

Classical guitar Magazine

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Vicente Asencio

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This is a composer who has left me cold so often that it was not with enthusiasm that this CD went into the player. Quite quickly however, both composer and player have conspired to make for a warmer reception than I might ever have thought. It is I think undeniable that Asencio's music is quintessentially undemonstrative, and this is supported by a quote in the notes from the composer in 1967: "I don't like to give free reign to my feelings: I prefer the complete and solid introspection of intimacy". Repeated close listenings have shown that while the emotional range is not large compared to some composers of a similar generation, Asencio draws many subtle and poetic effects within his chosen spectrum. His music remains within the sound world of northern Spain, lightly colored harmonically and rhythmically, tinged with refined degrees of regret, peacefulness and other modest moods.

Certainly this is not a programme to hear in one sitting, though at 48 minutes this oeuvre only just makes the CD filling category.

The performance throughout is warm, expressive and thoughtful, and offers a considerable testament to the interpreter's grasp of how to make player's personal view of inspiration.

Program notes are also particularly fine, and well translated.