a student at a special arts and science academy in Jerusalem, a very unique boarding school that combined the teaching of visual arts, music and science... this school was what made me see that a life devoted to music was a worthwhile dream."

In 1993, Bolshoy moved with his family to Ottawa, where he finished high

school. He then pursued undergraduate studies at the University of Toronto with Norbert Kraft and Eli Kassner. He spent an additional nine years in the U.S., obtaining his doctorate at the University of Denver where his mentor was guitarist, composer and award-winning lecturer Ricardo Iznaola.

Bolshoy now performs in festivals across Canada, has toured under the auspices of Prairie Debut, Debut Atlantic and Musique Royale, and appears on four CD recordings. His new recording, *McGillicuddy's Rant*, is scheduled for release next month.

The multilingual Bolshoy (he speaks five languages) has selected a program of "pieces that are not always played and that I really like."

A highlight of the afternoon will no doubt be *McGillicuddy's Rant*, a theme and 10 variations for solo guitar by Newfoundland and Labrador composer Clark Ross. Written over a span of more than two decades, its variations have intriguing titles such as Bluesy, Arabesque, Nostalgic and Bluegrass. Bolshoy explained that it contains influences from many guitar cultures. "It's really worth getting excited about," he said. Bolshoy is the first to record this work.

Tickets for the recital are \$25 and are available at McNally Robinson Book-sellers or at the door (cash or cheque only). Student tickets are just \$5 and are only sold at the door.