

CLASSICAL GUITAR

Recent Releases Tuesday: Album from Brasil Guitar Duo

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Ghosting

Brasil Guitar Duo

CAG (Concert Artists Guild)

This **superb CD** opens with a pair of wonderful Baroque keyboard pieces by Jean-Philippe Rameau (1683–1764), arranged for two guitars by BGD member João Luiz. **The duo's timing is absolutely impeccable; everything is as clean and confidently rendered as can be.** From there, the rest of the album is by modern, living composers (with the exception of Heitor Villa-Lobos, whose rather dark "Prelude" for *Bachianas Brasileiras No. 4* appears). Gerard Drozd, who has written for the duo in the past, contributes a new piece for them, the seven-part *Suite Op. 142*, which is, the composer says, "a kind of music that can describe different moods, places, human characters, etc. There is no need to describe each movement separately. I leave it to listeners of the CD and believe in their inner or innate sensitivity and imagination." Suffice it to say that the suite travels a multitude of expressive musical byways to create an impressive whole I can easily imagine other duos trying out for themselves.

Some of the Rameau/Baroque vibe returns in BGD member Douglas Lora's *Valsa*; that's followed quickly by Luiz's *Djavan's Portrait*, based on a theme by contemporary Brazilian songwriter/guitarist Djavan Caetano Viana, whom Luiz cites as an early influence: "I wanted to create a kind of lounge samba, with influences of rock, jazz, and Bartok." Mission accomplished! The title track by David Leisner (again, written for the duo, in 2014) is another fascinating piece that goes many rewarding places, from its slow, minimalist beginning of harmonic pings, to more accelerated passages, and a quiet ending that drops off in a return to harmonics. Then, Marco Pereira's *Bate-Coxa* is a perfect uptempo Brazilian romp to bring the disc to its conclusion.

Pièces de Clavecin: Les Cyclopes, Gavette avec 6 Doubles (Rameau, arr. Luiz); *Suite Op. 142* (Drozd); *Bachianas Brasileiras No. 4, "Preludio"* (Villa-Lobos, arr. Luiz); *Posludio* (Lora); *Valsa* (Lora); *Djavan's Portrait* (Luiz); *7 Anéis* (Gismonti, arr. Luiz); *Ghosting* (Leisner); *Bate-Coxa* (Pereira)

—Blair Jackson