

Press Release

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An Evening with Pierre Bensusan

With guest performances from
Forward Motion Dance Company

Two Shows Only! 3 pm and 7:30 pm March 7, 2020

Hannah Block Community Arts Center
120 South 2nd Street
Wilmington, NC 28401



Ticket price \$21 in advance - \$25 day of show and are available by clicking [here](#).

After a three year sabbatical, French-Algerian acoustic guitar virtuoso, vocalist and composer Pierre Bensusan returns to North America to play nearly 100 shows, presenting the music of his new album *Azwan*, as well as his new book and brand new Lowden Guitar Artist Model. He opens his tour with two shows in Wilmington and is collaborating with Forward Motion Dance Company and choreographer Tracey Varga to bring the art of dance together with his unique and inspired sound.

Pierre Bensusan, surnamed "Mister DADGAD," has taken his unique sound to all corners of the globe. Winner of the Independent Music Awards for his triple live album *Encore*, voted Best World Music guitarist by Guitar Player Magazine reader's Poll, and winner of the Rose d'Or at the Montreux Festival for his debut album, Pierre is recognized as one of the greatest guitar players of the 21st century.

Born in Oran, French-Algeria, in 1957, when France was decolonizing its Empire, Pierre Bensusan's family moved to Paris when he was 4. He began formal studies on piano at the age 7 and at 11 taught himself guitar. Influenced in those early days by the folk revival blooming in Britain, France and North America, Bensusan began first to explore his own diverse musical heritage and then moved to the horizons beyond. He signed his first recording contract at 17, and one year later his first album, *Près de Paris*, won the *Grand Prix du Disque* upon his debut at the Montreux Festival in Switzerland. Described by the L.A. Times as "one of the most unique and brilliant acoustic guitar veterans in the world music scene today," Pierre's name became synonymous with contemporary acoustic guitar genius, long before the terms New Age or World Music were invented. He has literally created a style of playing with the ability to make a single guitar sound like an entire band as he brings the audience on a

mesmerizing musical journey. And yet, Bensusan is more than what any musician or music lover expects from a guitarist. He is a composer as well as a bilingual and original and improvisational vocalist, with his own scat technique.

Immortalized by the tune “Bensusan” written in tribute by the late Michael Hedges, and referenced as an important inspiration to many other great musicians, Pierre Bensusan is a one-of-a-kind artist whose music transcends genre and time, with an uninhibited sense of musical freedom and expression, a sense of something both playful and serious, otherworldly yet right here right now. His manner of playing defies classification - crossing world, classical, jazz, traditional, folk, pop and more. None can be isolated as simply World Music, Celtic, Arabic or French; rather, they represent Pierre’s genuine vocabulary and the best part of our world in its current state, a world sharing itself.



These special tour-opening performances with guests Forward Motion Dance Company are not to be missed!

An Evening with Pierre Bensusan is sponsored by Forward Motion Dance Company. For more information, please visit us on Facebook or at www.forwardmotiondance.org.

Find out more about Pierre at:

<http://www.pierrebensusan.com>

<https://www.instagram.com/pierrebensusan/>

<http://www.facebook.com/pierrebensusan>

<https://twitter.com/pbensusan>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/bensusanhq>