

A painting of a Native American man in traditional dress, including a blue long-sleeved shirt, yellow breeches, and a dark hat, playing a fiddle. He is seated on a rock, looking upwards. In the background, other figures are visible, including a man in a wide-brimmed hat on the left and two women in dark clothing on the right. The scene is set against a dark, cloudy sky.

Return to the Dance

New compositions
for an old instrument

by Michelle Nelson



Guitars and dance go together like two sides of a coin; from the Spanish guitarists of old to the Rock era and on to the Pop world of the 21st Century.

As a guitarist I have innately understood this connection. As a composer I have often mused on how modern art-music strayed so far from mainstream taste during the 20th Century. Perhaps the best way for it to re-connect in the new digital world is by a return to the dance.

Michelle Nelson

For more information, please visit
www.michellenelson.com.au

A special thanks to sound engineer Vaughan McAlley and the staff at Move Records.



Return to the Dance

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|----|------------|------|
| 1. | I Danza | 2'44 |
| 2. | II Minuet | 1'45 |
| 3. | III Return | 1'43 |

The Guitarist's Bach: 'Hommage à JS Bach'

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|----|---------------|------|
| 4. | I Prelude | 3'06 |
| 5. | II Courante | 1'42 |
| 6. | III Sarabande | 1'48 |
| 7. | IV Bouree | 1'04 |
| 8. | V Gigue | 2'01 |

Ice Crystals

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|-----|---------------------|------|
| 9. | I | 2'01 |
| 10. | II | 1'33 |
| 11. | III | 2'39 |
| 12. | IV | 1'54 |
| 13. | V | 2'43 |
| 14. | <i>Platypus Rag</i> | 1'48 |

Dances for the New World

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|-----|-------------------------------------|------|
| 15. | New Volta | 2'39 |
| 16. | Rock 'n Rolan: Hommage à Marc Bolan | 2'03 |
| 17. | Mirage | 3'02 |
| 18. | <i>Return to the Dance IV</i> | 4'38 |

Total playing time 41 minutes
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Return to the Dance

A homage to the 5-string 18th Century Spanish Baroque guitar, *á la* Gaspar Sanz and Santiago de Murcia. Bongos & Mark-tree chimes: Mark Murphy.

The Guitarist's Bach

A new work for EADGBE guitar in the style of JS Bach's Lute Suites. Constructed around three short phrases from those revered works, this new suite won the 2013 Composition prize Homage to JS Bach sponsored by the Australian Bach Society & the Classical Guitar Society of Victoria.

Ice Crystals

Inspired by the brilliant inner world of ice. Exploring space and time through harmony, some of it slow-moving, some as rapid bursts of colour.

Platypus Rag

Ragtime for two related instruments; Guitar and Taropatch; a double-strung Ukelele descended from the small Portuguese guitars introduced to Hawaii, via South America in the 19th Century. Taropatch: Lesley Gentilin.

Dances for the New World

New Volta; a dance in common time with a distinct jump on the 1st beat. Rock 'n Rolan (Hommage à Marc Bolan); ode to a 1970's Rock hero. Mirage; an ecstatic dance featuring the Lydian #4th; (very Jimmy P.)

Return to the Dance IV

Trance-dance, electro-acoustic treatment of Return to the Dance I. Classical Guitar, Yamaha SLG200N (silent guitar), Moog Filter and various other effects. Sound engineer: Richie Brain.

Cover image:
El Majo de la guitarra
by Francisco Goya (1780).



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