

Classical guitar

KIZUNA



DZ 1653

Jean Marie
Raymond

Minoru
Inagaki

Photo : Jeeli Jégard

Duo Minoru INAGAKI / Jean Marie RAYMOND

The quality of a duo depends, above all, on the intrinsic value of the individual talents. Before creating this partnership, Minoru Inagaki and Jean-Marie Raymond both established themselves with solid careers as solo concert artists, a necessary conclusion to brilliant musical studies for both, which contributed to numerous other achievements.

Minoru INAGAKI studied under Alexandre LAGOYA at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Paris, obtaining the first prize in classical guitar ; he has also won many international competitions and is one of the best classical guitarists in Japan.

Jean Marie RAYMOND studied instrument, but also harmony and composition with Désiré DONDEYNE and Yvonne DESPORTES. Then, while studying under Javier HINIJOSA and Alberto PONCE, he was awarded the first prize in classical guitar. He also holds the Diplôme d'Etat and the Certificat d'Aptitude delivered by the French Ministry of Culture.

The challenge set by these two artists, who seem to belong to such contradictory schools of guitar and cultures, is to transcend these differences in the service of the ideal of Music. Without neglecting their solo careers, Jean Marie RAYMOND and Minoru INAGAKI bring to their guitar duo a balance and richness of sound resulting from their musical and personal "complicity". Their interpretations spring from the meticulous and vigilant attention given to the scores of the pieces they have transcribed, and show their strong commitment to a faithful rendering of each of the masterpieces they offer here.

Kalia VASSILIEV

Duo Minoru INAGAKI / Jean Marie RAYMOND

La qualité d'un duo dépend, avant tout, de la valeur propre de chacune des personnalités qui le compose. Jean Marie RAYMOND et Minoru INAGAKI se sont assurés, préalablement à la formation de cet ensemble, une solide carrière de concertiste soliste, corollaire nécessaire de brillantes études musicales couronnées, de part et d'autre, par de nombreux succès.

Minoru INAGAKI, élève d'Alexandre LAGOYA au Conservatoire National Supérieur de Paris, y a obtenu un premier prix de guitare classique ; il est également lauréat de nombreux concours internationaux.

Jean Marie RAYMOND a suivi, parallèlement à la voie instrumentale, le chemin de l'harmonie et de la composition avec Désiré DONDEYNE et Yvonne DESPORTES. C'est avec Alberto PONCE qu'il remporte un premier prix de CNR de guitare classique. Il est aussi Titulaire du Diplôme d'Etat et du Certificat d'Aptitude délivré par le Ministère de la Culture

D'écoles guitaristiques différentes, de cultures aussi éloignées, en apparence, que possible, ces deux artistes lancent un défi : celui de la Musique, Idéal qui trouve dans les différences – fondatrices de complémentarité – la substance même de son identité. Sans renoncer à leur activité de soliste, Jean Marie RAYMOND et Minoru INAGAKI confèrent au duo de guitares un équilibre et une richesse sonore dus à une étroite complicité tant sur le plan musical qu'humain. Leur interprétation témoigne d'un travail attentif et méticuleux sur les partitions des pièces transcrites, ainsi que d'une réelle volonté de rendre avec fidélité l'esprit de chaque œuvre ici proposée.

Kalia VASSILIEV

Len WILLIAMS (arrangements) - 8 Spanish and South American pieces:

"Salamanca", "Boléras Sévillanas", "Linda Amiga", "El Paño Moruno", "El puerto", "Tutu Maramba", "De Blanca Tierra" and "Cubana". Len Williams is the father of the renowned guitarist John Williams. His beautiful settings of these jewels of popular Spanish and South American folk songs are masterpieces of harmonization. The greatness of these finely carved miniatures lies in their deceptive simplicity.

Enrique GRANADOS - (1867-1916) « Oriental N°2 ».

Predating the Goyescas, these Spanish Dances for piano established the reputation of their composer. The second, abstracted and published as " Oriental ", leads us to discover a malagueña whose nostalgic copla resembles a delicate arabesque. The guitar translates perfectly the finesse of the arpeggios and the movingly expressive melodies.

Manuel de FALLA - (1867-1946) « Dance of the Brief Life »

"Dance de la vie brève", de Falla's Royal Academy Award winning romantic tragedy in two acts, is a sumptuous operatic exposition of traditional Spanish songs. The guitar transcription of the dance which opens Act II, performed here, highlights his brilliant classical evocation of these popular melodies and their typical flamenco rhythms.

Jean Marie RAYMOND - (1949 -) "Kizuna", "Pour un reflet dans l'eau", "Jardin secret", "La Cité d'émeraude", "Canto bajo la luna", "Santa Ana Cruz", "A la lumière de l'aube", "Au loin vers le Sud".

Dedicated to his life-long friend, Minoru INAGAKI, Kizuna shows the deep commitment of the composer to his Japanese friend. Poetry of melancholy, this piece could not have been better interpreted than by its dedicatee. «Pour un reflet dans l'eau» is the poetic evocation of a lovely stroll in boat on the river Seille, in France. "Jardin secret" (Secret garden) will be kept secret ...« La Cité d'émeraude» (The City of Emeralds), written especially for the 25th anniversary of the Productions d'Oz, is both a tribute to the guitarist Marlene Lemay, and a playful reference to this prestigious label. "Canto Bajo la luna" evokes with sensitivity this touch of nostalgia, mixed with passion, that only the Argentinian soul can generate. "Santa Ana Cruz" is a play on words (and notes!) on the musical anacrusis whose this song abounds.

Aware of what the music owes to Spain and South America, J.M.R. is naturally attached to these countries. Although the harmonies and rhythms of « A la lumière de l'aube » could have emerged in the outskirts of Bahia, the originality of the theme and the fragrance of serene joy which exhales from it, reveal strongly the artist's personal touch. Finally, Jean Marie Raymond evokes the generous spirit of the Iberian peninsula in his rhythmic dance, "Au Loins vers le Sud", inspired by the Tonadilla.

Edvard GRIEG – (1843 – 1907) « Solveig's Song », « Anitra's Dance ».

Strongly attached to his national culture, Grieg composed the incidental music for the dramatic masterpiece, Peer Gynt, written by his Norwegian compatriot Ibsen, and later gathered it into two orchestral suites. The melancholy mood of Solveig's Song, a soulful expression of solitude, is answered by the exuberant joy of Anitra's Dance, which shows a paradoxical influence from Oriental music. The guitar's wide sonic palette (diversity of tone, timbre and volume) conveys perfectly the duality of this Norwegian genius.

Claude DEBUSSY – (1862-1918) « Rêverie ».

Debussy's preference for subtle musical colors recalls Verlaine's words : « nuance, nuance again, only nuance ». Nuance is indeed what leads the dreamy, subtle flows of Reverie. From rebellious student to experimental creator, Debussy forged his own style by stretching the rules of traditional harmony.

Julian AGUIRRE – (1868-1924) « Two Argentine Folk Dances ».

From the backstreets of Buenos Aires came the rhythms of the « Tango » which the Argentinean composer, Julian Aguirre, transformed into these two elaborate pieces of art music. They belong to a genre that was extremely fashionable at the end of the 19th century in Argentina.

Carlos GUASTAVINO – (1912 - 2000) « El patio ».

Guastavino's musical vocation was belated – he began his studies in harmony and composition in 1938. The poetry and quiet nostalgia of "El patio" evoke the special atmosphere of Argentinean homes, whose architecture matches the melancholy depth of the Argentinean soul.



SOUND DESIGNERS :

Bernard Neveu (duets)

Shinji Sasai (solos by Minoru Inagaki)

Jean Marie Raymond (solos by J.M.R.)

GRAPHIC DESIGNER :

Nicolas Raymond

The duet part of this CD has been recorded in 1982, and distributed under his vinyl form, just before the birth of the CD. And because many music lovers asked to have this recording on a CD media, we have decided to publish it again, adding to it some music pieces for solo guitar, interpreted by Minoru INAGAKI and Jean Marie RAYMOND.

La partie duo de ce CD a été enregistrée en 1982 et distribuée sous sa forme vinyle, peu de temps avant la naissance du CD. Et comme beaucoup de mélomanes ont demandé sa ré-édition sur un support CD, nous avons décidé de le publier à nouveau, en y ajoutant quelques oeuvres pour guitare solo, interprétées par Minoru INAGAKI et Jean Marie RAYMOND.