

The Gazette

The Gazette (Montréal), Monday, May 30, 1988

Guitarist Laucke and group put on an impressive recital

By ERIC McLEAN
Gazette Music Critic Emeritus

The promise of a recital by the Canadian guitarist Michael Laucke and his group succeeded in filling the Maisonneuve Theatre (with extra seats on the stage) last Friday evening.

And if we are to judge by the two encores and the sustained applause that followed every item, no one was disappointed by the performance.

As in many of his earlier concerts in Montreal, Laucke shared the stage with the flamenco dancer, Sonia Del Rio, the violinist Eugene Husaruk, and flautist and guitarist Jean Dury, sometimes individually, and, at the end, all together.

REVIEW

Michael Laucke, guitarist, in a recital at the Maisonneuve Theatre. Friday evening, with the assistance of **Eugene Husaruk**, violinist; **Sonia Del Rio**, flamenco dancer and castanet player; and **Jean Dury**, flute and second guitar.

The program was made up of works for solo guitar by Villa-Lobos, Barrios, Laucke, Sabicas, Paco de Lucia; (with violin) Vivaldi, Paganini, and Fauré; (with flute) Gossec, Desportes, and Ibert; with dancer, Paco de Lucia, Michael Laucke, Albeniz, and Granados.

But the expressive guitar of Michael Laucke was always present, sometimes in the traditional Spanish form, and sometimes in the flamenco version, and equally convincing in both.

Spain did not have a monopoly on the guitar, however. Italian composers have made a number of important contributions to the repertoire of the instrument, and besides Vivaldi and Paganini, we had works by Laucke himself, plus a few discreet arrangements of popular items like Fauré's Sicilienne, or Jacques Ibert's Entr'acte.

Laucke could hardly have expected a more skilful collaboration than he received from his three colleagues, and while he dominated the proceedings, the partners won their rightful share of the applause.

Laucke leaves shortly on a tour of the orient, after which he is to take an extended leave of absence.