

# **SHARON ISBIN: Christopher Rouse *Concert de Gaudí*, Tan Dun *Concerto for Guitar & Orchestra (Yi2)***

**Sharon Isbin, guitarist; Gulbenkian Orchestra; Muhai Tang, conductor (TELDEC 8573-81830-2)**  
World Premiere Recording of concerti written for GRAMMY Award winner Sharon Isbin

## **GRAMMY Award Winner:**

'Best Classical Contemporary Composition' for Christopher Rouse *Concert de Gaudí for Guitar & Orchestra*

### **Billboard's 'Top Classical Album' chart**

"If Sharon Isbin won a Grammy this year, then she deserves a Nobel for this recording of two terrific new guitar concertos, written for her and played with gripping persuasiveness. [Rouse's] middle movement has a lyricism that is about as compulsively memorable as the beloved middle movement of Rodrigo's *Concierto de Aranjuez*. [Yi2] is full of dramatic gestures, with beautiful moments of ethereal lyricism.... Teldec adds the immediacy of stunning recorded sound."  
**Los Angeles Times**

"Spectacular....the most remarkable work yet written for guitar and orchestra. No superlative would be excessive in describing Sharon Isbin's performances in this vivid recording. Her work on behalf of the guitar's present and future remains unparalleled, a continuation of that of Segovia and Bream in earlier decades, supported by skill, musicality, dedication and seemingly boundless energy."  
**Gramophone**

"Astonishing, spectacular and fascinating....Isbin's playing is incisive and vibrant, dynamic and committed, and she is given superb accompaniment by the Gulbenkian Orchestra of Lisbon."  
**American Record Guide**

"Both are immediately accessible pieces....Tan Dun is a master of atmosphere. His concerto is a brooding evocation of the shamanistic funeral rites of his native Hunan, with a fiery touch of flamenco."  
**The New Yorker**

"Fascinating in discovering a musical territory where Spain and China are near neighbors....Big flamenco flourishes with swatches of bright, romantic orchestral color....A panoply of whispering percussion, against which the guitar notes play like the splash of a waterfall in a Chinese garden."  
**New York Times**

"Sharon Isbin has equal measures of razzle-dazzle and admirable yearnings for the new. *Yi2* is quirky and tuneful, invigorating in its cross-cultural approach. Rouse's concerto should enter the repertoire. The CD is worth hearing for his serene slow movement alone."  
**Atlanta Journal**

"Fascinating and remarkable....The combination of Tan Dun's moody multinationalism and Rouse's spirited sonic spires makes this a potent disc. Isbin's virtuosity shines."  
**The Baltimore Sun**

"[Tan Dun's] hints of Chinese folk music are part of a vast sonic tapestry...it makes for an arresting experience. Isbin is a riveting soloist."  
**San Francisco Chronicle**

"Both are masterful scores, moving the genre of the guitar concerto forward artfully and personally into the new millennium. Evocative, soulful, and with a remarkable sense of ritual, timelessness and community, *Yi2* conveys both a universal sense of loss and remembrance. Rouse's concerto creates a sacred tableau, pivoting in mood and color as the music shimmers in the ear. Inspired by Spanish architect Antoni Gaudí, he uses unexpected twists, bends and exotic colors to shape the work in fascinating ways...the most worthy successor to Rodrigo's *Aranjuez*."  
**Tucson Citizen**

"Both Rouse and Tan harness their formidable technical facility to create effective showpieces for Isbin's virtuosity."  
**Time Out**

"A better balance of music, performance and engineering would be hard to imagine."  
**Newark Star-Ledger**