

# *Amor de la Danza*

Ana Cervantes, piano

THREE 1/2 STARS

Cervantes lives in Roosevelt, one of that town's large contingent of poets, artists, and musicians. She is a regular at concert series given in the Unitarian Church of Princeton, where these performances were recorded, some before an audience, some alone.

The program divides between the Baroque and the 20th Century, the latter long on Latin American composers like Astor Piazzolla and Joaquin Nin-Culmell. There's a connection here between Cervantes's ruminative Bach playing and her gently rhythmic approach to Nin-Culmell's *Danzas Cubanas*.

The disc is mastered a bit too softly to equal the emotional impact of Cervantes's concerts. But it fits these gentle, expansive readings. She is a lyrical player in the best sense of that word: assured, fresh, well thought-out, always in the moment.

"Amor de la Danza" is available at PO Box 69, Roosevelt, NJ 08555 or via email at [laquijote@hotmail.com](mailto:laquijote@hotmail.com).

- Peter Spencer, Newark Star-Ledger, August 1999

# More New CDs With a Latin Twist

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A  
hrefmailto:steinbergabq@Journal.com David  
Steinberg  
Journal Staff Writer

Here are a few more suggestions of CDs with a Latin flavor, in recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month.

\* "Ravel" (EMI Classics) revives the French composer's sensual, world famous "Bolero," and this version is capable of doing some major heart-pumping. This work, when played at even at low decibel levels, will certainly keep your heart in shape for its running time of 16 minutes and 15 seconds ... then there's the 32 minutes and 30 seconds of cooldown. It's about as passionate a bolero (popular or classical) as you will ever hear. Performing is the City of Birmingham (England) Chorus and Orchestra. It is paired with Ravel's hourlong "Daphnis et Chloé," which presages Hollywood movie themes.

\* "Amor de la Danza." In case you missed pianist Ana Cervantes' performances in Albuquerque and Santa Fe last winter, check out this self-produced solo album spotlighting her fresh, robust playing. It's like being there. It features works by J.S. Bach, William Byrd, Astor Piazzolla and a fleet of lesser known composers. There's a relaxing yet lilting sonata by Sebastián de Albero y Añños and a group of lively Cuban dances that Joaquín Nin-Culmell wrote for a theatrical piece that was never staged. The dances are worth listening to over and over. So is the album. To obtain information about the album e-mail Cervantes at [laquijote@cervantespiano.com](mailto:laquijote@cervantespiano.com)

Her Web site is [www.cervantespiano.com](http://www.cervantespiano.com).

\* "Andean Songs" (Naxos World). The band Takillacta has a distinctive, inviting take on the traditional music of the Andes, due in part to its musicians' origins and their instruments.

The bassist is from Japan; the other players are from Colombia, Peru, Chile and Argentina. They play piano, guitar and drums, instruments not usually associated with Andean music. But one musician, Peruvian Arturo Flores, plays tradition Andean flutes, quenenas, sikus and samponas and his sound dominates the ensemble.

This is a welcome addition to the ever-expanding genre known as world music.

