

MARTHA MASTERS

Critical Acclaim

"[Masters] is the winner of last year's Guitar Foundation of America Solo Guitar Competition. That honor, combined with movie-star looks and a natural showman's charisma, puts Masters at the forefront of her generation of guitarists."

- *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*

"Elements in her performance style, a relatively short few years off the launching pad as classical careers go, suggest Masters is on a swift and certain trajectory to star territory."

- *Illinois Times*

"Poise, maturity and clean technique... Masters put her ample dexterity to good use... Her control of instrumental color was exemplary."

- *San Antonio Express-News*

"Martha Masters demonstrated a gift for turning the guitar into a polyphonic instrument. [Her] exploration of soft dynamics was such that at times it seemed as if swallowing might disturb the moment."

- *Austin-American Statesman*

"Classical guitarist Martha Masters is one of the brightest new stars of her generation. She has that combo of unquestionably high-level technique and a sense of the music, of soul."

- *Acoustic Guitar*

"With her clean playing, well-graded dynamics and all-round musical intelligence, she is a pleasure to listen to."

- *Classical Guitar*

"Masters had a sweet tone... a fine balanced tremolo... I would go out of my way to hear [Martha] play again."

- *Soundboard*

"Her sound is refined, the clarity and balance of her articulation is thoroughly controlled without ever sounding rigid, and her sense of phrasing is both intelligent and natural."

- *Guitar Review*

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Critical Acclaim (Cont'd)

"[Masters] demonstrated a good sense of singing and produced excellent atmosphere with intelligent music and phrasing... her music was noble. She created a joyful and elegant atmosphere with good fluid passage. She showed her articulated and rich tone, and generated a romantic flavor with good sensibility. Her strong technical ability allowed her to maintain excellent musicality even in difficult passages, which was very impressive."

- *Gendai Guitar*

"Her playing is refined and elegant, with an understated sophistication. She rarely overwhelms with virtuosity, instead focusing on the expressive details and shape of each phrase. ...an intimacy and tenderness that can be thoroughly affecting. Sor's famous variations have rarely sounded more musically substantial."

- *American Record Guide*

"Martha Masters has a wonderful sound, a fine sense of artistry, and excellent communication with her audience. She plays with a clear sense of musical style and is willing to take artistic risks to heighten the depth of her musical expression."

- *Classical Guitar Society of Northern Colorado*

"Artful, virtuosic, and sophisticated."

- *Palos Verdes Peninsula News*

"Martha Masters played with an extremely high level of refinement and poise that brought much fluidity to her sense of musicality and technical arsenal."

- *Boston Classical Guitar Society*

"Right away you could sense Masters' total control, beautiful sound, and careful articulation."

- *Classical Voice North Carolina*

"The effect was tantalizing... she played very attentively and beautifully - I was in heaven."

- *The Guitarista*

"Masters displayed formidable technical skills and deft musicianship leaving little doubt why she is so highly regarded."

- *Brevard College: Divertimento*

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Critical Acclaim (Cont'd)

"Martha Masters' disc entitled *Serenade*, is a charming collection of music that clearly shows why she has gained the recognition she has: the performances display a love and understanding of the music that gives each a distinct character and really allows the pieces to communicate directly with the listener."

- *Seattle Classic Guitar Society*

"A magical evening of guitar music"

- *Savannah Classical Guitar*

"Masters justifies her prizes. Bravo!"

- *Minnesota Public Radio*

"Masters specializes in diminuendo. The effect was delicate and dream-like, even daring."

- *Vue Weekly, Edmonton*

"The performance given by Martha Masters on this disc is that sumptuous combination of technical virtuosity and emotional connection to the very soul of the music being played. While other artists try to impress with flash (the 'all sizzle, no steak' approach), Ms. Masters gives us a smorgasbord of colors and flavors to feast our ears on. Bottom line is, this is a great introduction to an artist who is clearly on the ascending arc of an extraordinary career, with a selection of music which is a joy to hear. Do yourself a favor and buy it."

- *Amazon.com Review of Naxos Recording*

"Her cosmopolitan taste is supported by playing of outstanding skill, the razor-sharp unanimity between hands ensuring absolute precision even when the music is hurtling by."

- *David's Review Corner (Naxos CD Review)*

"Martha Masters will most certainly be one of the most sought-after guitarists of her generation – hear her!"

- *Scott Tennant*