Gapplegate Classical-Modern Music Review

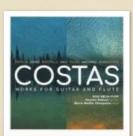


Modern classical and avant garde concert music of the 20th and 21st centuries forms the primary focus of this blog. It is hoped that through the discussions a picture will emerge of modern music, its heritage, and what it means for us.

Search

Sunday, November 25, 2018

Duo Beija-Flor, Costas, Works for Guitar and Flute



NOTE: Given the huge amount of worthwhile music I receive, I sometimes find there are not enough hours in the day to cover all of what I would like. So today I introduce the MINI-Review Series, a review of something I feel is very worthwhile yet I cannot cover in-depth due to time running out! In this kind of review I provide a sentence or two about the music and why I feel it is worth hearing and having.

First up is Costas, Works for Guitar and Flute by the Duo Beija-Flor (Big Round 8953). The idea here is that this Duo gives us a very nice series of compositions, sometimes in new arrangements, from composers of the Atlantic coasts, music from Europe, specifically Spain and Portugal, and the Spanish-Portuguese Diaspora in Latin and South America. Charles Hobson on guitar and Marie-Noelle Choquette on flute are both excellent artists and it is a pleasure to hear them bring to life some well-known and lesser-known works by DeFalla, Assad, Piazzolla, Saul, Ellias, Machado and Robinovitch. Very nice! A feast for the ears.

Posted by Grego Applegate Edwards at 10:20 AM

About the Blog

Grego Applegate Edwards's Classical-Modern Music Review blogsite covers recent releases or re-issues of recordings that feature classical and concert music, primarily of the 20th and 21st Centuries, but earlier music as well when warranted. All styles of relevance will be addressed from Late-Romantic and Neo-Romantic through High-Modern, Avant Garde and Post-Modern styles. Chamber

music, orchestral, choral, operatic, and electronic forms will be considered as well as music that combines a classical element with one or more other stylistic elements. Earlier periods will get coverage when a release has something to say to us. Both established and unfamiliar composers will get attention. All content copyright 2007-18 by Grego Applegate Edwards.

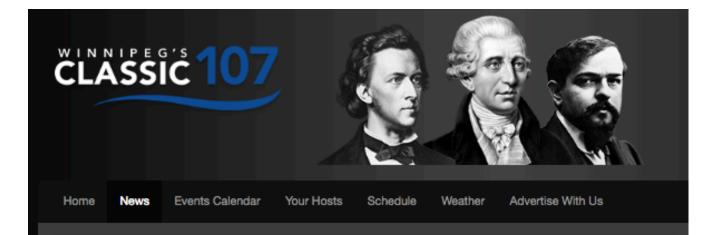
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Gapplegate Guitar and Bass Blog Gapplegate Music Review (Jazz, Art Rock, World, Blues)

Blog Archive

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News

November Classical Recording Of The Month With McNally Robinson Booksellers

Written by Michael Wolch Published: 05 November 2018

Duo Beija-Flor: Costas, is our Classical Recording of the Month with Mcnally Robinson Booksellers. Some warm weather music just in time for the cold month ahead.

Montreal-based Duo Beija-Flor explores the Spanish and Portuguese influence on classical music with COSTAS, their vibrant debut for Big Round Records. Charles Hobson (guitar) and Marie-Noëlle Choquette (flute) form a highly expressive, versatile duo that is a force to be reckoned with.

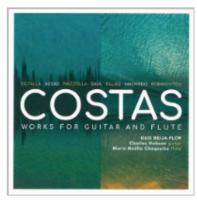
The twenty-two tracks on COSTAS appear to be bite-sized, but not only do they span a vast repertoire, they also pack a powerful punch individually. When Astor Piazzolla's only non-tango piece (Escualo) is contrasted with traditional Spanish folk songs (Siete Canciones Españolas) and motion picture soundtracks (Summer Garden Suite), it's not far-fetched to call this selection eclectic. All the more astounding, then, is Duo Beija-Flor's ability to tie this diverse program together, making it sound as if these pieces had always gone hand in hand.

Occasionally, experimental elements are allowed in and incorporated into the flow of the album, such as the temporary, modernist dissonance in Boulevard San Jorge or the jazz harmonies in Havana Street Parade. And naturally, mirroring the dualist nature of the set-up, contrasts abound, not only in instrumental timbre and dynamics, but also in the music's character: Thus, the cheerful sweetness of Pé de Moleque and Quebra Quiexo (both aptly performed according to their title referencing Brazilian candy) is abruptly cut short by two dramatic fados pondering nothing less than the value of life.

COSTAS attractively meanders between the light-footed and the profound, and the album's finale, Four Sephardic Songs, by Winnipeg composer Sid Robinovitch, forms a majestic and evocative conclusion to an hour of music that is as vivacious, colorful and multi-faceted as the performing duo itself.



The Whole Note, Toronto, October 30th 2018



Costas – Works for Guitar and Flute
Duo Beija-Flor
Big Round Records BR8953 (bigroundrecoreds.com)

The days of November are increasingly colder and grayer, so what better way to dispel any pre-winter gloom than a flute and guitar duo performing music with a strong Mediterranean focus. The Montreal-based Duo Beija-Flor – guitarist Charles Hobson and flutist Marie-Noëlle Choquette – began playing together during their student days at Concordia University and officially became a duo in 2010. Since then, they have performed throughout Canada, the United States and

Argentina.

This disc, titled *Costas* – referring to the Latin coastlines of the Atlantic – is a delight, featuring music by such diverse composers as Manuel de Falla, Astor Piazzolla, Celso Machado and Roddy Ellias. What is particularly striking from the very beginning is the wide variety achieved with respect to style, mood and tempo within a thoughtfully chosen program.

De Falla's set of *Seven Spanish Folksongs* was originally arranged for soprano and piano in 1914 and this transcription is particularly convincing. Less familiar is Celso Machado's languorous *Quebra Queixo*. Machado, a world music guitarist now based in Vancouver, wrote the piece in homage to a popular Brazilian candy!

Not all works on *Costas* are by Hispanic composers. Roddy Ellias is a Canadian performer and composer whose piece *Havana Street Parade* was especially commissioned by the duo. Its quirky and syncopated rhythms are an intriguing blend of jazz and Latin elements, performed with much aplomb.

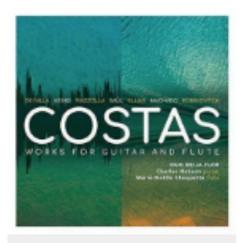
Throughout the disc, the addition of extraneous effects – percussive tapping on the guitar and the sound of wind created by the flute – further heightens the listening experience. Infectious rhythms, a diverse program and superb playing by both performers make this CD ideal not only for a cool gray day but any time of year – highly recommended.

CLASSICAL

Duo Belja-Flor

Costas (Big Round Records)

The Montreal-based Duo Belja-Flor, which includes classical guitarist Charles Hobson and flutist Marie-Noëlle Choquette, perform Latin-flavoured works by composers from both sides of the Atlantic, including Winnipeg's Sid Robinovitch, in this new release.



More traditional fare includes the duo's own arrangements of Plazzolla's Escualo, teeming with crisply executed syncopated rhythms, as well as the moodler, lyrical Oblivion, which features Choquette's effective flutter tonguing. De Falla's Siete Canciones Populares Españolas becomes an ideal showcase for the couple's virtuosity, with the fifth piece Nana, a traditional Andalusian lullaby heard sung by the composer's mother a souful highlight. Also offered

are their arrangements of traditional songs Voleu a Pena and Lisboa é sempre Lisboa.

Robinovitch's Four Sephardic Songs encapsulates four imaginative worlds that includes flute flourishes and a colourful textural palette in the guitar accompaniment, displayed throughout each tuneful movement, with the last one, Alta, Alta Es la Luna, particularly compelling with its driving ostinato pattern.

Other highlights include Sergio Assad's Summer Garden Suite, evoking the sounds of Rio, while Roddy Ellias's funkler Havana Street Parade, written especially for the ensemble features effective flute multiphonics performed over Jazzy chords. Another contemporary offering is Narciso Saul's Boulevard San Jorge, while Celso Machado's two works named after Brazilian candles: Quebra Queixo and Pé de Moleque becomes a sweet treat for listeners who like their music hot. **** *1/2 stars



Manuel de Falla: Siete Cancioñes (I – El Paño Moruno; II – Seguidilla Murciana; III – Asturiana; IV – Jota; V – Nana; VI – Canción; VII – Polo); Sergio Assad: Summer Garden Sulte (I – Opening; II – Summer Garden; III – Farewell); Astor Piazzolla: Escualo; Oblivion; Narsico Saùl: Boulevard San Jorge; Roddy Ellias: Havana Street Parade; Celso Machado: Pé de Moleque; Quebra Queixo; Dios Fados I – Moniz Pereira: Valeu a Pena; Dios Fados II – Artur Joaquim de Almeida Ribeiro: Lisboa é Sempre Lisboa; Sid Robinovitch: Four Sephardic Songs (I – La Roas; II – El Rey; III – La Reinal; IV – Alta, Alta es la Luna) Duo Beija-Flor – Charles Hobson: (g); Marie-Noelle Choquëtte: (fl)

The guitar and flute is more likely to co-exist in a chamber ensemble than a symphonic orchestral context and in both one is often almost oblivious of their relationship because music hardly ever brings the timbre of their instruments together. So Duo Belja-Flor – with guitarist Charles Hobson and Marie-Noelle Choquëtte – is quite a rarity. The repertoire on Costas – Works for Guitar and Flute makes this Montréal duo a must to listen to for the aficionado of great music. The virtuoso mastery of the instruments locked together in an interminable dance of music, the notes of which seem to leap off the page and dally in the rarefied atmosphere of the listening room, or dance and gambol in a mad rush of excitement (depending on what work is being played)... all of this makes the naked beauty of this recording absolutely spectacular.

One is not likely to miss – even at first glance – the highly intelligent manner in which the repertoire has been chosen. De Falla, Assad, Machado, Saùl, Ellias and Robinovitch.

Nothing is here but for the greater glory of music – in this case the guitar-flute duet performance. As melodies unravel, each aflutter with diaphanous splendor, a moving feast of music unfolds as imagery and emotions melt into one another from one song – or section of the song – to the next. The "Siete Cancioñes" of Manuel de Falla set the tone for the record with their plethora of emotions being unveiled by the lissome phrases of Marie-Noelle Choquëtte's flute and Charles Hobson's guitar. The duo plays the music unwrapping each statuesque melody as if revealing some delightful mystery for the listener to grasp with their ears with great expectation.

There's a wholly natural feeling to the way the climaxes and sudden changes of tempi, mood and direction of "Siete Cancioñes" are so perfectly judged in this performance. This is a measure of how well guitarist and flutist know the work(s). From the perfumed heaviness of the opening song to the rapturous (guitar and flute) arabesques of the last song, a richly mysterious mood is beautifully sustained. Sergio Assad's music "Garden Suite" is perfectly awash with water colours and thus completely in tune with the Japanese film for which the music was created. Duo Beija-Flor plays this work with an intensely theatrical feel and is able to do justice to the passionate outpourings of emotion with a rare perfection.

· Buy this album on amazon.com

In the works by Celso Machado both guitarist and flutist prove to be absolute masters of Brasilian repertoire of the modern era and their sparkling account of both works is impeccable. The rhythmic buoyancy and contrapuntal vigour of these great works are always to the fore. Likewise Beija-Flor has shown that they are subsumed by the Portuguese "fados" which they have expertly arranged for this disc. The sparkling effervescence of Roddy Ellias' Cuban comparsa "Havana Street Parade" is breathtaking in the burnished tone of the flute as well as the thrilling virtuosity of the guitar. And just as Miss Choquëtte brings all of the momentum and inner drama of the flute to the fore with absolute refinement, so also does Mr Hobson deploy the full grandeur of his instrument, with the range of harmonics from pizzicato to technique exotica such as "nut-side sizzle", "nail-sizzle" and "bi-tone tapping" – plus a battery of percussion possibilities. And all of this magic is carried through right unto the "Four Sephardic Songs" of Sid Robinovitch right at the end of this glorious disc.

Released - 2018 Label - BIG Round Runtime - 1:08:43



Manuel de Falla, Piazzolia et Sergio Assad. des œuvres phares de compositeurs tel que Costas – Works for Guitar and Flute offrira bientôt

Charles Hobson a commencé ses études risés à entrer dans le monde de la musique.

Classiques à la Jacobs School of Music de l'IndiaQuant à Marie-Noëlle Choquette, elle est Yeomans [140], chemin bord du lac) à Dorval. 105 na University. Ses maîtres ont été le guitariste diplômée des universités Concordia et de paradulte et 55 (6 à 12 ans.) gratuit 5 ans et moins. **FEUILLES DE ROUTE**

siteur Italien Nuccio D'Angelo. argentin Ernesto Bitetti et le guitariste-compo-Après avoir obtenu un baccalauréat en

Hampshire, les deux musiciens ont lancé leurs deux premiers albums, Muzica (2011) et Envol américaine Big Round Records du New

Un troisième opus aux inspirations latines,

possède un studio d'étudiants privés. avec son duo, il est professeur de musique et musique, il a poursuivi ses études à Montréal. Charles Hobson est l'un des artisans de Tout en faisant des tournées de spectacle

la version francophone du programme El Sistema, Montréal, conçu pour aider les enfants défavo-

> Denis Bluteau de l'Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal, Guy Vanasse de l'Orchestre Métropolitain, Claire Guimond de l'ensemble Arion et Sophie Larivière de l'Ensemble Montréal. Elle a appris des plus grands, dont

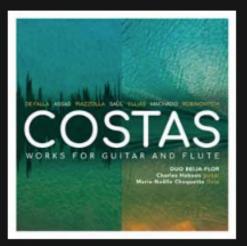
citée comme spécialiste de flûte pour plusieurs écoles de la région de Montréal. Pédagogue accomplie, elle est souvent solli-

EXPOSITION

et les mots L'histoire

animée par la journaliste et auteure Mona semaine Le Moulin à histoires. Cette activité, Musée de Lachine a pensé à offrir cette fin de ournées de la culture de cette année, le Avec la thématique «Les mots» des

CLASSICAL MUSIC REVIEW



Costas: Works for Guitar and Flute

Composers: Various Performed by: Duo Belja-Flor Label: Big Round Records bigroundrecords.com RRP: £13.99

BR8953 608410873100

Release Date: 14 September 2018

Montreal-based ethno-classical Duo Beija-Flor explores the Spanish and Portuguese influence on classical music with Costas, their vibrant debut for Big Round Records. Charles Hobson (guitar) and Marie-Noëlle Choquette (flute) deliver 22 tracks (1 hr, 08 min). Astor Piazzolla's only non-tango piece ("Escualo") is contrasted with traditional Spanish folk songs ("Siete Canciones Españolas") and motion picture soundtracks ("Summer Garden Suite"), it's not far-fetched to call this selection eclectic. All the more astounding, then, is Duo Belja-Flor's ability to tie this diverse program together, making it sound as if these pieces had always gone hand in hand...

Duo Beija-Flor's Costas: Works for Guitar and Flute works on so many levels, simply because the duo show that they can turn their hand to just about anything. There's conventional classical music mixed with experimental pieces; familiar intertwined with originality.

At times Charles Hobson (guitar) and Marie-Noëlle Choquette (flute) seem to be spontaneously riffing off one another. The performances feel fresh and ad-libbed rather than familiar piece that they've been practicing for an age.

Depending on your mood you'll constantly evolve which tracks are your favourite. Although, right from the first play through, 'Summer Garden Suite - 2. Summer Garden' was a standout highlight.

This is an engaging and vibrant album that is hard not to fall in love with.

Darren Rea

INFODAD.COM: Family-Focused Reviews

At INFODAD, we rank everything we review with plus signs, on a scale from one (+) [disappointing] to four (++++) [definitely worth considering]. We mostly review (+++) or better items. Very rarely, we give an exceptional item a fifth plus. We are independent reviewers and, as parents, want to help families learn which books, music, and computer-related items we and our children love...or hate. INFODAD is a service of TransCentury Communications, Inc., Fort Myers, Florida, infodad@gmail.com.

Genre mixing is the heart and soul of an entire new CD featuring Duo Beija-Flor and released on the Big Round Records label. Instrumental mixing is a significant element here as well: the disc is an intriguing example of the way flute and guitar, both usually thought of as being among the gentler instruments, can move into new sound realms when combined and played off against one another. Charles Hobson and Marie-Noëlle Choquette directly describe their music-making as "ethno-classical," and that is a clue to this disc even before a listener hears anything on it. Some of the music is well-known (although not in the form arranged by the performers); so are some of the composers; other material will likely be wholly new to almost all listeners; but everything is designed to reflect Hobson's and Choquette's interest in songs, rhythms and harmonies from various regions. At the same time, both performers expand and extend their instruments' techniques in ways that are recognizably contemporary, frequently using the underlying gentleness associated with guitar and flute only as backdrop while taking matters into sonic realms beyond what the audience will likely anticipate. The many moods of Manuel de Falla's well-known Siete Canciones Populares Españolas open the CD in suitably variegated fashion, giving the performers plenty of chances to display their virtuosity and flair for instrumental color. What follows is Summer Garden Suite by Sergio Assad - the music is from the soundtrack to a Japanese film but reflects impressions of South America. There are two arrangements here of works by Astor Piazzolla: Escualo (Piazzolla's only non-tango composition) and Oblivion. And there is the tango-inspired Boulevard San Jorge by Narciso Saúl. Next is Havana Street Parade, written for Duo Beija-Flor by Roddy Elias and taking good advantage of the performers' abilities to handle jazz rhythms and changing dynamics. Even more interesting are two contrasting pieces by Celso Machado, based on two Brazilian candies: Pé de Molegue, which starts by using the guitar's body as a percussion instrument, and Quebra Quiexo, a slower and more flavorful offering. The CD concludes with two sets of songs without words. Machado's Dois Fados presents two updated versions of old songs sung by sailors during long voyages - the first quietly melancholic, the second opening wistfully before becoming more upbeat. Finally, Sid Robinovitch's Four Sephardic Songs offers arrangements of songs that tell specific stories. Only listeners who recognize the songs will get the full flavor of this piece - others will simply hear the first song as sad, the second as bright and dancelike, the third as quiet and thoughtful, the fourth as moderately paced, with the flute weaving rhythmic changes above a guitar ostinato. Given the skill of the performers, there is enjoyment to be had here even for those who do not know anything about the songs whose feelings Hobson and Choquette are bringing forth.

Midwest Record

Entertainment

Reviews, news, and views

sure fingered pros makes it a winner throughout. edges of the Atlantic---from both sides of the pond. A classy duo of classical/world beat as this duo tackles the works of the Latin market cocktail hour. Putting this festive music in the hands of these recital set, this is great stuff to have handy when it's time for an up COSTAS/Works for Guitar and Flute: In which we enter the nu genre (Big Round 8953)

xanga

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Music by Dennis Kam →

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Reviewing great classical and film music



September 26, 2018

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Big Round Records 8953 Total Time: 68:12 cording: ****/****

(Charles Hobson, guitar. Marie Noelle Choquette, flute) Costas: Works for Guitar and Flute

Duo Beija-Flor

The Montreal-based Duo Beija Flor explores a variety of music with Spanish and Latin flavor in this new collection of pieces for flute and guitar. Many are unique transcriptions made by the duo.

a beautiful "Summer Garden" before we bid "Farewell." from the only score he has written today for the Japanese film Natsu No Iwa (1994). The three movements explore Rio de Janeiro from its sights and sounds. The "Opening" begins our journey with a stop for Manuel de Falla's popular Siete Canciones Populaires Espanolas (1914), originally for soprano and piano, loses nothing in this this delightful traversal that makes them feel far more "original" to their source material than one might otherwise have expected. The melodic content is beautiful and the various folk rhythms and dances provide contrast to the more lyrical movements. Fun rhythmic techniques on the flute help provide some nice contrast as well. The second of the three multi-movement works on the album is by the renown Brazilian guitarist, Sergio Assad (b. 1932). His Summer Garden Suite is derived

against an intriguing melody. A couple of "sweets" inspired the two pieces by Brazilian Celso Machado (b. 1953). Pe de Moleque is a delightful samba while Quebra Quiexo slows things down for contrast. Two first for Narcisco Saul's (b. 1957) Boulevard San Jorge taking its inspiration from the tango. Then it's off for the Havana Street Parade by Canadian composer Roddy Elias whose music infuses jazz harmonies Eight shorter works fill out the central portion of the program. It begins with two works by the Argentinean, Astor Piazzolla (1921-1992). A candombe rhythm is used to depict the Escualo (shark) of the title which is a rare non-tango work by the composer. The popular "Oblivion" from his score for Henry IV (1984) follows. Two street scenes bring us to other parts of Latin America. We move over to Buenos Aires more reflective askance. We are off to Portugal for the following Lisboa e sempre Lisboa. fados follow. These are forms with roots in 19th Century Portugal and were often songs with topics of a more melancholic nature. Today the topics may vary. Valeu a Pena is more like the forms origin with a

The diaspora of Jews into Europe landed many in Portugal and Spain where a distinct quality of Sephardic songs developed. The album concludes with four of these arranged by Sid Robinovitch

picture. A truly wonderful discovery for those looking for a lighter musical experience. This is a really wonderful collection of music that engages the listener with its melodic inventiveness and delightful rhythmic explorations. The performances are equally fine and well-balanced here in the sound

THE INSIDE STORY: Duo Beija-Flor and COSTAS



With their unique brand of ethno-classical music, Duo Beija-Flor presents a varied repertoire of works inspired by traditional and folkloric music from around the world. Guitarist Charles Hobson and flutist Marie-Noëlle Choquette began to perform together while in the midst of their graduate studies at Concordia University in Montreal. In 2010, they officially formed Duo Beija-Flor. Since then, they have performed concerts throughout Canada, the United States, and Argentina. Their first two albums, *Muzica* (2013) and *Envol* (2011), were released to much critical acclaim. Their unique combination of world and contemporary classical music has led the duo to be invited on several TV and radio programs (Radio-Canada, CIBL, Global TV, TVCK, Cogeco TV, etc.).

Hailed by San Francisco's Flute Talk magazine as "...an incredibly dynamic and creative team," the duo has arranged several pieces so as to create a more personal style. With the addition of their tireless research to find works from lesser known composers that follow the duo's style, Duo Beija-Flor has created a classical flute and guitar duo that breaks the mold.

Today, the Duo is our featured artist in "The Inside Story," a blog series exploring the inner workings and personalities of our artists. In this unique interview, the two artists give both individual responses and shared impressions on questions regarding their musical past and the experience of creating this album. Read on to learn about the rocky road Marie-Noëlle took to discovering her passion in music, and about the time Charles dislocated his kneecap in the middle of a show...

What was your most unusual performance, or the most embarrassing thing that happened to you during a performance?

Marie-Noëlle: Hah! A few years ago, we were performing for a prestigious concert series, and between two pieces I took a big sip of water. We started to play the next piece and I suddenly felt a bubble trying to come out. I did my best to keep it in, but during a breath, it just came out. Fortunately, I don't think people in the audience heard it, but Charles asked me at the end of the concert, "did you burp?" and I had to admit that yeah, I burped in the middle of a piece!

Charles: My most embarrassing performance came during high school while playing in my rock band. We really liked to give a good show and did a lot of jumping around on stage. Well, one day while thrashing around I dislocated my knee cap! My tendons forced my leg to collapse and propelled me back into the drum set! My fall was so well timed with the end of a song that many people thought that it was part of the show. Needless to say, it wasn't planned. I finished the show sitting in a chair and then went straight to the ER.

When did you realize that you wanted to be an artist?

Charles: I grew up always drawing, reading, or playing music, but I never considered the arts to be a possible job. As a teenager, I started to realize that there were several avenues of making a living as an artist. First I wanted to be a band director, then I kicked around the idea of becoming a recording engineer. Later, I realized that I didn't want to just show people how to play music or record others performing — I wanted to be the one doing the playing. Once I went to college, I started to really focus on becoming a guitarist, with the desire to become an artist.

Marie-Noëlle: I have always loved the arts and nature. I went on canoe trips every summer and took flute lessons and did arts and crafts during the school year. My first dream job was to be a geologist. I dreamed of a continuous camping trip finding beautiful rocks during the day and playing music in my tent at night. However, during an internship with a geologist, I understood that geologists spend most of their time in a lab looking into a microscope. It totally burst my bubble! After that my focus switched to music. It is the only thing I have continued since my childhood. I auditioned for college and soon discovered I was perfectly made for it.

What does this album mean to you personally?

To us, it means the culmination of 5 years of hard work. We arranged a lot of the works for the album. We even traveled to Buenos Aires to polish our tango arrangements by bathing ourselves in the culture and by studying with two tango music masters. Beyond our arrangements, the album also features two pieces that had never been previously recorded. It can be quite intimidating but also exhilarating to be the first to record something, and this was the case for the piece that Roddy Ellias wrote for us, *Havana Street Parade*, and also the piece *4 Sephardic Songs* by Sid Robinovitch. While the songs weren't written for us, we were the first to record them in their entirety. Both composers have had positive reactions to hearing their pieces recorded and we can imagine that it is as much of a thrill for them as it is for us. All of this with the fact that it's our first album with a label and distribution, COSTAS marks a real pivotal point for our duo and it is something that we will cherish for years.

If you could spend creative time anywhere in the world, where would it be and why?

Marie-Noëlle: Nature is what inspires me the most. That being said, I would go anywhere where it is summer all year long! Somewhere where there are plenty of fresh fruits, beautiful landscapes, and water nearby to swim in!

Charles: Spain for me! I'd love to not only get away from our Canadian winters but also to dive into the heart of the guitar. It would be almost like a pilgrimage. To be in the presence of the guitar's beginnings, where the great luthiers sculpted the first modern guitars; to walk the same streets and eat in the same cafés as composers like Isaac Albéniz, Enrique Granados, and Manuel de Falla to name a few, would be greatly inspiring.

What was your favorite musical moment on the album?

Charles: For me, it was listening to the playback right after we recorded de Falla's Siete Canciones Populares Españoles. I first heard the work while I was in my undergrad and I immediately fell in love with the piece. I must have listened to it a million times in the span of a year! When we started this project, it was a must to include it on the album. Once I got a chance to hear myself playing it, it was surreal!

Marie-Noëlle: I really enjoyed the whole recording process, but my favorite pieces on the album are the Summer Garden Suite, the two pieces by Piazzolla, Oblivion and Escualo, and Narcio Saul's Boulevard San Jorge. I was also really excited to hear all of our arrangements that are on the album — it's the first album where we have so many of them.

Is there a specific feeling that you would like communicated to audiences in this work?

We hope that we have communicated the immense pleasure that we had while recording the pieces, as well as their immense beauty. Also, in showcasing classical music with Latin roots from both sides of the Atlantic, we wanted to show that there is much more to Latin music than just the samba and flamenco. Those are great styles and you'll find them on the album; however, there are so many great composers and styles to discover that we had a hard time deciding who and what to include on the CD. This album just touches the surface of what is out there! We're hoping that it will push a few people to look into some of the lesser known styles.

We also wanted to show and share that classical music can be accessible to anyone! We did this by mixing new repertoire as well as employing a different approach to playing the standard repertoire. There is a lot of personality in our way of interpreting music, and we think that musicians should feel free to express music in the way that they feel it. We want to show performers that it is possible to have personality without having to sacrifice the composers' intentions.

Jam avec Celso Machado à Vancouver, février 2017



The guitar connection: flute and guitar concert

Duo Beija-Flor

Jan DeGrass / Arts & Entertainment Writer FEBRUARY 9, 2017 10:37 AM



Duo Beija-Flor performs in concert at Living Faith Lutheran Church in Davis Bay at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 12.

When the flute and guitar duo of Beija-Flor perform in Davis Bay on Feb. 12, they will have a special connection to the Coast. Guitarist Charles Hobson performs on a Martin Blackwell guitar, a finely balanced, top-of-the-line, classical instrument made in Gibsons.

Blackwell specializes in handcrafting classical guitars. "I like all kinds of music," the guitar artisan said. "I was attracted to the sound of nylon string guitars rather than steel strings."

He's been designing and making custom guitars since 1991 after taking a specialized course in Vancouver. He also spent time playing bass and touring with a band. Originally from the Coast, he moved back here in 1998 and has been making what musicians have been ordering ever since. The guitars, crafted of various woods, often local red cedar and spruce, are expensive – he might build only 12 guitars in a year. Many of his clientele have praised the balance of tone that Blackwell guitars offer them.

"Good players want something they can express themselves on," said Blackwell, "without adjusting to the limitations of the instrument." Blackwell has met the visiting guitarist Hobson before – he likes getting to know his customers – and they will meet again when Hobson performs.

The Dup Beija-Flor play what they call ethno-classical music – world music with a classical flair – and the concert will feature work by the Argentinian tango composer Astor Piazolla. Other selections include compositions from Spain and Portugal, and a piece, Quebra Queixo - Pé de Moleque, from Brazilian/Canadian composer Celso Machado, who lives on the Sunshine Coast.

They have a unique repertoire and have performed on radio and TV in Canada, the U.S. and Argentina and have released two critically acclaimed albums, Muzica (2013) and Envol (2011). Duo Beija-Flor is currently working on their third album, Costas, based on music inspired by the Latin countries of the Atlantic coasts – this is what the audience will hear at the concert.

Hobson is an award-winning and active solo and chamber music musician. With the ensembles Forestare (guitar orchestra) and Duo Beija-Flor (flute and guitar), he has had the chance to perform in numerous reputable concert halls and myriad concert societies and festivals. After obtaining a Bachelor of Music in 2006, Hobson was invited to continue his studies in Montreal with guitarist Daniel Bolshoy.

Marie-Noëlle Choquette, flutist, is characterized for her expressive and dynamic playing. She has performed as a soloist and chamber musician in several concert series, festivals and venues in Canada, the U.S., Argentina and Austria. A creative artist, she has produced and performed in various multi-disciplinary shows that combine contemporary and improvised music with dance, video, puppets and theatre. An accomplished teacher, she's called upon as a guest flute specialist in several Montreal area schools and teaches music history, theory and chamber music at the Polyvalente Curé-Mercure in Mont-Tremblant,

The concert is at Living Faith Lutheran Church in Davis Bay (corner of Highway 101 and Whitaker) at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 12 presented by the Coast Guitar Group. Tickets are at the door for \$25.

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Concert au Museo Fernandez Blanco, Buenos Aires, Argentina, 14 mars 2015





Victor Villadangos et Paulina Faine, mentors d'interprétation et d'arrangements tango, Buenos Aires, Argentina, Mars 2015





A Magazine For Flutists, By Flutists

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Duo Beija-Flor CD Review

Jan 31, 2014 by The Flute View



Duo Beija-Flor - MUZICA

Jamilla's Dance is a colorful piece in the Hora style with a very spicy & witty arrangement, it's charming and humorous at the same time. Beautiful flute playing with a gorgeous sound and expert guitar playing. The duo consists of Marie-Noëlle Choquette, flute, and Charles Hobson, guitar.

Danses Populaire Roumaines, this is a most excellent arrangement with highly effective use of extended techniques for both flute and guitar. This arrangement features most expressively executed melodies and terrific dynamic ranges making this rendition a masterful arrangement for flute and guitar. A spellbinding performance.

Sonatine by Atanas Ourkouzounov brings us a wonderful rendition of this exciting new piece for flute and guitar. Using complex time signatures and exotic new techniques, this performance of this piece is riveting.

Yovano, Yovanke commences with the flutist's voluptuous sound, an invocation after which the guitarist begins and together they artfully deliver a haunting and engrossing fusion.

Klezmer Suite 1. Tarras, 2. Casco Bay Chusidi/Bacon Street Bulgare, 3. Dreams of Yesterday and Tomorrow, 4. Oriental Hora

Again implementing various techniques, such as swooping pitch bends, the very effective singing while playing, key clicks and percussive flute and guitar accents, the flute and guitar perform an exquisite duet by the composer Carl Dimow.

The Duo Beija-Flor is an incredibly dynamic and creative team. The flutist has a beautifully warm sound which is dynamic and supremely expressive. The guitarist is absolutely fantastic and provides a perfect bed for the flutist to soar on. This is a sensational album for those interested in hearing an alluringly executed repertoire of invigorating and haunting new works for flute and guitar.

-Viviana Guzman

LE DEVOIR, LE VENDREDI 18 OCTOBRE 2013

WEEK-END MUSIQUE



ETHNO CLASSIQUE



MUZICA, DANSES ET COMPLAINTES D'EUROPE ORIENTALE

Duo Beija-Flor Indépendant

La flûtiste Marie-Noëlle Choquette et le guitariste Charles Hobson s'appliquent à trouver chez les compositeurs classiques des éléments du terroir qu'ils peuvent à leur tour modifier en ajoutant des effets contemporains, tout en demeurant fortement influencés par les traditions qu'ils abordent. Ils appellent cela de l'ethno-classique et, dans ce deuxième disque, ils ciblent davantage leur démarche que dans le précédent. En avant-plan, l'Europe orientale avec des danses et complaintes, ballades et métriques complexes, de la musique bulgare au bulgar juif, en abordant les compositeurs Béla Bartók, Almer Imamovic, Atanas Ourkouzounov, Michael Karmon et, enfin, Carl Dimow pour une suite inspirée par un klezmer ouvert à plusieurs formes. Avec chaque instrument, on varie les timbres et ornements, les tempos et jeux rythmiques, ou les harmonies jusqu'au rock, toujours acoustique. Une autre belle découverte montréalaise. Yves Bernard

Vous pouvez entendre un extrait des disques marqu

Le Duo Beija-flor en concert à Dorval



La Cité de Dorval présente avec fierté le duo Beija-flor, qui donnera un concert le 20 janvier prochain.

From page 1 Fidèle à son répertoire ethno-classique original et accessible, le duo présentera son spectacle sous le titre de «Fleurs du Monde».





Au son de la flûte et de la guitare classique, ces deux musiciens talentueux dépassent les limites de leurs instruments pour nous transporter des Amériques à l'Asie, en passant par l'Europe et les Pays Balkans.

Ce concert de la série Divertissimo sera présenté au Centre culturel Peter B. Yeomans, 1401, chemin du Bord-du-Lac, le lundi 20 janvier, à 19h30.

Les frais d'admission sont de 5\$. Des billets sont disponibles au Centre culturel Peter B. Yeomans, au comptoir de la bibliothèque de Dorval ou à la porte, le jour du concert, s'il reste des places.

Pour plus de renseignements, on téléphone au 514 633-4170 ou on consulte notre site internet au www.ville.dorval.gc.ca/loisirs. "Lyrical and sophisticated at the same time as it is simple and lively, Duo Beija-Flor's music surprises and energizes and its hint of mischief may well put a bounce in your day" -Richard Dagenais, Montreal Morning News, Global TV

"A nice blend between world and classical music...a truly amicable duo!" - Françoise Davoine, Espace Musique, Radio-Canada

"I love the contrasts and their great rhythmical energy. They are never "static". A well blended ensemble, un véritable duo quoi!" -Guy Vanasse, Former General Director at the Centre Pierre-Péladeau, University of Quebec at Montreal



Entrevue et prestation Morning News, Global TV Montreal 15 janvier 2014

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Sembrich continues 'World Music Wednesday' with flute-guitar duo

The Sembrich

4800 Lake Shore Drive, Plattsburgh, New York 12814

Мар

PHONE

518-644-2431

WEBSITE Click Here

HOURS

The museum and grounds are open daily from June 15th through September 15th. Hours: 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM and 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM.

EVENT INFO
DATE & TIME
Jul 31, 2013 1:30 PM

Sembrich continues 'World Music Wednesday' with flute-guitar duo

Duo Beija-Flor on July 31 and Cherven Traktor on August 21

The Sembrich, located at 4800 Lakeshore Drive in Bolton Landing, presents the second in its World Music Wednesday series on **Wednesday, July 31**, with a performance by **Duo Beija–Flor** at 1:30 p.m. Admission: \$20, members free as a midsummer member appreciation gesture.

This Québec-based duo specializes in ethno-classical music with Marie-Noélle Choquette on flute and Charles Hobson on guitar.

"We look forward to presenting our set, *Fleurs du Monde*, a classical voyage around the world," says Mr. Hobson. "On this musical journey the audience will be transported from the tango dance halls of Buenos Aires to the shores

of Portugal; from the beaches of Rio to the tranquil waters of Japan. The program finishes with the dance rhythms of the Balkans."

"Our instrumentation as well as our interactions with the audience are well matched to the intimate space that the Sembrich provides," he adds. "Venues such as these allow for a stronger connection between performer and audience making for a truly magical experience for all."

Then, **Cherven Traktor** performs traditional music from Bulgaria and Macedonia on traditional folk instruments on **Wednesday**, **August 21**, at 1:30 p.m. at The Sembrich. The group is comprised of two couples: Nikoley Kolev and Donka Koleva, and Belle Birchfield and Michael Ginsberg. The group has toured worldwide and each couple has been recognized as world class masters of their art. Authentic instruments used in this performance include the tambura (long-necked lute), tarambuka (hand drum with a goblet shape) and gadulka (bowed string instrument).

About The Sembrich

The Marcella Sembrich Memorial Association, Inc. (MSMA), founded in 1940, honors international opera singer Marcella Sembrich at her former teaching studio and woodland retreat on Lake George, by continuing the tradition of musical performances. Each summer, renowned international musicians perform in The Sembrich Studio reminiscent of the chambers and salons in which chamber music was first played. For more information, visit www.thesembrich.org or contact The Sembrich at (518) 644-2431.



Domicile >

2012 Grants

Duo Beija-Flor and Les porteurs de musique awarded

The grants of the Music Promotion Fund of the GMMQ for the year 2012-2013 were awarded to the projects of Duo Beija-Flor and Les Porteurs de musique. The objective of this fund is to support and encourage initiatives that contribute to the artistic development of Quebec musicians.

Duo Beija-Flor

Composed of Marie-Noëlle Choquette (flute) and Charles Hobson (guitar) Duo Beija-Flor presents various programs from their repertoire of ethno-classical music. In March 2011, Duo Beija-Flor won the contest "Mon accès à la scène" which allowed them to record their first album "Envol". Since then, their music have been broadcasted on several radio stations in Canada and USA and they gave more than 40 concerts accross Quebec. The \$750 grant of the Music Promotion Fund will allow them to produce a promotional video of their program entitled "Muzica Gitana".

Visit Duo Beija-Flor's website



Marie-Noëlle Choquette and Charles Hobson received their grant during the General Assembly from Luc Fortin, GMMQ President

Duo Beija-Flor

Dimanche, le 9 juin à 15 h

Avec un concert ethnoclassique intitulé : Fleurs du monde : une mosaïque de musique et de culture qui enveloppera les auditeurs avec les effluves musicales des différentes cultures du monde.



Grâce à son instrumentation flûte et guitare, le Duo vous invite à un voyage musical raffiné pour un dépaysement tout en douceur. Vous serez transportés par les rythmes tangos de l'Argentine et la légèreté des musiques brésiliennes, la poésie de l'Asie et les musiques festives d'Europe de l'Est, sans oublier la mélancolie des fados portuguais et les couleurs typiques du klezmer.

Avec son répertoire ethno-classique, le Duo Beija-Flor veut faire découvrir au public un nouveau style de musique classique énergique et rafraîchissant, inspirés des différentes cultures et traditions du monde. Avec un solide bagage classique et un senti naturel pour les sonorités et rythmes du monde, les musiciens du duo arrivent à allier avec authenticité et virtuosité les différents styles et couleurs des cultures qu'ils présentent. Le duo interprètera principalement des œuvres de compositeurs etno-

> classiques de partout à travers le monde, mais crée aussi ses propres arrangements d'airs traditionnels du monde, ce qui rend son

répertoire unique, original et personnel.

Pour information et réservation: 450-909-3116

Billets: 17\$ taxes incluses

Sai Sur Info Bill

1028 du Rivage Saint-Antoinesur-Richelieu

Infos: 450-787-3116 Billetterie: 450-909-3116 maisonculture@sasr.ca

Gloriette, Saint-Antoine-sur-Richelieu, mai 2013





Portall du journalisme et de l'activisme musical de François Couture.

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Home of François Couture's music journalism and activism.

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2011-12-05 CE FRANÇOIS COUTURI

DUO BEIJA-FLOR / Envol (ind.)

Un duo flûte (Marie-Noëlle Choquette) et guitare classique (Charles Hobson) qui lançait récemment un premier disque autoproduit. Ce duo d'interprétation propose un répertoire où musique traditionnelle et musique classique se rejoignent. Au menu: Piazzolla, Miroslav Tadic, David Leisner et Ravi Shankar, dont le duo offre une lecture ravissante de "L'Aube enchantée". Quant à la lecture de "Histoire du Tango" de Piazzolla, elle rappelle, étonnamment, les duos de guitare et flûte des frères Hackett (John et Steve). Des arrangements soyeux comme tout, une écoute agréable, une approche raffinée.

A flute (Marie-Noëlle Choquette) and classical guitar (Charles Hobson) duo who recently self-released their debut CD. This repertoire duo tackles works at the crossroads of traditional and classical musics. The playlist features Piazzolla, Miroslav Tadic, David Leisner, and Ravi Shankar's whose "Enchanted Dawn" ("L'Aube enchantée") is given a beautiful reading. As for the duo's take on Piazzolla's "History of Tango," it is surprisingly strongly evocative of the flute/guitar duets of brothers John and Steve Hackett. Silky arrangements, an enjoyable listen, a sophisticated approach.

ri propos / risoni

TOUTES LES ENTRÉES / ALL ENTRIES

LAST ENTRIES / DERNIÈRES ENTRÉES

2014-09-23: The International Nothing, Plasmic, Zebrina, Orlando Julius

2014-09-22: Schwingungen 77 Entertainment, Beck Hunters, Jean-François Bélanger

2014-09-19: Ensemble 5, Rank Ensemble

2014-09-17/18: Thompson/Jackson /Ramanan, Kotebel, Jacques/Olive, Gut/Irmler, Camera

2014-09-16: Tilting, Drumheller, Yvan

Vendredi 7 octobre • 20 h disponibles des le 23 septembre Auditorium Le Prévost



PARC-X-TRIO

Musique jazz

Grand Prix TD du Festival International de Jazz de Montréal en 2010, le trio lançait un deuxième album en juin dernier. Cent questions sans réponse. Reconnu pour ses concerts énergiques, il propose une musique jazz contemporaine rythmée qui mélange la pop, le classique, le jazz et la musique du monde. Gabriel Vinuela-Pelletier, piano; Alex Lefaivre, contrebasse; et Mark Nelson, batterie.



Jeudi 13 octobre • 18 h Entrée libre Salle de diffusion de Parc-Extension ENVOL

Musique du monde

Duo Beija-Flor

Lancement du nouvel album et prestation du duo formé de la flutiste Marie-Noëlle Choquette et du guitariste Charles Hobson, qui fusionne musiques classique et du monde. Cet album transporte le public des Amériques jusqu'en Asie, en passant par l'Europe et les Balkans, et au passage, fait découvrir des compositeurs contemporains.

Vendredi 14 octobre • 20 h Auditorium Le Prévost



1938

Musique classique

Ensemble OAT

Sous la forme d'un journal de voyage intime et musical, un narrateur révèle l'esprit et les différents styles musicaux de cette année charnière dans l'histoire de l'humanité. Au programme: œuvres de Béla Bartók, Paul Hindemith et Kurt Weill. Xavier Brossard-Ménard, clarinette: Roland Arnassalon, violon; Sheila Hannigan, violoncelle; et Sonia Wheaton Dudley, piano. Présenté dans le cadre du Conseil des arts de Montréal en tournée.





Samedi 15 octobre • 16 h Entrée libre Salle de diffusion de Parc-Extension SOLEIL TZIGANE

Musique du monde

La magie opère en compagnie des frères Markov, originaires de Bulgarie, et de leurs complices, qui proposent de la musique des Balkans et des Roms hongrois et russes. Vassil Markov, flûte bulgare et voic Petar Markov, accordéon; Jordan Markov, darbouka; Nicola Markov, saxophone et tamboura;

Mihail Markov, basse: Valera Ichim, violon; et Dontcho Ivanov, guitare et voix.

Vie culturelle

Concours Mon accès à la scène 2010

Découvrez les finalistes, des artistes de l'arrondissement débordant de talent!

Les artistes de la relève ont été nombreux à participer au 6^e concours Mon accès à la scène. En effet, 28 candidatures ont été reçues et de ce nombre, six ont été retenues par le jury formé de représentants de la maison de la culture, du Cirque du Soleil, de l'Union des artistes et de Diversité artistique Montréal.

Horaire des spectacles

Jeudi 17 mars, 20 h Salle de diffusion de Parc-Extension Laetitia Zonzambe Musique du monde

Vendredi 18 mars, 20 h Auditorium Le Prévost Pêro Chanson Villes Mortes ABAT-JOUR THÉÂTRE

Samedi 19 mars, 20 h Auditorium Le Prévost Les Monstres en dessous (6 à 10 ans)

Productions Korimaj Théâtre jeune public Dimanche 20 mars, 14 h
Salle de diffusion de Parc-Extension
Duo Beija-Flor
Musique du monde
Marjorie Fiset en quatuor
Musique jazz

Le public pourra découvrir ces jeunes talents puisque tous les finalistes donneront un spectacle au mois de mars prochain. Le jury proclamera ensuite les gagnants qui bénéficieront d'une formation en gestion et développement de carrière et se partageront des bourses totalisant 10000 \$.

Laissez-passer requis pour les spectacles présentés à l'auditorium Le Prévost seulement.