

The Alliance Review

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Husband and Wife musicians make Community Concerts opener 'Joy'

By Karen Perone

The opening concert of the Alliance Community Concert Association's 56th season was a joy for all who attended.

Flutist Debra Reuter-Pivetta and her husband pianist Federico Pivetta performed a program of late Romantic and 20th century compositions for the Alliance audience as the first stop on their tour of 49 Community Concerts venues.

The program began with "Tango Fantasia" by Jacob Gade and Toke Lund Christiansen. The fiery emotions of a tango were evident in the full sound of Reuter-Pivetta's flute playing. The work was reminiscent of many turn-of-the-century works showing the technical virtuosity of the soloist.

Michael Garson, pianist with the jazz group Free Flight, composed the next work on the program, "Sonata." The composition incorporated Garson's jazz and gospel influences in the three-movement work. The *moderato* and *andante* movements showed delicate lyrical lines and contrasted with the work's final movement, which incorporated a perpetual motion style. Pianist and flutist acted as one, showing their excellent ensemble technique through the difficult rhythmic passages.

"Nocturne" by Lili Boulanger (sister of famed music educator Nadia Boulanger) was written in one night while the composer was a student at the Paris Conservatory. This work, along with a selection from Puccini's "La Bohème," offered a calming mood through simple elegance.

Otar Taktakishvili may have written the Georgian national anthem, but his name is not one that many will recognize. Flutists are becoming more aware of him through his recently discovered "Sonata." Written in three movements, it incorporates many Russian dance melodies. The pianist, in the opening *allegro cantabile* offers a light march-like accompaniment over which the flute line gets to dance. Again in the final *allegro scherzando* movement, the duo exhibited an extremely tight ensemble as Reuter-Pivetta flew through the technically

demanding tongued passages of all registers clearly and cleanly.

The first half ended with "La Ronde des Lutins" by Antonio Bazzini, which was originally composed for violin. The "Dance of the Goblins" is definitely a showcase piece written in gypsy-like style.

Federico Pivetta began the second half of the program with two improvisational arrangements of works by George Gershwin, "Skylark" and "I've Got Rhythm." Pivetta was fascinated by American jazz while growing up in South America and performed these works in contrasting styles with fluidity and rhythmic intensity.

Robert Dick, the composer of "Lookout!", is known for taking the flute where no one had dared before and has devoted his career to pushing the flute and flute playing to the limits.

With influences from Jimi Hendrix, Dick composed "Lookout!" for the National Flute Association's high school competition in 1989. It incorporated key clicks for percussive effects, ask the flutist to sing while playing, and uses multiphonics. The latter two techniques allow the solo flute to sound like several flutes. Reuter-Pivetta offered a good explanation of this contemporary work before performing it and it was accepted well by the audience.

The program concluded with a work from British saxophonist Mike Mower, who is better known for his band Itchy Fingers. The "Sonata Latino" also made use of key clicks and added some additional percussion through the use of the "chicken shake" and some tapping on the wood of the piano.

As an encore, the duo offered a lively Venezuelan composition entitled "El Diablo Suelto."