

# **Liberty University School of Music**

*presents*

## ***Student Recital Series***

### **Senior Recital**

**Felipe Alvarez, *guitar***

**May 7, 2026  
Oldham Recital Hall  
MUSIC 170  
5:00 PM**

# STUDENT RECITAL SERIES: SENIOR RECITAL

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Felipe Alvarez, *guitar*

## *Program*

Orion	Jonas Mollberg (b. 1964)
Minuet in C Major, Op. 25	Fernando Sor (1778-1839)
Guardame Las Vacas	Luis de Narvaez (1500-1552)
Study No. 6	Fernando Sor (1778-1839)
Brindis Por Pierrot	Jaime Roos (b. 1953)
Samba de uma Nota Só	Antônio Carlos Jobim (1927-1994)
Prof. Jon Werking, <i>piano</i> Ian Blythe, <i>bass</i> Charlie Vandemark, <i>drums</i>	
Smile Meditation	Woody Goss
Armando's Rhumba	Chick Corea (1941-2021)
My Favorite Things	Oscar Hammerstein II (1895-1960) Richard Rodgers (1902-1979)
Lamb	Chris Brown (b. 1981) Steven Furtick (b. 1980) Tiffany Hudson (b. 1995)

Marlee Lawhon, *voice*

## - PROGRAM NOTES -

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### **Orion**

Jonas Mollberg's Orion is a gentle, atmospheric fingerstyle guitar piece inspired by the calm and expansiveness of the night sky. Built on flowing arpeggios and a clear, singing melody, the music creates a sense of quiet motion—like watching stars drift across a dark horizon. Its simplicity is intentional: Mollberg uses open harmonies and spacious phrasing to evoke stillness, clarity, and the subtle beauty of the Orion constellation. The result is a short, reflective work that invites listeners into a moment of calm.

### **Minuet in C**

This elegant minuet by Fernando Sor reflects the grace and balance of Classical-era dance music. With its clear phrasing and light, lyrical character, the piece emphasizes simplicity, refinement, and charm. It captures the poised style of the minuet while showcasing Sor's expressive writing for the guitar.

### **Guardame Las Vacas**

Guárdame las Vacas is a Renaissance-era set of variations based on a well-known Spanish melody, often attributed to Luys de Narváez. The piece features a repeating harmonic pattern with increasingly ornamented variations, showcasing both elegance and technical skill. Its graceful character reflects the expressive style of early Spanish music.

### **Study No 6**

Fernando Sor's Study No. 6 is a classical guitar etude that emphasizes smooth arpeggios, balanced voicing, and melodic clarity. Though brief and technically approachable, it requires careful control of tone and phrasing to shape the musical line. The study reflects Sor's blend of technical development and elegant classical expression.

### **Brindis Por Pierrot**

"Brindis por Pierrot" by Jaime Roos is, in essence, a song about the passage of time, nostalgia, and identity.

The lyrics function as a "toast"—not a festive one, but a reflective one—directed toward a past that no longer exists. The narrator looks back and recalls a period of his life associated with carnival, youth, and idealism—symbolically represented by Pierrot, the sad clown. This character embodies someone who dreamed, who believed, but who ultimately had to confront reality.

## - PROGRAM NOTES -

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### *Brindis Por Pierrot (cont.)*

The song deals primarily with:

1. The loss of innocence: the beliefs and feelings held in youth are no longer the same.
2. The inevitable passage of time: life stages change, people change, and there is no turning back.
3. Nostalgia for the carnival and \*murga\* culture: viewed not merely as a celebration, but as a way of life and a form of collective expression in Uruguay.
4. Personal reflection: there is a kind of internal dialogue, as if the present were speaking to the past.

It is not a sad song in the simple sense; rather, it is melancholic and contemplative. It acknowledges that there were dreams that went unfulfilled or were left behind, yet it also honors them. That is the meaning of the “toast”: raising a glass to what once was, without denying what is now.

### **Samba de uma Nota Só (One Note Samba)**

One Note Samba is a bossa nova classic by Antônio Carlos Jobim that playfully explores the idea of building a melody around a single repeated note. Beneath its simplicity, the piece features rich harmonic movement and rhythmic sophistication characteristic of Brazilian jazz. The result is a light, catchy tune that highlights both creativity and groove within a minimal melodic idea.

### **Smile Meditation**

“Smile Meditation” by Vulfpeck is a relaxed, groove-focused track that showcases the band’s unique minimalist funk style. It relies on tight rhythmic interactions and gentle melodic shifts, emphasizing feel, space, and repetition instead of complexity. This creates a soothing, hypnotic vibe that draws the listener into a calm, groove-driven “meditation.”

### **Armando’s Rhumba**

Armando's Rhumba by Chick Corea is a lively Latin jazz piece dedicated to Chick Corea’s father. The composition mixes Afro-Cuban rhythms with vibrant jazz harmonies, resulting in a joyful and rhythm-focused atmosphere. Its energetic syncopation, changing accents, and playful improvisational parts celebrate Latin musical tradition while showcasing rhythmic precision and creativity.

## - PROGRAM NOTES -

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### **My Favorite Things**

My Favorite Things is a popular song from The Sound of Music that became a jazz classic thanks to John Coltrane's famous version. Centered on a waltz rhythm, the piece turns simple, familiar melodies into a modal journey filled with rhythmic energy and room for improvisation. Its repeating structure and minor key provide performers with a solid base for creative expression while keeping its catchy, lyrical quality.

### **Lamb**

Lamb by Elevation Worship is a reflective modern worship song focused on Christ's sacrifice, gentleness, and kingship. The piece starts with quiet reverence and grows into a powerful declaration. It uses rich harmonies and soaring melodies to convey both humility and triumph. The lyrics emphasize Jesus as the Lamb who removes sin and the One deserving of all honor. Musically, the song mixes intimate worship with cinematic intensity, creating a sense of awe that invites listeners to reflect and praise.

I want to thank all of you for taking time to come to my Senior Recital. It means a lot to me and I am grateful for all of you. I want to thank my family for supporting me these last 4 years. You guys have done much more than I can ever repay or give thanks for and I love you all so much. I want to thank Dr. Neto for his instruction during my time here. I have learned so much and am so thankful for all the lessons and moments spent together. I would like to thank Prof. Werking, Charlie, Ian, and Marlee for pushing me as a musician and for agreeing to play some fun tunes with me. Lastly but most importantly, I want to thank the Lord for placing these incredible people in my life and for His faithfulness in my life.



Felipe Alvarez is a student of Dr. Leon Neto.

*This recital is presented in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Bachelor of Music in Worship Leadership degree.*

**We would like to thank the  
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Dr. Dondi Costin, President  
Dr. Scott Hicks, Provost and Chief Academic Officer  
Dr. Stephen Müller, Dean, School of Music  
The School of Music Administration, Faculty, and Staff

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