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Press Release/for immediate release
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Joe Mayes, Guitarist, Lutist, archlutist
former student of the world famous Spanish Guitarist, Segovia,
to Perform Benefit for Access to Art in Cape May
Sun. Oct. 30th, 2011 at 3:30 p.m.

Cape May. Joseph Mayes will perform a benefit lute, archlute and classical guitar concert on Oct. 30th, Sunday afternoon at 3:30 p.m. at Cape May United Methodist Church, 635 Washington St., Cape May for Access to Art, Inc. The benefit scheduled to raise money for the Cape May Renaissance Festival, features Renaissance as well as modern music, and presents the lute, archlute and classical guitar. Joseph Mayes met one of the seminal teachers of guitar at a pension benefit at the Philadelphia Orchestra, where famed conductor Eugene Ormandy introduced him to the Spanish guitar master of the classical guitar, Segovia.

How did his career begin? "I got a seven dollar guitar when I was nine.," Mayes said. "I taught myself for awhile. I studied with Robert Carroll a viola player in the Boston symphony. My father played in the Boston Symphony. Later, he was first cello with the Philadelphia Orchestra. I studied with Peter Colonna at the Settlement Music School in Philadelphia. It's a very old and famous community music school in Philadelphia. Colonna taught many famous guitarists from Philadelphia. It was in 1963-4. I was about 20. Then I went into the army. It was difficult to study the guitar in the army. I smuggled my guitar into basic training." Mayes said.

"I met Segovia through Eugene Ormandy. He introduced me to him. My father was first cello in the Philadelphia Orchestra. I asked Segovia if I could play for him, and he said yes. Then, after my audition, he invited me to come and study with him in Spain. I had just gotten out of the army and had no money at all. I told him that. He arranged for me to get a full scholarship from the government of Spain. I spent a summer there, taking classes, with about 12 other people from across the world. We were taking master

classes in the northern Spanish city of Santiago de Compostela., site of many pilgrimages in the Middle Ages. Then, later, I went to the Philadelphia Musical Academy, now the University of the Arts." I studied there and taught at other colleges including Muhlenberg, Moravian and Cedar Crest in Allentown, a girl's school. Again, I returned to Spain in '77, when I studied with Segovia again." Mayes said.

How was it studying with a famous 20th century master of the guitar? "Nervous making." he replied. "You wanted him to call on you in class, and then you didn't. He was very demanding. He wanted it his way. You went there to get it his way, so you did it. He did not give you a lot of leeway. That's what I do when I teach. You pass it on. Segovia was an absolute gentleman, sort of an aristocrat." Mayes said. He had, in fact, been knighted in Spain.

Segovia is credited with taking the guitar back from the Spanish flamenco players and granting it respectability as not just a parlor instrument, but a serious concert instrument of evocative depth of interpretation. Many famous composers wrote for him including Heiter Villa Lobos.

Asked about his duo partner in the Mayes Duo, and wife, Kathleen, who studied with a student of Segovia, he said. "Kathleen graduated in 1980 from Rowan and she and I started playing in the same early music group in 1988. I taught her at Rowan. In 1997, we married and started the Mayes Duo after that. Asked about his favorite Renaissance musician, he replied "John Dowland. Dowland was very popular during his life, slipped into decline after his death, and is being enjoyed by musicians now who are transcribing his works for other instruments." Mayes said.

"I began building guitars about 10 years ago. I did a couple of workshops with famous luthiers like Kenny Hill and Gregg Byers. They taught me to build guitars." Mayes said. "I've played in four or five old music groups over the years. We played recently as the house band for the Collingswood Shakespeare Company. I am working with Rich Carroll from Rowan to start up another band," he said.

Mayes holds degrees in guitar from Thomas Edison College and Shenandoah University. He has performed at prestigious venues in the U.S. (Carnegie Recital Hall) and in Europe (the Wigmore Hall, London). Since 1972, he has been on the faculty at Rowan University where he teaches Guitar, lute, vihuela and mandolin.

Tickets are \$20. for adults and \$15. for seniors and students. Proceeds benefit the Cape May Renaissance Festival scheduled for October 2012. Call Access to Art, Inc. at (609) 465-3963 or 609-425-9601. Tickets will be available at the door and group rates of ten or more are discounted.