

JOHANNES MÖLLER PLAYS SPANISH MUSIC (SFZ records, SFZ 6014, distribution CDA, Sweden)

Johannes Möller selects Spanish music influenced by impressionism

The guitar is strongly connected with Spain. Flamenco as well as the classical guitar playing have their roots from the Iberian peninsula. Here the modern guitar was constructed in the end of the 19th century, and the Spanish luthier tradition is not broken since then. The composer and guitarist Francisco Tárrega (1852-1909) was the first modern guitar soloist, and later Andrés Segovia brought the classical guitar into concert halls and recording studios all over the world.

Thus it is not surprising that the young Swedish guitarist Johannes Möller on his first CD chooses to play Spanish music.

–I play sonorous Spanish music focused on the sound colours of the guitar, says Johannes Möller. The Spanish guitar music is virtuous and mostly technically demanding, but this may never shade the musical message. It is also very interesting to notice the influences from the French impressionism in this music, and also the connections between French and Spanish composers. Manuel de Falla composed a short piece in Debussy's style, and Antonio José had many contacts with Maurice Ravel and others. Ravel also said that José was about to be the greatest of all Spanish composers. Tragically José, who belonged to the same spheres as Lorca, was executed in the beginning of the Spanish Civil war. –Some years ago his guitar sonata was recovered and it is now regarded as one of the main works ever written for the guitar.

The first piece on the CD is Manuel de Falla's *Homenaje pour le tombeau de Claude Debussy* composed in 1920, followed by two pieces by Joaquín Rodrigo: *Junto al Generalife* (1959) and *En los trigales* (1938). After the 20 minute long *Sonata* by Antonio José Johannes plays two works by the guitarist and composer Eduardo Sainz de la Maza: *Campanas del alba*, and *Homenaje a Toulouse-Lautrec*, composed in 1962 respectively 1967. The final part of the CD is by Tárrega, *Prelude No 1* (1899), *La Alborada* (The music box, 1891), *Prelude No 2* (1899), and finally the well-known *Recuerdos de la Alhambra* composed in 1897, a piece where Tárrega with a five minute long uninterrupted tremolo depicts the fountains in the castle of Alhambra in South of Spain.

The 23 year old Johannes Möller is one of the most active guitarists of his generation. He has a diploma (BMus with Honours) from the Royal College of Music in London and has won prizes in seven international competitions in England, Germany, Romania and Portugal. He has played more than 250 concerts in 12 different countries and with his distinct musical language his artistry has reached well beyond the usual guitar circles.

Homepage www.johannesmoller.com

The CD is distributed through CDA (Compact Distribution AB), Sweden, +46 8 442 11 20, +46 8 442 11 33 (fax), info@cda.se.

More information about the CD, and downloadable photos will be found at www.sfz.se/6014

You may get in contact with Johannes at johannes@johannesmoller.com or through SFZ records.