



music will surely find many things to savour in what is on offer on this disc.

As a interesting 'aside', the two recording engineers on this disc are Mike Whitcroft and one of the classical guitar's most proficient and knowledgeable players, Simon Dinnigan.

Steve Marsh

**DVORÁK, SYMPHONY No. 9 (transcribed for solo guitar); CASTELNUOVO-TEDESCO, 'OMAGGIO A BOCCHERINI'; SONATA OP. 77**

CASTELNUOVO-TEDESCO: *Allegro con Spirito; Andantino, quasi canzone, Tempo di Minuetto: Cerimonioso con Grazia; Vivo ed Energico*. DVORÁK: *Adagio; Allegro Molto; Largo; Scherzo: Molto Vivace; Allegro con Fuoco*.

**Jorge Caballero**

**RINCÓN MÁGICO: SPANISH MUSIC BY JOAQUÍN TURINA ON ORIGINAL TRANSCRIPTIONS**

TURINA: *Danzas fantásticas: Op. 22; Exaltación, Ensueño, Orgía; Danzas gitanas, Op. 55; Zambra, Danza de la seducción, Danza ritual, Generalife, Sacro-Monte; Cuentos de Espana Op. 20; no4, En los jardines de Murcia; Sevillana Op. 29; Fandanguillo Op. 36; Ráfaga Op. 53; Sonata Op. 61; Allegro, Andante, Allegro vivo; Homenaje a Tárrega Op. 69; Garrotin, Soleares*.

**Jose Manuel Dapena**

**Musiclas**

You have to appreciate the new generation of guitarists who take the initiative to manufacture their own albums instead of waiting for an A&R rep to bless their efforts with a recording contract because generally, this rarely happens anyway - unless an artist happens to win a contract through a competition or else land a bulldog manager who can procure a spark from twizzling sticks against flint and from snapping at the heels of various labels while papering their client's face all over town á la the graffiti artist Banksy.

One guitarist who has taken matters into his own is Jorge Caballero, who, at age 19, was and (is thus far) the only guitarist to ever win the prestigious Naumberg Prize. His CD features his rendering of Dvorák's *Symphony No. 9, Op. 95 "From the New World"* (arr. K. Yamashita) and Castelnuovo-Tedesco's *Sonata Op. 77 'Omaggio Boccherini'*. It is available for purchase online via [www.luthier-music.com](http://www.luthier-music.com). A graduate of the

Manhattan School of Music, Caballero writes intelligently and thoughtfully in his liner notes on both of these pieces. Unfortunately, the notes are in a microfont of faded yellow against a black background, making it very difficult to read. Caballero tells the story in brief of how Andrés Segovia met with Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco and commissioned a work from him which turned out to be the *Sonata, Op. 77*, premiered by Segovia in Paris, June 1935 in the same concert Segovia also premiered his arrangement of the Bach *Chaconne*. He also explains that the Dvorák piece incorporates musical elements of spirituals and Native American music along with a bit of scholarly analysis on the piece itself.

The liner notes also state the Dvorák was performed on a 2004 Robert Ruck guitar while the Castelnuovo-Tedesco was performed on a Thomas Humphrey guitar. Tonally, the biggest difference that can be discerned between these two pieces is not the guitars as much as the recording environments. While the Castelnuovo-Tedesco piece delivers the intimate sound within a recording studio, the majestic Dvorák symphony takes the startling shift of sounding like it was recorded in a recital hall, which apparently it was, at the Purchase College Conservatory of Music. The startling shift in recording environments is really my only criticism of the CD, which is worth hearing for the superb quality of Caballero's playing.

In the same vein of self-starters, Spanish guitarist José Manuel Dapena has formed his own label, Musiclas, ([www.musicclas.com](http://www.musicclas.com)) which issues music from several recording artists via downloadable .mp3s instead of the traditional CD. Dapena's newest release, *Rincón Mágico*, features his performance of the Joaquin Turina's entire body of original transcriptions. Given that the now-defunct Tower Records in New York was never open or accessible 24 hours the way the online web is, the idea of a click-to-pay-and-download album has its appeal, even if it's lacking the shiny tactile magpie charm that a physical CD offers. Just think—seriously, where are you going to stuff another CD on your shelf anyway? A quick google search of this album title and artist shows that the album is available online for download from a various

number of popular music sites, including iTunes and emusic.com.

Dapena, a student of David Russell's, also studied harmony with Turina's grandson, José Luis Turina and he actively corresponded with Jaume Torrent of the Turina Archives when working on these pieces, which showcase Turina's contemporary, modernistic interpretations of traditional Spanish music. Dapena succeeds in fully capturing the character and spirit of these pieces, which include Turina's *Danzas fantásticas, Op. 22*, three pieces originally written for piano, along with *Danzas gitanas, Op. 55*, inspired by gypsy music of Granada. Also included is a lovely rendition of *Cuentos de España, Op. 20, Sonata Op. 61* and the *Homenaje a Tárrega Op. 69*. This music download compilation represents a significant body of work, not just for Dapena's masterful playing but for the ambitious scholarly effort put into restoring these pieces to their original, non-Segovian form.

*Julia Crowe*