

## THE RAW AND THE COOKED

STEPHEN GOSS: *The Raw and the Cooked*. TRADITIONAL: *Wild Mountain Thyme*. SIR PETER MAXWELL DAVIES: *Farewell to Stromness*. MANUEL DE FALLA: *The Miller's Dance; Dance from 'La Vida Breve'*. ANTONIO VIVALDI: *Concerto for Lute RV93*. ERIK SATIE: *Gnossienne No. 1*. HAYLEY SAVAGE: *Dodecaphonica*. ZEQUINHA DE ABREU: *Tico Tico*.

### Albach Duo

Available from:

www.rebeccabaulch.net/albach.html  
This disc couples together guitarists Rebecca Baulch and David Black who perform as a partnership under the name of the Albach Duo.

From the opening notes of Stephen Goss's very entertaining 12-movement *The Raw and the Cooked* we know we are in safe hands, these two players exude musicianship and technical ability and it must be said that there is not one low point in the entire programme. Their ensemble playing is exceptional and they manage to introduce new life into standards such as the Falla, Vivaldi and even the Satie.

Whether it be a piece for orchestra, piano, guitar or whatever, any new composition by the highly talented English guitarist/composer Hayley Savage (Rebecca Baulch's colleague, along with Amanda Cook, in the Appassionata Trio) is to be eagerly anticipated and *Dodecaphonica*, receiving its first recording here, does not disappoint. Inspired by the composer's recent interest in Eastern music, this is an absorbing, engrossing, very skilful bit of writing and the duo do full justice to a piece which, for me, is the absolute highlight of the programme. Here is a new work for two guitars which most definitely deserves exposure.

The whole package is well-presented, well-recorded, well-played and comes with informative sleeve notes. An excellent production all round.

Steve Marsh

## SOLILOQUIM

FRANGIZ ALI-ZADE: *Phantasie*. SERGIO ASSAD: *Farewell*. ATANAS OURKOUZOUNOV: *Contes des Balkans*. HENRI

SAUGUET: *Soliloque*. SOFIA GUBAIDULINA: *Serenade*. STEPAN RAK: *Nocturne; Farewell Finland*.

### Esteban Colucci

Available from:

estebancolucci@hotmail.com

Born in Buenos Aires, Argentina in 1979, Esteban Colucci began playing the guitar at the age of five and after his initial studies entered the Conservatorio Manuel de Falla where he became a student of Victor Villadangos and Javier Bravo.

His forte seems to be in the field of contemporary music as this CD and his previous recording (works by Rak, M. D. Pujol, Guastavino, Castelnuovo-Tedesco) testify to, and it must said that he seems completely comfortable with this style of music.

Colucci begins the recording with the lengthy *Phantasie* by Ali-Zade, a bleakly-gripping affair with an underlying sense of the macabre and concludes his programme with the even longer dramatic epic, *Farewell Finland* by the unique Stepan Rak.

Coming in between is the beautifully evocative Sergio Assad composition, *Farewell; Contes des Balkans* by the Bulgarian composer Atanas Ourkouzounov, a two-part work beginning with a desolate *Adagio* followed by a dance-like movement; the *Soliloque* by Henri Sauguet a piece composed in memory of Manuel de Falla as a homage; a further reflective composition by the Russian composer Sofia Gubaidulina; and finally a beautiful *Nocturne* serving to illustrate Stepan Rak's more sensitive and romantic nature.

For a, presumably, self-financed project this is a brave affair and Esteban Colucci must be congratulated upon his choice of material and his magnificent interpretation of these, mostly, difficult works.

Steve Marsh

## STRICTLY LATIN

A. BARDI: *Gallo Ciego*. L. BROUWER: *El Decameron Negro*. B. POWELL/V. de MORAES: *Valsa Sem Nome; Samba em Preludio*. H. ANGULO: *Cantos Yoruba de Cuba*. N. LIMA: *Sonata No. 2*. V. E. SOJO: *Endecha; Galeron*. TRADITIONAL: *Cerrito de Huajsapata; Arriba Los Panuelos*.

### Amanda Cook

Available from:

www.amandacook.co.uk

With a lineage behind her including studies with Charles Ramirez, Jakob Lindberg, Gary Ryan and Ben Verdery, as well as winning several competitions, having a number of compositions dedicated to her (including the Natalicio Lima work on this album) and appearing alongside Juan Martin and Martin Taylor on the album 'The Guitar Collection - vol. 1', one can feel pretty sure that any recording released by Amanda Cook has more than a fighting chance of being a good one; and *Strictly Latin* does not fail to meet that level. In fact I would go so far as to put on record that this album is at least the best, if not the best I've reviewed in this 'Private Release' part of the magazine since its inauguration.

Presenting guitar works of the standard of difficulty and complexity as the one on this recording, one takes for granted that the player has the technical ability to cope; what one does not take for granted is the *musicianship* needed to put across this music to the listener in a convincing fashion. Needless to say, Cook has it all; there is some magnificently sensitive playing when needed sitting alongside the dramatic pyrotechnics required at other times.

All told, this is a wonderful new release and a most recommended addition to your recording collection.

Steve Marsh

## PORTRAIT

EMILIO PUJOL: *Tonadilla; Tango; Guajira*. MAURO GIULIANI: *Gran Sonata Eroica op.150*. HEITOR VILLA-LOBOS: *Five Preludes*. JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH: *Fugue BWV1001*. DIETRICH WAGNER: *Intermezzo*.

### James Grace

Billed as one of South Africa's leading concert guitarists, James Grace studied at the RCM with Carlos Bonell where he was the first guitarist to receive the Tagore Gold Medal and has also been awarded first prizes in two South African competitions. On the strength of this, his second recording, he is a highly gifted performer with a strong technique, an excellent tone and a good sense of