

# Platero and I

Gideon & Jacob Cordover

In their first collaboration, Australian brothers Jacob and Gideon Cordover come together to present an unforgettable adaptation of *Platero and I*, the touching Andalusian Elegy by Nobel prize laureate Juan Ramón Jiménez. Their performances, for classical guitar and narrator, present a selection of Italian composer Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco's musical setting of the original Jiménez prose-poems. Castelnuovo-Tedesco's music playfully enriches the narrator's words with vivid and evocative detail, philosophically examining life and death, culture and nature, through the eyes of a man and his beloved donkey, Platero.

Since graduating from NIDA in 2010, Gideon has won Best Actor at the Griffin Theatre's 24 Hour Play Offs and performed in over eighty theatres across Australia, the United States and Canada with tours of Tim Winton's *The Bugalugs Bum Thief* and Jackie French's *Hitler's Daughter* for Monkeybaa Theatre Company. Gideon also appeared in the series 3 finale of *Rescue Special Ops* on Channel 9. Gideon recently performed at *Music By The Sea* on Vancouver Island, accompanying musicians as a narrator.

Currently residing in Barcelona, Spain, Jacob is recognized as one of the finest classical guitarists of his generation. With a truly international career, his "consummate artistry" (Adelaide Advertiser) continues to entice audiences in over a dozen countries across four continents. Jacob has appeared as soloist with the Las Colinas Symphony, the Arlington Symphony, the Garland Symphony, the *Orquestra Simfònica de Balears "Ciutat de Palma"* and the *Orchestra dell'Accademia l'Ottocento*. Aside from his solo performances he is an active chamber musician performing regularly with his ensembles the Australian Guitar Duo (with Rupert Boyd) and Zoco Duo (with Laura Karney, oboe) as well as numerous collaborations with string quartets, singers, cello and piano.

During university, Gideon, a trained gymnast, worked with *Legs On The Wall* and was directed by John Sheedy in *Hamlet*, Darren Gilshenan in *Accidental Death of an Anarchist* and Lee Lewis in *After Dinner*. Gideon received a classical theatre training in Shakespeare, Chekov and Brecht from specialists such as Richard Cottrell, Egil Kipste and Peter Kleinert and received screen tutelage from experts including Helmut Bakaitis, Nicholas Bishop, Les Chantery, Felix Williamson and Leon Ford.

As a recording artist, Mr. Cordover has released two solo CDs to much critical acclaim; *Stélé* (independent release, 2004) was hailed by *Classical Guitar Magazine* (UK) as "wonderfully sympathetic and highly accomplished... Cordover managing to get to the very soul of this striking and brilliant music." His most recent solo release *Blackwattle Caprices* (Cala Records, 2013) received the following review in the *American Record Guide* "His technique is flawless. His expression tasteful and always interesting and moving." Mr. Cordover has also released two CDs with his long standing chamber ensembles; *Songs from the Forest*, (independent release, 2012) the debut CD from the Australian Guitar Duo and *Historias* (Cala Records, 2014) the debut CD from Zoco Duo. As well as receiving rave reviews, all of his CDs have been broadcast on radio stations in Asia, North America and Australia.

Aside from acting, Gideon has hosted a breakfast show on 2RSR 88.9fm in Sydney and worked as the Communications Coordinator for *Dying with Dignity NSW*. He is currently on the national executive of the Voluntary Euthanasia Party, campaigning for the rights of the terminally ill. His story has been featured on *Hack* (Triple J), *One Plus One* (ABC 24), *Stateline NSW* (ABC), and *Can of Worms* (Channel 10). Gideon sits on the Australian Broadcasting Corporation's Advisory Council and is a proud member of the Media and Entertainment Arts Alliance.

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