

April 9, 2022

Austin Classical Guitar

Yamandu Costa
with Richard Scofano
The Rosette
Saturday 4:30
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Austin Classical Guitar Executive Director Matt Hinsley introduced the matinee program with his winning smiles and charms ablaze. How nice to see Tim League the man behind the Alamo Draffhouse theatre chain sitting feet away. Tim is the new landlord of the converted Butler School in Hyde Park; home to this pristine new listening room and recording studio. Mr. Hinsley shared some delightful news about the educational outreach efforts.

Their teams have developed a series of programs designed specifically for the blind and visually impaired for training and advancement in educational efforts. Now, these same innovations are in place across several countries in Europe; allowing thousands more people to share in the same joyous rapture we take for granted daily. Every time I've been in this glorious space, there are more delightful tidbits of great news and grand accomplishments achieved. Standing Ovarions & 'Bravo!' to the hard working, gracious staff who are overjoyed to see new patrons share these intimate global performances in their new home.

Like many others, I was curious about the name for this new stunning, world class venue. 'The Rosette' is the ornate designs unique to every sound hole on a guitar, giving it a character and allure as to the sounds that may originate from within it's layered patterns.

Sitting in the balcony, a mere 45 feet away from Brazilian concert master Yamandu Costa, I am still in shock and awe at the overflowing cascades of passionate interplay we experienced together.

Mr. Costa walked on stage, deeply bowed and in one grand motion sat down while playing arpeggios with his seven strings from another existence, not of this mortal plane. The man knows how to command a room, in several languages! His charming heavy accent made the worldwide voyage all the more exotic.

Seamlessly transitioning from vastly different melodies and time signatures; weaving and diving into and out of entire continent's musical influences, within one song! Pounding counter rhythms on the strings, the guitar itself and his own body; breaking out into soaring harmonic melodies while writhing in ecstasy driving the course of every journey deeper into another realm we can only imagine. Whistling swift sweet melodies on top and inside the lightning storms he created for us, it was difficult to fathom that one man with one guitar was creating these complex sonic textures before our eyes and ears. I saw one man and a guitar; I heard several more, Officer, I really did!

After a very brief intermission with free refreshments provided by generous donors, we gathered for yet more earth shaking symphonic histrionics. Mr. Costa brought up Richard Scofano, from Argentina with his bandoneon; a South American cousin to the accordion.

With his partnership, we now had the full orchestra in place, for luxurious vacations to far off lands.

My copious scribbled notes just kept saying, 'is this Portugal, Cuba, Peru, Barcelona, or Bolivia?!?'

Finally, you just surrender and enjoy the rollicking rides through the countrysides.

The two men amused themselves, chasing each other's inflections and nuances, clearly improvising entire passages. Mirroring and contrasting their musical gauntlets of staccato sixteenth notes tossed into the raging fires. Charging effortlessly across entire nations with no borders to emotional depths.

Proving in real time, that music is the unifying balms to heal our wounds, bring comfort and hope to the huddled masses; allowing us to feel the breadth of humanity within us all.

Consistently, I felt like we were inside the music; within the aural vibrations of the sound waves.

I've never felt these sensations; please pardon my lack of clarity. How can you tell someone you were part of the molecular resonance flowing through your senses?

You had to be there, is a very feeble response!

Yet another reason to subscribe to their season of outstanding global gifts they bring us every month.

Afterwards, I told Matt if you closed your eyes or merely heard a recording of these masterful displays, you would easily imagine 3 to 4 guitarists each racing faster to the finish line for victory.

My literary thesaurus doesn't provide superlatives grand enough to praise the pristine sound mix in this 75 seat TV recording studio.

Production Director Ms. Jess Griggs proudly gave me her private tour of her inner sanctum. 'This is where the magic happens' with all the high tech digital mixers; camera feeds and online streaming equipment supporting these joyous private concerts, for the public to enjoy. Seeing Mr. League bring his delightful daughter reminds one of how everyone in your own families will absolutely fall in love with the dizzying displays they give us so freely.

There were several times when I kept asking myself, 'where are we, what country are we in now?!'

The colors and syncopation starting, then stopping; swooping around each other in more dizzying detailed delights. Never have I heard nor seen anything like this perfection.

I'll check my notes, I'm betting I wrote that exact praise the last time I covered an event in this whirligig wonderland.

The programming here is so magnificent, you really don't need to know who is playing; you already know you will walk out stunned and telling everyone you know, how your life is better for the experience shared with other lucky listeners.

Please do take a good look at all the marvelous outreach programs Austin Classical Guitar provides to several school communities and at risk youth to give them loving guidance and brighter lives ahead.

For more information and Season Tickets:

<https://www.AustinClassicalGuitar.org>

Rick Perkins

<https://www.BroadwayWorld.com/Austin/>