

# Victory Review

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## ✿ REVIEWS ☆

**HILARY FIELD**

*MUSIC OF SPAIN & LATIN AMERICA*

Hilary Field, classical guitarist, presents a repertoire of works by Jorge Morel, Heitor Villa Lobos, Manuel Ponce, and Isaac Albéniz. I was especially impressed with her sensitive approach to three Preludes (#1, #4, #5) by VillaLobos. While many classical guitarists play all the right notes in a dutiful manner, Field's playing contains an emotional depth that reaches the heart of this music. This is also evident in "Afro Cuban Lullaby" (Anonymous, a most prolific composer) arranged by Christopher Parkening and Jack Marshall. As Hilary Field is head of the Guitar Department at Pacific Lutheran University, she should have a significant influence on other young musicians. (*John Steen*)

# SEATTLE WEEKLY

# SEATTLE

## ARTS & LEISURE

## RECORDINGS

### **Hilary Field**

*Music of Spain and Latin America* (Yellow Tail)

Classical guitarist Hilary Field, who teaches at Pacific Lutheran University, has put together an attractive program of works by Latin American composers Jorge Morel, Manuel Ponce, and Villa-Lobos, as well as Spain's Albéniz.

The pieces are mainly brief and beguiling, evocative rhythmically and harmonically of their composers' places of origin. Three selections from Villa-Lobos' *Cinq Preludes* are especially arresting in their deft synthesis of traditional "European" formal organization and undeniably Brazilian rhythmic lilt.

Field plays all of this splendidly, and the locally produced recording is appropriately intimate and tasteful. A hometown triumph all around.

**Frank Corrado**

## Folk, Electric Folk, Traditional and World Music

# Dirty Linen

**Hilary Field *Music of Spain and Latin America*** [Yellow Tail Classics YTC 101(1992)] This is the debut recording from Yellow Tail Classics, a new division of Yellow Tail Records, and Hilary Field, a classical guitarist and professor of music at Pacific Lutheran University in Washington. Her guitar playing is exceptional, always crisp and smooth, and the album certainly more refreshing than most classical releases. I tire of hearing the 437th recording of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. Don't get me wrong, I love Beethoven's work, but aren't there any lesser known composers from the same time period who wrote some mildly interesting music. Field's choice of classical works is interesting and quite welcome. Represented are Jorge Morel ("Sonatina," "Romance Criollo," "Danza Brasileira"), Heitor Villa Lobos, and Anonymous, one of my favorite composers (he/she's so diverse and well-traveled.) Despite the classical labeling, many of the pieces have elements of Latin swing and dance music. This is a superb collection for classical guitar buffs. [post-paid CD \$15, Cassette \$10] {EBB Productions / 9102 17th NE / Seattle, WA 98115-3212} (JM)

# *Heartsong Review*

**Resource Guide for New Age Music of the Spirit**

## **HILARY FIELD, Music of Spain and Latin America** ☆☆☆

Classical guitar at its finest, this album contains compositions by the greats of early twentieth century Latin classical guitar. Names like Morel, Villa Lobos, Manuel Maria Ponce (and that most prolific "Anonymous"). Hilary is well qualified to play this challenging music and does it flawlessly with a quick, steady, sure touch that is wonderful to hear. Notes blur from the speakers, played with graceful and dizzying speed only to suddenly pause for a strum, then continue. The flavor of Spain and Latin America is the spice in these songs. The music is very complex, fast, delicate with rapid changes. Anyone who even remotely appreciates technical guitar wizardry will love this album. Guitar playing elevated to a fine art, it is gentle, proud, overwhelming, sounding fresh decades after most was written. Highly recommended for background, visiting a Spanish art gallery, dinner in a fancy Nicaraguan restaurant. (Gordon Kelley) To order: Send \$10 (CASS) or \$15 (CD) to Ebb Productions, 9102 17th Avenue NE, Seattle, WA 98115

# Seattle Classic Guitar Society

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## MUSIC OF SPAIN AND LATIN AMERICA - HILARY FIELD

Long-time Seattle Classic Guitar Society member Hilary Field's recent release *Music of Spain and Latin America* is a worthy addition to even the most complete classical guitar record collection. This debut recording on Yellow Tail Records presents a nice mix of familiar repertoire and less recorded pieces played with enthusiasm and thoughtful interpretation.

The recording opens with an expressive playing of Jorge Morel's three movement *Sonatina* and finishes with the pleasingly tranquil *Afro Cuban Lullaby*. In between the listener is treated to a polished performance of works by Villa Lobos, Ponce, and Albéniz. Field's playing is technically solid and musically tasteful throughout. Her interpretation of the *Danza Brasileira* is playful and energetic. Her performance of Villa Lobos' *Preludes 1, 5, and 4* sensitively projects the moodiness of these pieces. Praise goes to both Hilary Field and to Seattle's Kevin Callahan who continues to broaden his influence on the classical music scene with another fine production.

Hilary Field is a 1992 winner of the Northwest Young Artist Series Competition. Ms. Field is the head of the Guitar Department at Pacific Lutheran University, and recently joined the music faculty of Seattle Pacific University. She will be performing in concert at the Seattle Art Museum on Sunday, November 8 at 2:00 PM. Contact Rosewood Guitar 522-6399 for tickets and information. Hilary Field's recording *Music of Spain and Latin America* is available at Rosewood Guitar.

Bill Clements

## Hilary Field Music of Spain and Latin America

Listening to classical guitarist Hilary Field's debut recording *Music of Spain and Latin America* (YTC 101), one is immediately struck by the sense of direction she brings to the music. Masterful performances do not come merely by playing well alone or having technical control over an instrument. One must also bring an orderly conception of how the music ought to progress. As with great improvisation, the musical shape should make sense, but not necessarily be predict-able. Ms. Field succeeds by setting up each phrase in such a way that to hear the next one is to discover the one preceding. Among the challenges of unaccompanied performance is the initiating and sustaining of this forward motion. If rhythm, harmony, or melody lack direction, the entire performance suffers. It is the rare player who masters all of these essential elements and then employs them with artistic logic. Hilary Field is the rare player.

In a recent conversation, Ms. Field told me she chose the music of Morel, Villa Lobos, Ponce, Albéniz, et al. because it fits the guitar so well. That the compositions sound perfectly suited to the instrument is clear by the apparent ease which resounds throughout the entire recording. It is difficult to single out any one centerpiece of this CD, but Morel's *Danza Brasileira*, Villa Lobos' *Preludes*, and the anonymous *Afro Cuban Lullaby* are especially pleasing.

Not only is this Ms. Fields' first compact disc, it is also the first release on the Yellow Tail Classics label. Yellow Tail Records is a new label dedicated to recording classical and folk music by Northwest performers. If *Music of Spain and Latin America* is any indication, this label will be known for its clear and resonant fully digital recordings.

Ms. Field's resume demonstrates that her playing has impressed others as well. After graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in music from the State University of New York at Stony Brook, she continued her studies at the University of Madrid, the Banff Centre for the Performing Arts, and the Aspen Music Festival. She is a 1992 Northwest Young Artist Series Competition winner, and has been chosen for the 1993-94 King County Arts Commission Touring Arts Roster. She has also headed the guitar department at Pacific Lutheran University for the past eight years.

With the experience and skill she brings to this recording, *Music of Spain and Latin America* is a remarkable first outing for Hilary Field. It serves notice that the Northwest has yet another musical success to claim, and makes one anticipate her future recordings.

- Scott Faulkner

# The Seattle Times

TEMPO SECTION

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## Classical guitarist makes music full of fire

by Tom Phalen  
Special to The Times

**F**rom the humblest beginnings can come the most dynamic accomplishments. When Hilary Field first took up the guitar at age 9, it was to play a little folk music with her pals. An unassuming start for a woman who is now a very skilled and gifted classical guitarist, recording artist and teacher.

"I had some friends who played," Field remembers. "They wrote little songs and I used to watch them. I found it really appealing. Even then I thought about performing. Although practicing the guitar is an isolated activity, I knew I'd be in front of people sooner or later."

Field was already playing violin when she picked up the guitar. "I knew how to read, so switching over to classical guitar wasn't that hard." It was, however, demanding. "I loved it, but it was very challenging; it took all my time. It got to the point where I had to choose between the guitar and the violin, I couldn't do both."

**She stayed** with guitar, eventually attending the State University of New York at Stony Brook and receiving a bachelor of arts degree in music. She continued her studies at the University of Madrid and the Banff Music Centre for the Performing Arts. Originally from New York, she eventually relocated in the Northwest and has taught guitar at Pacific Lutheran University for the past eight years. She also recently joined the faculty at Seattle Pacific University.

"Plus I have another job, I'm playing concerts and there's the new album," Field explains with a chuckle. "I'm pretty busy."

Field's debut CD, "Music of Spain and Latin America" has just been released on the local Yellow Tail Records, the same label her husband Andrew Ratschin — probably best known for his Uncle Bonsai band — records for.

**For her** first release, Field chose works by Jorge Morel, Heitor Villa Lobos, Manuel Ponce and Isaac Albéniz. This is warm, lush music, rich in rhythm and melody. Field is a dynamic player. She doesn't just recite what can often be complex work, but imbues it with fire and grace. The collection reflects a wide range of moods and feelings, at once quiet and soothing, next charged and spirited. Real pulse-racing sounds.

"I chose these works because they're so well-suited to the instrument," Field says, "and I love the music. It's so much fun to play. And very challenging. But Latin and Spanish music are just part of my repertoire. I also do a lot of Renaissance and baroque, classical and contemporary work. I try to keep it varied."

Field manages to get out for public performance every month or so. She played a recital at the Seattle Art Museum last month, has played Bumbershoot and the Northwest Folklife Festival and for Victory Music. But she says her most interesting performance of late was in Martha's Vineyard.

"(Songwriter) Christine Lavin rented this big old bed-and-breakfast and invited 16 songwriters and musicians out for a kind of workshop and retreat, so Andrew and I went. It was really wonderful being with all these other musicians, playing for each other and exchanging ideas and material. It was a special weekend."

"And," she adds happily, "we recorded it. There'll be a CD coming out soon."

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Dear Hilary,

Thank you very much for sending

you

Dear Hilary,

letter.

and

Thank you very much for sending your recording and your nice letter.

it,

you lady,

I enjoyed listening to it, you are a very gifted young lady, beautiful sound and good musical feeling.

very good

music

You play my pieces very well.

you

Hope to hear you personally some time in the future.

well,

hope

Best of luck,

very

Jorge

some time in the future.

Best of luck.

Atte. Jorge

# Guitar Player

picks

**Hilary Field, *Music of Spain and Latin America*, Yellow Tail Classics (9102 17th Ave. NE, Seattle, WA 98115).**

A satisfying program of short pieces by Morel, Villa Lobos, Ponce, and Albeniz, delivered with strong dance inspired rhythms and immaculate tones. - *Joe Gore*