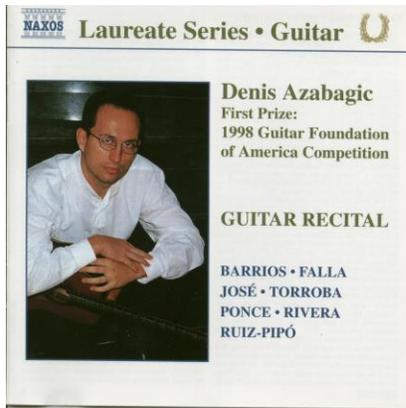


## Cahiers de la Guitarre

2001

Naxos CD



Denis Azabagic, born in 1972 in Bosnia, is one of the brightest representatives of the young generation of guitarists. He has won nine International Competitions- among them Tárrega in 1995 and GFA in 1998. This CD, published in the collection Laureate series by Naxos, is outstanding.

The Allegretto from Sonatina by Torroba opens this recital and **we can immediately feel that we are listening to an exceptional artist. The perfect mastery of technique allows him to shape each note: the listener can feel the charm of a dazzling phrasing, full of delicacy and nuances.** No downtime in the Andante, majestically slow, radiant with profound peace and poetry. It makes us appreciate better the contrast of the dynamic strength of the final Allegro.

With the three movements of La Catedral by Barrios, **Denis Azabagic proposes us a wide range of his expressive qualities:** nostalgia in Prelude (added lately by the composer), contemplation in the Andante Religioso, and finally the lyrical music in Allegro Solemne. He is proving, if there were any need of it, that virtuosity is not incompatible with musicality, but quite the reverse: his supreme ease allows him, inside of an absolute respect for the piece's architecture, to give each phrase its meaning, its emotional charge and to bring to light all the internal lines.

**The genuine artist comes from every country: even if he is not Spanish, Denis finds the right tone in Sonatina Meridional by Ponce. He translates perfectly the Castilian spirit of the first movement, Campo- built around an Avila theme – “Por lo alto de aquella Montana”- and adds great sensitivity for Andalusian Copla and Fiesta.**

In the Sonata, by still unknown Spanish composer Antonio José, we will remember especially the two last movements. The musician is also outstanding in the meditative passage of Pavana triste and Allegro con brio, bursting with vitality. He is also comfortable with the three Estancias by Ruiz Pipo, in a much more contemporary language.

We would expect a more intense and tragic interpretation of Hommage à Debussy by Falla. Nevertheless, his elegiac version as a melancholic evocation does not lack charm.

This CD ends with a very original piece by Carlos Rivera. The remarkable virtuosity of the last movement constitutes the grand finale of this firework.

**Our pleasure is always huge to hear a young virtuoso, but our joy is deeper to assist to the birth of a Master.**