

Ben Barron

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20th Century Romantics

This album is a collection of pieces that are from a favorite period of Ben's; the early 20th Century. It is a period characterized by wonderful, harmonic dissonance and melodies that can be haunting or strange or both, mixed with the flowing, romantic expression of the late 19th century.

This recording contains two monumental works written for the guitar between World War I and World War II, which are the Etudes for the Guitar (1924-1929) by Brazilian composer Heitor Villa-Lobos (1887-1959), and Sonata for the Guitar (1933) by Spanish composer Antonio Jose (1902-1936). Also included are the Seis Variaciones (1944) by Joaquin Nin-Culmell (1908-2004), which is a fine work for guitar dedicated to the great Cuban guitarist Jose Rey De La Torre (1917-1994) and based on a theme of Luis de Milan. The last piece recorded here is Valse opus 8 no.4 (1923) by Augustin Barrios (1885-1944), a native of Paraguay. He wrote this waltz very much in the Viennese tradition.

Ben dedicated this recording to the virtuoso guitarist Jose Rey De La Torre with whom he studied while in his teens. Rey was a powerful influence in his development as a guitarist and in his love of this particular style and period of music.

About Ben Barron

Guitarist Ben Barron is a native of Northern California. Growing up in a musical family, Ben began his piano studies at age 5 and at age 9 began his passion with playing the guitar. Ben joined his father and brothers in musical performances starting at age 10, played the guitar professionally throughout his teens, and also began studying with renowned guitarist Rey DeLaTorre during this period.

Ben is a graduate of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music from which he holds a Bachelor of Music degree and a Master's in Classical Guitar Performance. At the Conservatory he studied Twentieth Century guitar compositions with David Tanenbaum and Dusan Bogdanovic, and later worked with master guitarist, George Sakellariou.

Ben's solo guitar CD "20th Century Romantics" was heralded as a "fine disc" by Classical Guitar Magazine. Ben is active as a teacher and a performer in the San Francisco Bay Area and has performed live on television and radio. In addition to teaching and performing, Ben is completing "The Very Best of Joe Pass" a book of over 25 solos transcribed by Ben and guitarist Warren Haskell.

Contact

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Select Quotes

- "Listening to Barron is like going on a journey with a trustworthy guide. He plays with tremendous panache."
- **Classical Guitar Magazine**
- "A fine guitarist."
- **Guitar Review**
- "The Wynton Marsalis of the guitar."
- **Dusan Bogdanovic, guitarist, composer**
- "A formidable talent who possesses both an ear and a gift for the guitar."
- **Rey De La Torre, virtuoso guitarist**
- "If you are interested in hearing the classical guitar in the tradition of Miguel Llobet or Rey De La Torre, Ben (Barron) is the one to hear. Having worked and known both Miguel and Rey, I say bravo, Ben!"
- **Joaquin Nin-Culmell, composer, professor emeritus, U.C. Berkeley Music, Department Chair**
- "Ben combines wonderful musicality with exceptional technique."
- **George Sakellariou, virtuoso guitarist**