SHARON ISBIN, GUITAR, AND ISABEL LEONARD, MEZZO-SOPRANO, SHARE SPAIN’S MUSICAL PANTHEON

Two greats, in guitar and in voice, unite. Sharon Isbin and Isabel Leonard will perform in the Wisconsin Union Theater Saturday, March 21, 2015 at 8 p.m. in Shannon Hall in a recital of Spain's musical pantheon. This concert is co-sponsored by Madison Opera. Purchase tickets online or call the Box Office at 608-265-ARTS (2787). Tickets can also be purchased at either Vilas Hall (entrance on East Campus Mall, 821 University Avenue) or the box office in the Wisconsin Union Theater. Ticket prices are as follows. General Public: $50, $25; Wisconsin Union Members & Non UW-Madison Students: $44; UW-Madison Faculty & Staff: $46; UW-Madison Student (with ID): $10.

The magnificent program includes Federico Lorca’s Canciones españolas antiguas, Enrique Granados’ Spanish Dance No. 5, Isaac Albéniz’s Asturias, Joaquin Rodrigo’s Aranjuez ma pensée, selections from Xavier Montsalvatge’s Cinco canciones negras, Francisco Tárrega’s Recuerdos de la Alhambra, and Falla’s Siete canciones populares españolas.
Isbin and Leonard have been performing together since the 2014 Aspen Music Festival. Future concerts include an appearance at the Kennedy Center, and this fall they will perform the world premiere of a new work by Richard Danielpour co-commissioned for them by Chicago’s Harris Theater and Carnegie Hall.

Hailed as “the pre-eminent guitarist of our time” and winner of multiple GRAMMY awards, Sharon Isbin is the subject of an exciting one-hour documentary presented by American Public Television for broadcast on nearly 200 public television stations throughout the US and viewed by millions to date. Sharon Isbin: Troubadour paints the portrait of a trailblazing performer and teacher who over the course of her career has broken through numerous barriers to rise to the top of a traditionally male-dominated field.

Isbin has performed with over 170 orchestras in some of the greatest performance spaces around the world as well as at the televised Ground Zero memorial on September 11, 2002. Other notable performances include a concert at the White House for President Obama and the First Lady and a 2010 GRAMMY Award performance. Her nearly 30 recordings span the Baroque, Spanish, Latin, 20th century and jazz genres. When she’s not dazzling audiences in performance, Isbin also wears the hat of director of guitar programs at the Juilliard School and the Aspen Music Festival.

Passion and vocal beauty come together in the likes of Leonard, a woman experienced in opera and the concert stage. Her career has taken her to the Metropolitan Opera, Vienna State Opera, Paris Opera, Bavarian State Opera and the Lyric Opera of Chicago, among various stages. The Cleveland Orchestra, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Boston Symphony Orchestra and the Vienna Philharmonic, among others.

“The beauty of her voice is well-documented,” according to a New York Classical Review of her recent leading role in Rossini’s “Il Barbiere di Siviglia” at the Metropolitan Opera. “Leonard is a captivating actress, bringing a natural, charming playfulness to the stage. Her voice, nimble and colorful, is wonderfully suited to this rep.”

These performances are presented by the Wisconsin Union Theater’s Performing Arts Committee and supported in part by a grant from the Wisconsin Arts Board with funds form the state of Wisconsin and the National Endowment for the Arts. Media sponsor is WORT 89.9 FM.