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**Duo LiveOak Performs New Songs of Frank Wallace**



**High resolution PHOTOGRAPHS of Duo LiveOak may be downloaded at:**

<http://www.duoliveoak.com/publicity.htm>

**PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT**

Duo LiveOak (Nancy Knowles, soprano, poet, and Frank Wallace, guitar, lute, baritone, composer) will be performing on \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ in a program called **Woman of the Water**, which features new works of Frank Wallace as well as renaissance songs from Spain and Italy. The duo's performance is part of an East Coast tour celebrating the release of two new CDs. Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ For more information, please call \_\_\_\_\_ Stephen Greisgraber of **Guitar Review** calls Wallace's works "*a brilliant collection of new repertoire performed with equal amounts of grace, sensitivity and virtuosity*".

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Duo LiveOak Performs New Songs of Frank Wallace**

*"Meet Frank Wallace. He composes, sings, plays a formidable classical guitar and lute, and produces exquisite-sounding recordings. And Nancy Knowles. She sings, writes*

*poems, makes photographs... Together, they perform as Duo LiveOak and their new CD called **Woman of the Water** (songs written by Frank) is terrific. Their repertory spans the ages from medieval to contemporary, often featuring Wallace's own works..."*

Jerry Bowles, **Sequenza 21**, January 2004

Duo LiveOak (Nancy Knowles, soprano, poet, and Frank Wallace, guitar, lute, baritone, composer) will be performing on \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ in a program called **Woman of the Water**, which features new works for guitar, lute and voices by Frank Wallace, (from their new CD on the Gyre label of the same name) as well as renaissance songs from Spain and Italy. Seasoned musicians who perform with passion and grace, the duo's concert is part of an East Coast tour celebrating the release of two new CDs. Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ For more information, please call \_\_\_\_\_. Stephen Greisgraber of **Guitar Review** calls Wallace's works "*a brilliant collection of new repertoire performed with equal amounts of grace, sensitivity and virtuosity*".

If you close your eyes when listening to Duo LiveOak, you would never guess it is an ensemble of only two people, given the complexity of the music and the versatility of the performers. Passionate about the tonal and expressive powers of the ensemble of voices and plucked strings, Frank Wallace is creating an exciting new repertoire for guitar, lute and voices that synthesizes influences from many times and places into a single eloquent voice. In the songwriting tradition of Dowland, Schubert and Britten, Wallace weaves great poetry with musical threads that include medieval song, the blues and avant garde in a "user-friendly" contemporary music that defies labeling. But one thing is for sure: you will walk away from the concert humming his tunes and you will take the program home to savor the poetry, which features the Pulitzer Prize-winning poetry of Theodore Roethke.

The "live oak" is an evergreen oak known for its strength and long life, a symbol of new life since ancient times: in Catalan the word for the live oak is made into a verb, *alzinarse*, meaning to revitalize. Duo LiveOak made its name in medieval and renaissance music in the 1980's and 1990's. A set of Spanish and Italian renaissance

songs opens the **Woman of the Water** concert. Wallace and Knowles have toured widely throughout the U.S. and Europe since 1976, performing at festivals such as the Holland Festival, the Regensburg Festival, Música en Compostela, the Boston Early Music Festival, and the Barcelona Festival. LiveOak has recorded for Titanic, Centaur, Musical Heritage Society, and most recently, Gyre. If you can't make it to the concert, their CDs and editions of Frank Wallace's music are available online at [www.duoliveoak.com](http://www.duoliveoak.com).

**Frank Wallace's** works for guitar, lute and voice are the fruit of a colorful career in music that has been most unusual in his generation of guitarists. Wallace has distinguished himself not only as a dynamic soloist and accompanist on classical and romantic guitars, but he is also recognized as a leading player of the *vihuela de mano* and lute. Possibly his most astounding skill is as a master of self-accompanied song, singing and playing the solo songs of renaissance Italy and Spain, Elizabethan England Schubert and his own works with equal attention to the subtleties of melody, words, and accompaniments. As an outstanding young classical guitarist from San Francisco Conservatory in the 70's, Wallace joined the guitar faculty at New England Conservatory, while also studying early music with Marleen Montgomery. In the early 80's, he began full-time performance of medieval and renaissance music with LiveOak and Company. He began composing in the late 1990s. **Frank Wallace, *his own new works*** (Gyre 10012), Wallace's debut recording of his own compositions, won him a 2001 Artist Fellowship grant from the Arts Council of New Hampshire. In 2003 Gyre Publications launched an ambitious publishing project, Frank Wallace Editions. Most of Wallace's compositions are now available in print as part of this series. Each edition is exquisite, featuring high quality printings of Wallace's works, with Nancy Knowles' art photographs on the covers.

Aside from the beauty of her voice, audiences and critics comment most about **Nancy Knowles'** engaging presence on stage. Listening to her sing, it comes as no surprise that she's a poet and natural linguist, given her obvious passion for the words, both their meaning and the emotional colors conveyed by their sound. Whether as a singer, poet, visual artist or teacher, a grace and a playfulness emerge in her work as a result of the

counterpoint of her technique and her down-to-earth humor. Going against the tide of overspecialization, Knowles' multiple talents and art forms enrich each other. As a soprano Knowles performs concerts of contemporary and renaissance repertoire as Duo LiveOak with guitarist/baritone/composer Frank Wallace. Knowles also occasionally performs her own solo shows, dramatic works combining her original masks and poetry with unaccompanied songs from many traditions. Her latest solo production is a theatrical memoir called **The House of Fools**, which debuted in 2002.

As Robert Margo wrote in the Boston Classical Society Newsletter, November 2002: this promises to be a concert not to be missed: *“[LiveOak] gave a superb concert...If you have a chance to hear LiveOak...don't miss them. They are fully the equal of any of the best chamber ensembles active today. Wallace has developed a formidable compositional palette that incorporates influences from early music to the latest avant-garde techniques.”*