

## Romancing the Guitar

It has been quite a ride for husband and wife guitarists, Ruth and Richard Lenz, since they came together as Duo Lenz, professional classical guitar duo. Not only have they toured Europe several times, they also released their first CD in 2001. They have premiered several new works written for classical guitar duet, appearing in the Darwin International Classical Guitar Festival and in many of Perth's most foremost concert series.

Now Duo Lenz is expanding their repertoire by including historic instruments into their performances. Late last year Ruth and Richard commissioned Perth Luthier, Simon Ravis Hermann, to build them copies of two French guitars originating from the 19th Century. For this project both Simon and Richard have done extensive research to create replicas of two Early Romantic Guitars originally made by René Lacôte in Paris in 1839. René François Lacôte (1785-1855) was the most well-known French guitar builder of his time. Lacôte resided in Paris and his guitars were played by F.Sor, D.Aguado, N.Coste, F.Carulli and many other guitarists at the time.



These guitars will be part of the duo's future recitals and will, next to their modern Paul Sheridan classical guitars, be featured for the first time in their June recitals. Future recitals and lecture demonstrations will also include the Vihuela de Mano and Baroque Guitar. Duo Lenz will start recording their second album in July this year, containing a selection from the extensive early romantic repertoire written for two guitars.

Besides including these early instruments in their recitals the duo also has some exciting new works on their programmes for their forthcoming recitals. They will be premiering two new works for Classical Guitar Duet by C.Karlberg, Sweden and C.Reeves, Australia and have contacted Richard Charlton for a third composition.

Image:

Simon Ravis Hermann at work in his Guitar Workshop (Fremantle, Perth, Western Australia).