



January 30, 2010—The Passions of Spain

Maria Luz Alvarez & the WSO Baroque SQ:

Gwen Hoebig, violin I, Darryl Strain, violin II, Daniel Scholz, viola, Yuri Hooker, cello; Ryszard Tyborowski, guitar; Max Fleischman, piano forte/ Steinway
 Programme: IRIBARREN Prosique Acorde Lyra, Cantada al Santisimo con violins, Tocata; CALDARA Sonata a Tre; LITERES Arias from the zarzuela Aziz y Galatea; FACCO Arias from the opera Las Amazonas de Espana; MARIN Oh, como pasan los anos, Ojos pues me desdenais; SOR Las mujeres y cuerdes, Ceda de atormentarme, De amor en las prisiones; TURINA Circulo for piano trio; FALLA, Siete Canciones Populares

Wonderful Virtuosity!

I enjoyed her opening words, "I love therefore I am." Beautiful and soothing music, excellent musicians, and the soloist Luz Alvarez has an amazing voice. Delightful program. **(Tanis Moore)**

Wow! We are so lucky to have such talent as Maria Luz Alvarez in Manitoba. Now that we have 'discovered' our northern nugget, I hope to hear a lot more of her. Thank you for a very enjoyable winter treat. When will we hear her again? **(David Place)**

Noches Encantadas! I have loved the music of Spain for many years. Maria Luz Alvarez reminded me why. What a delight for the soul (and pretty damned good for the eye, by way of a bonus!) The purity of tone and enunciation was matched by the perfection of the other musicians. Splendid! **(Reeh Taylor)**

We traveled from Thompson and were definitely not disappointed. Powerful voice mixed with excellent musical accompaniment. **(Charles Labonte)** What a rich variety of repertoire in one evening! Since this wonderful singer is so near by, we hope to hear her again soon. **(M. Evans)**

Alvarez: Beautiful! And Control! Phrasing was sparkling and exquisite. Thanks to all performers. It was a delightful experience. The whole experience was enjoyable, a treat. **(Joseph & Laura Backstrom)**

In the first half, the second violin was slightly out of tune. I quite enjoyed the selection and organization of pieces, hearing the differences and similarities among them. I especially enjoyed the Turina piece. **(Charlie Wong)** Turina: not what the series insinuated; Baroque. Sor/ Facco: Acceptable although not Baroque Balance: Fantastic! Soprano: an immense pleasure to hear!! **(Ricardo A Rodriguez)**

WSO Baroque String Quartet: Precision, wonderful ensemble while letting each instrument speak. Luz: A wonderful voice. Magnetic charisma. Outside the weather is frigid but we are in sunny Spain. The buoyancy and brightness of the music make it fresh and alive. The charming commentary added to the enjoyment and understanding of the different arias of the music. Turina - a painting for our ears. Colour beautiful; it also showed the fine skills of the musicians. A great way to chase away the winter blues. **(Virginia Heinrichs)**

Translations for the songs would be nice. Incredible concert. Miss Alvarez has a beautiful, bell-like voice, incredible control while being very expressive. What a treasure. Thank you for this concert. **(Monica Hultin)**

Ms. Alvarez provided wonderful virtuosity, a wide knowledge of the music she chose and wonderful sense of humour. The other musicians were ideal accompanists. (Jocelyn McGuire) Delightful! Powerful voice. Sweet. Thanks for the lovely evening. The musicians were also fantastic. **(Ana Rodriguez)**



Wow! Who knew we had this gem in Thompson? Beautiful voice. Unique programme. Also. LOVED the Turina piece. **(Kathy Connor)** Bravo! What a treat, being transported to Spain in January. What an exquisite, colourful voice and person. **(Christina Sikorsby)** Awesome! **(Myroslav Polevychok)** Fascinating program. Superb performances. **(Christopher Robinson)**

Very fine!! Bravo Luz and the string players. Really well-styled playing indeed. **(Ross Brownlee)** Excellent concert. Very well composed. **(Dale Place)** Magnificola!!! **(Judith L. Bager)** Breathtaking **(Jesus A Miguel)** A wonderful concert. We particularly liked the second half. **(Alan Forrest)**

Twinkle, twinkle icy Northern stars,
 you have competition now.
 When our sweet Spain has crossed the sea,
 with Luz Alvarez' harmonies.
 Violin, guitar & Cello,
 music played warm and mellow.
 Piano viola, Luz's voice
 will leave the snow and ice
 no choice in far Thompson & Winnipeg
 to melt away,
 since Madrid's heart
 has come to stay. **(Evelyn Lundeen)**

Thank you all sincerely for your comments. H. Strub Editor

Critic's Prize

Jocelyn McGuire

CD — "Le Souvenir de Vous me Tue" ; Medieval Chansons
 from the Court of Philip the Good—
 Sylvia Rhyme, soprano; Eric Redlinger, tenor & lute.