

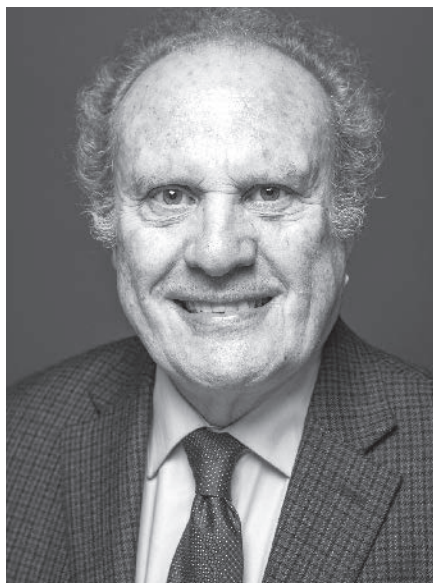
ERNESTO BITETTI

Charles Webb, dean emeritus of the IU Jacobs School of Music, wrote when describing Ernesto Bitetti: “Mr. Bitetti exemplifies the great stature of the artists/teachers we seek in order to attract the very best students from throughout the world.” And so in the fall of 1989, Ernesto joined the faculty as a visiting professor. He was appointed as professor of music (guitar) in 1991. Thus began his long tenure with the Jacobs School.

Ernesto’s first experience at Indiana University came in 1981 with an invitation from Professor Janos Starker to perform in a recital. In 1988, Dean Charles Webb met Ernesto at a festival in Caracas, Venezuela, and invited him to come and establish the Guitar Department at Indiana University. As professor and chair, Ernesto has built a department where students come to study from countries all over the world including Canada, Mexico, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Panama, Puerto Rico, Argentina, Chile, Peru, Ecuador, Brazil, Columbia, Norway, Bosnia, Serbia, Bulgaria, Italy, Ukraine, Taiwan, South Korea, and Australia.

Ernesto Bitetti was born in Rosario, Argentina. Although Ernesto lived in Rosario, his first studies were at the Universidad Nacional de Litoral in Santa Fe, Argentina, a hundred miles away from his hometown. He traveled several times per week back and forth to Santa Fe just so he could attend classes at the university. His first travels to Europe came when he was only 15. His guitar teachers from Argentina invited him to travel with them while they were on a European tour. They saw the great potential in his talent and wanted him to experience what a life as a concert guitarist might entail. Ernesto had another passion at this age: he was a very strong table tennis player, placing third at the National Argentinian Table Tennis competition.

When Ernesto and his family agreed that he should study and pursue guitar as a career (he started out in engineering), he fully committed to his studies. After



graduation from the Universidad Nacional de Litoral, he traveled to Madrid for the first time to try his luck. He had an opportunity to play on television for five minutes and was spotted by a famous manager, who offered him a recording contract for Hispavox and subsequently his first recording: Rodrigo’s *Concerto de Aranjuez*, and Tedesco’s *Concerto in D*.

His concert performances have extended to the five continents, in famous venues such as the Bolshoi (St. Petersburg, Russia), Metropolitan Festival (Tokyo), Concertgebouw (Amsterdam), Lincoln Center (New York), Pleyel (Paris), Teatro Colon (Buenos Aires), Musikverein (Vienna), Queen Elizabeth Hall (London), Town Hall (Sydney), Teatro Real (Madrid), City Hall (Manila), Opera (Rome), Tchaikovsky (Moscow), Kennedy Center (Washington, D.C.), Gulbenkian (Lisbon), Herkulesaal (Munich), and many others.

Ernesto has been invited by the most prestigious chamber orchestras, such as the English Chamber, Prague Chamber, Zagreb Soloists, Munich Chamber, I Solisti Italiani, I Solisti Aquilani, Camerata Bern, Northern Sinfonia, and Israel Chamber. He has also played with the symphony orchestras in London, Munich, Liverpool,

The Hague, Jerusalem, Osaka, Sydney, Netherlands, St. Louis, Hamburg, Suisse Romande, BBC, Stuttgart, Peru, Chile, Bogota, Manila, and Buenos Aires, as well as all the principal Spanish orchestras. He performed at the Gala of Spanish Television in the presence of the King and Queen of Spain.

Composers of great stature including Rodrigo, Torroba, Tedesco, Duarte, Abril, Gilardino, Piazzolla, de los Rios, and Marco have written and dedicated pieces or concerts for Ernesto Bitetti.

His numerous recordings on labels such as Hispavox, EMI, VOX, ERATO, and Deutsche Grammophon have been distributed all over the world, receiving the Records National Prize in Spain (1979, 1985). In 1983 his TV program, “Bitetti from the Aranjuez Palace,” won the International Television Prize in Prague. In 1986 he recorded his first CD for EMI International with the London Philharmonia Orchestra, *Rodrigo: Aranjuez, Fantasia for a Gentleman*.

Ernesto was recognized in 1998 with the Teaching Excellence Recognition Award. Many of his students have gone on to win international competitions and are now teaching in institutions all over the world.

We have shared Ernesto with his beloved city of Madrid, Spain. We are happy to report that he will remain in Bloomington for some time, where he and his wife, Graciela, look forward to his retirement. We know he will continue his love for music, but this will also give him more time with one of his other great loves—football (or better known as soccer in the United States).

Petar Jankovic