

SUITE DEL RECUERDO for guitar
by *Jose Luis Merlin*

Tuscany Publications. 15 pages.

Dedicated to Atahualpa Yupanqui, this six movement suite is a welcome and attractive addition to the South American repertoire. It offers guitarists a desirable alternative to the standard fare and could work well in any mixed recital programme.

The opening *Evocation* is an ingenuous melody, gently supported by arpeggios and harmonic motion reminiscent of the famous *Cavatina*. The two following dance movements, *Zamba* and *Chacarera*, present a lively and delightful contrast to the plaintive opening.

Arpeggio figures with a melody harmonised in thirds fingered on strings five and four start the following *Carnavalito*. Reminiscent of Villa-Lobos' *Etude Number 11* in texture and form, this movement has a middle section that provides a stunning contrast to the previous material before the return to the opening materials. After a repeat of the first movement an exhilarating *Joropo* follows. Its alternation between three-four and six-eight time provides a fitting climax to this appealing set.

All the movements fit well on the guitar and will present little difficulty if you are versed in the works of Villa-Lobos or Lauro.

The presentation is good. Most page turns are easy except for one in the last movement. A clear and useful glossary is provided to explain the special strumming and plucking techniques needed for the performance of the music.

Peter Argondizza