



José Serebrier leads the Concerto Málaga String Orchestra on Serebrier conducts Granados, the somewhat misleading title of a new CD from the **SOMM Recordings Cèleste Series (SOMMCD 0171)**.

Only five of the 16 short tracks are by Granados; the remaining 11 are by eight different composers, mostly emphasizing a connection with Barcelona, where Granados spent his entire working life. All five Granados tracks – *Andaluza*, *Oriental*, *Pequeña Romanza*, *El Himno de los Muertos* and *Intermezzo* from *Goyescas* – are arrangements, as are *Recuerdos de la Alhambra* and *Gran Vals* by Francisco Tárrega and the famous *Tango and Mallorca* by Isaac Albéniz.

Nocturno is a lovely piece by Eduard Toldrà. Joaquim Malats' *Serenata Española*, Ruperto Chapí's *Nocturno* and Enric Morera's brooding *Desolació* are followed by the two earliest compositions on the disc, Jesús de Monasterio's beautiful *Andante Religioso* from 1872 and *Andantino Expresivo* from 1881. Ricard Lamote de Grignon's *Lento Expresivo* is a nice final track.

The playing is warm and idiomatic, although there's not really a great deal for the orchestra to get their teeth into.



There's music by the contemporary Spanish composer **Ramón Paús** on **Works for Viola**, featuring the Israeli violist **Yuval Gotlibovich**, in the **Naxos Spanish Classics** series (**8.573602**). Paús, born in 1959, has worked extensively in the film, theatre and television worlds as well as the classical field.

Gotlibovich is joined by pianist **Eduardo Fernández** in *Madera Ocaso* (Wood Sunset) (2013), an extensive single-movement rhapsodic piece with modern touches and a very strong piano part. The **Catalan Chamber Orchestra** under **Joan Pàmies** form the accompaniment for the even more rhapsodic *Cobalto azul, en tránsito* (Cobalt blue, in transit) (2013), and the same performers are joined by violinist **Raquel Castro** and the **ESMUC Chamber Choir** male voices in the quite beautiful *Elegía primera, la deriva* (First elegy, the drift) (2014), an effective and moving work focusing on extreme loss. Gotlibovich displays a warm and beautiful tone throughout the instrument's range.

Madera Ocaso was written for these two performers and Gotlibovich also gave the first performance of the other two works, the recording sessions for the *Elegía primera* beginning the day after its November 2015 premiere in Barcelona.

Music for violin and viola by American composer **Michael Alec Rose** is featured on **Il Ritorno**, with the English duo of violinist **Peter**

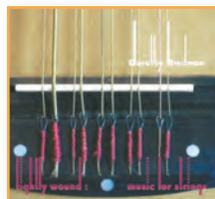


Sheppard Skærved and violist Diana Mathews (Métier MSV 28574). There are two works for violin and viola and two for solo violin here, all of which were a result of the composer's long friendship with the two performers. Mathews commissioned the opening work, *Unturned Stones: Duo for Violin and Viola* (2012), a three-movement piece that takes the study of landscape as a starting point but ventures much further afield. Rose's extensive booklet notes quoting Talmudic study and Zen philosophy.

Mornington Caprice: Duo for Violin and Viola (2015) is the second caprice Rose has written for Mathews and was inspired by Frank Auerbach's painting *Mornington Crescent – Early Morning* (1991). At under four minutes it takes longer to read and understand the booklet notes than it does to listen to the music.

By far the biggest work on the CD is the title track, subtitled *Perambulation for Solo Violin* (2013-2015). It was inspired and shaped by the composer's obsession with Dartmoor in Devon, England, which he first visited in 1991 and which he describes as "the reigning metaphor" of his life; he has returned 18 times since then, hence the work's title. The four pages of intense booklet notes make it clear that this work goes well beyond the purely physical appeal of the landscape suggested by the six movement titles: *Preamble*; *Bearings*; *Silence*; *Water*; *Stone*; and *Song*. Skærved is in quite superb form in a work which is certainly not lacking a tonal feel and that uses very little in the way of extreme technique; there is some remarkable playing here, especially in *Stone*.

The brief *Diaphany* (2016) for solo violin is a strong finish to the disc. It may be something of a challenge to fully understand the philosophical approach here, but there's no doubting the strength and quality of the music.



Tightly Wound: Music for Strings is a 2CD set of works by the American composer **Dorothy Hindman** featuring 13 varied works played by a wide range of performers (**Innova 965**).

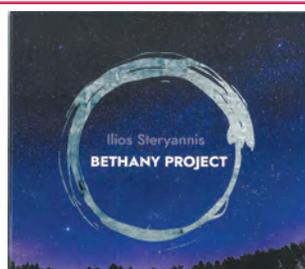
Hindman's music is described as "a blend of punk/grunge with a spectralist sensibility," although the differing styles of the works here would seem to suggest more;

this is clearly music by a highly accomplished composer.

CD2 is by far the stronger of the two, with various pieces for guitar quartet (the terrific *Taut*), solo guitar, string quartet, amplified cello, and both solo violin and solo cello with fixed media. The exemplary performers include guitarist Paul Bowman, cellist Craig Hultgren, violinist Karen Bentley Pollick, the Corona Guitar Kwartet and the Amernet String Quartet. **◐**

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Bethany Project
Ilios steryannis

This album features a wide variety of styles, from Coltranesque post bop to charging West African grooves, with Mediterranean and Afro-Cuban flavours mixed in.



Michel Corrette - Sonatas for Harpsichord and Violin, Op. 25
The Luchkow - Jarvis Duo: Michael Jarvis and Paul Luchkow
The first recording of Michel Corrette's charming and imaginative Op. 25 sonatas.



Ramón Paús: Works for Viola
Catalan Chamber Orchestra; Eduardo Fernández; ESMUC Chamber Choir; Raquel Castro; Joan Pàmies; Yuval Gotlibovich
The three viola works on this recording reveal elements of Ramon Paus's eclectic musical background, with jazz-like moments and colourful drama.



Claude Baker: Piano Concerto "From Noon to Starry Night"
Marc-André Hamelin; Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra
Gilbert Varga • Juanjo Mena
Award-winning and much decorated composer Claude Baker here entwines his evocative soundworld with the powerful imagery of two great poets.