



RICHARD JACOBOWSKI

Cancion

Gateway Classics

A classical guitarist's debut recording can often be somewhat of an excursion into the safe waters of the standard classical repertoire. While Richard Jacobowski certainly entertains that notion with his inclusion of some pieces by the more notable composers of the instrument, it is here where the similarity ends. His stylistic abilities allow him to balance the standard with the not-so-standard and the classical with the modern, all with the musical maturity of someone twice his age.

Dr. Jacobowski manages to fill each piece of music with life, capturing the appropriate feeling or emotion. The notes seem to lightly dance off the fingerboard during Villa-Lobos' "Mazurka-Choro" while "Fantasia XIII" by Francesco da Milano evokes a dark, brooding feeling.

Modern composer Abel Carlevaro's "Preludios Americanos" presents a technical challenge with its parallel fourths and minor second intervals. It is here where Richard's mastery of the instrument is realized. He guides his Mikhail Roberts guitar through every twist and turn of angular harmony, letting the music breathe where necessary, further adding to the mysterious quality of the piece. Another modern composition, "Sonatina," by British composer Lennox Berkeley closes the disc. The light, airy quality of the "Allegretto" gives way to the pensive, intellectual "Lento." Throughout these two movements, Jacobowski's tonal colorations and dynamic involvement bring an excitement to the music culminating with the aggressive "Allegro Non Troppo" which literally leaves you hanging on the last note. Truly an exemplary performance!

If this first recording is any indication of what is to come, Richard Jacobowski is destined to become one of the classical guitar world's leading performers.

On March 18, Richard will be giving his New York solo debut recital at Carnegie Hall,