

Liner notes to Classical Guitar music to put your mind at ease

Reflections on my 'first child', by Jason Espada

About three years ago, a man came into the store where I was working, just as I was sitting down to play guitar. It was a warm Spring day, and for some reason he was wearing a Winter coat, dark glasses, and ear muffs. He stopped to listen, standing a few feet from where I was warming up, and, after every short piece, he sighed and said, 'Oh, that's so nice', or, 'Oh, that's so good', or something to that effect.

Now, I didn't think what I was doing at the time was all that good, but clearly *he* liked it, and what's more, I could see that it helped him relax and that it brought him some peace and happiness to boot. I'm sure he didn't know it, but he taught me a valuable lesson that day.

A short while before I had bought some home recording equipment – mic, preamp, speakers, and the like, and I was in the process of learning about recording. At the same time, I began to think about what music I might like to record first, so I could focus on those pieces and get them up to some acceptable standard.

One thought that was with me fairly consistently was, 'not good enough, 'not good enough...' This, after playing for more than 25 years...

The life of a musician, vis-à-vis music, is an interesting one. Almost certainly, we are the only ones who get to hear our best, as in – our most moving, or inspired playing. Whatever other Rewards there are (and there are many), that's just the way it is.

On the other hand, musicians do have the faithful companionship

of whatever music they hold in their hearts. Our music is nourishing, invigorating, and it brings us lifelong joy.

I remember something the pianist Roslyn Tureck said about performing (and recording). She said that, 'for a musician, performing is just the tip of the iceberg'. Out of our whole life with music, we can just give these few minutes, or this one hour, and hope that to be... good enough...

By this, I remember the feeling that we can have, the deep wish that it be at least representative of the music we play, and what it has meant to us. So sometimes the 'not good enough' is a valuable thing. It has a purpose.

As useful as idealism can be in helping us to bring forth our best efforts, at some point though, you have to share whatever it is that you have to give. This is what I learned from that man in the store that warm Spring day. After seeing the peace and happiness that can come to another, even one other, I felt I had to just do my best. Really, I could not justify not giving whatever I could.

Amazing, isn't it? This is a lot like life, eh? We have our Ideal, and then there is the reality of what we can actually do. And if we are not oppressed or stopped by our idealism, our perfectionism, we can then give our gifts, with all sincerity, and with the simple wish that others receive their beauty as well. And so it is with my first hour of recorded music.

As in music, so also in life. Always aiming to better ourselves, and yet, our gifts, even as they are now, can bring happiness to others.

And so, I hope that you too, dear readers and listeners, will enjoy and be enriched in some measure, as I have, by this hour of music.

I write this remembrance with all good wishes, from my sister's

kitchen table, on a foggy morning in San Francisco, May 17th,
2012,

Jason Espada.

This album can be heard at jespada.bandcamp.com

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From June 4th and June 11th, 2009, Jason Espada, guitar

Track 1: Three Studies: Fernando Carulli - Study in a minor;
Fernando Sor – Study in D; Fernando Carulli – Andantino in G

2. Francisco Tarrega: Study in C;

3. Julio Sagreras: Study in e minor;

4. Andantino in A, by Fernando Carulli

5. George Harrison – Here Comes the Sun

6. African Tune

7. Two Modern Pieces: Andrew York – Snowflight; Lou Harrison
– Seranado

Celtic Music:

8. Turlough O'Carolan – Shebeeg and Shemore;

9. Three Irish Pieces: Planxty Irwin; Traditional – The South
Wind; The March of the King of Laoise

Music by J. S. Bach:

10. Four pieces: Prelude in d minor; Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring;

Sleepers, Awake!; Largo;

11. Bouree I and II from the Third 'Cello Suite

12. Two Catalan Folk Songs: Cancó del Lladre; El Noi de la Mare

Six Latin American Pieces:

13. Hector Ayala – Prelude from the Suite Sur America;

14. Leo Brower – Un Dia de Noviembre;

15. Hector Alaya – Choro;

16. Jorge Cardoso – Milonga;

17. Antonio Lauro – La Negra, and

18. El Negrito

19. Two Spanish Pieces: Fernando Carulli – Andantino; Celedonio Romero – Alegrias