Giuliani - Guitar Concerto No. 1 Rodrigo - Concierto Madrigal (2004)



Giuliani: Guitar Concerto No. 1 1. Guitar Concerto No. 1 in A major, Op. 30 (versions for guitar & orch; gt. & string quartet): Allegro maestoso 2. Guitar Concerto No. 1 in A major, Op. 30 (versions for guitar & orch; gt. & string quartet): Andantino (Siciliano) 3. Guitar Concerto No. 1 in A major, Op. 30 (versions for guitar & orch; gt. & string quartet): Polonaise (Allegretto) Rodrigo: Concerto Madrigal

4. Concierto madrigal for 2 guitars & orchestra: Fanfarre (Allegro marziale) 5. Concierto madrigal for 2 guitars & orchestra: Madrigal (Andante nostalgico) 6. Concierto madrigal for 2 guitars & orchestra: Entrada (Allegro vivace) 7. Concierto madrigal for 2 guitars & orchestra: Pastorcito, to que vienes, pastorcito, tu que vas (Allegro vivace) 8. Concierto madrigal for 2 guitars & orchestra: Girardilla (Presto) 9. Concierto madrigal for 2 guitars & orchestra: Pastoral (Allegro) 10. Concierto madrigal for 2 guitars & orchestra: Fandango 11. Concierto madrigal for 2 guitars & orchestra: Arieta (Andante nostalgico) 12. Concierto madrigal for 2 guitars & orchestra: Caccia a la española (Allegro vivace-Andante nostalgico)

Pepe Romero – guitar Angel Romero – guitar Academy of St. Martin-in-the-Fields Neville Marriner – conductor

This is the second RQR (Remastered Quadro Recording) I own. Just got it in the mail from Amazon today. I wonder why it has taken so long for the general public to be able to fully enjoy these master tapes. These were recordings made by Philips back in the day of quadraphonic and have now been unbelievably well remastered by a company called Polyhymnia to multi-channel Super Audio CD. These are not the quadraphonic recordings that gave a bad name to the format because they would have the instruments in the four corners with you in the middle of the ensemble. The rear channels of these recordings contain hall reverberation only. The immersion in the recording space is just fantastic, as is the image and balance of the guitars, harp and orchestra. Not a bit of brittle in the sound of the guitars which is usually captured too close or enhanced in the treble beyond recognition. Just lush, maybe slightly more distant, laid-back, pure Spanish guitar sound. My reference is the concert hall. I don't seek a "studio sound". I appreciate the real thing more than the better-than-real, on-steroids sound; so if that's you, maybe listen to it first. Polyhymnia did not force a remix to 5.1 channels. They kept

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it in the original 4.0 intended by the original producer. When one hears these recordings, one wonders what in the world have recording companies been doing in the past thirty five years... Why aren't all music catalogs made of this quality?

Anyway. The renditions are musically very satisfying and the works are pretty well-known. You can't go wrong on these interpretations. The last Rodrigo piece, Sones en la Giralda, has quite a "modern", (read 20th-century) flavor, utilizing really adventurous harmonies and textures (compared to Rodrigo's other, more well-known pieces). Very tastefully treated though. Just one of those discs that I intend to listen to over and over again. If you have a multi-channel rig, do yourself a favor: Buy this SACD, set the volume loud, as it would be in a real concert hall - not louder but not softer - dim the lights down, send the kids to the park, breathe deep and press play. After about an hour you'll know what I mean. --- Tonskimojster "ClassicalTech", amazon.com

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