

Translation Review 'For Aces'

Choosing 'Four Aces Guitar Quartet' as a name is a brave move. But how fully deserved by these four young Belgians! Not only because they do something interesting, but also because they do it fluently, with a bit of *cool*. *For Aces* is their third cd. What's on the previous ones, you can easily find out while searching on internet. They contain typical guitar pieces: arrangements of latino-american schlagers, classic of the classics like Introduction and fandango of Boccherini and so on. But again, we must admit, played with virtuosity, lightly, sometimes with a 'winking eye'.

Luckily, the men decided to go a step further for their youngest cd. They put together a program which contains only pieces written for them. As they write on their website, they wanted to show how diverse guitar and its sound can be. After listening to the cd, we admit that they achieved even more. In collaboration with different authors, they created a cd that shines with many colours. The album is stylistically diverse and a pleasure to listen to. Surprisingly this diversity stays all the time on a high level of performance and realisation. It's hard to write here about each composition of the 8 composers that responded to the request of the quartet. But it is worth to mention at least two, in my opinion the most interesting ones: *4 aces suite* by Nejc Kuhar and *Nelle Regioni del Sogno* by Nuccio D'Angelo. In the first piece, a young Serbian composer tries to join typical solutions for guitar quartet with more modernistic ideas. Especially interesting is the second movement with constant exploration of dissonances. A separate compliment is well deserved for courageous, leading voices in modal harmony.

Totally different is the music composed by D'Angelo. *Nelle Regioni del Sogno* reminds us from the very first sounds to his most famous composition: *Duo Canzoni*. Free, almost a bluesy rhythm, Indian harmony, typically european counterpoint in a short for... those elements create a new, individual style of the italian composer. It sounds like the men improvise. Yet another merit of musicians who treat material freely and natural, not losing control on narration. A real masterwork.

Guitar is 'made' for chamber music. It makes us happy that more and more musicians decide to play and record in groups. What brings joy is also the high level of some these new recordings - in this case the level of a masterpiece. One can only hope that soon also some Polish group will record an album like *For Aces* and that it will be possible to speak highly about it too.