



Australian Strings Association

Schumann goes Tango



This debut CD recording by Spanish cellist Roger Morello Ros and German pianist Alicia Koyama Muller combines sumptuous works by Robert Schumann with tango music from the 20th century. Perhaps not such strange bed-fellows after all, since all works began with inspiration from folk music, and exhibit a similar character of quickly changeable moods and heightened emotion.

Along with the *Five Pieces in Folk Style* Op.102, and the *Adagio* and *Allegro* Op.70 (version for cello and piano), is an arrangement for cello and piano of five of Schumann's *Spanish Love Songs* Op.135. Throughout the CD, there is a pleasing conversational interplay between cello and piano, with the ensemble very well balanced and warm-toned in the recording. **Cellist Morelló Ros plays with great spirit and the interpretations are tonally varied, sensitive and imaginatively coloured.** His forte tone is robust with an earthiness that suits the folk-style idiom.

Two works for cello and piano by Italian-Argentine cellist and composer Jose Bragato (1915-2017) demonstrate his admiration for the work of Astor Piazzolla and the "Nuevo Tango" form. Bragato's *Milontan* and the *Graciela y Buenos Aires*, allow the musicians to extend their vibrant playing styles, while Morello Ros shows his technical flair in some long cadenza passages. The CD concludes with *Autumn* for Piano Trio by Piazzolla (arranged Bragato) where violinist Sara Cubarsi joins the ensemble. The modern tango music is played with suitable Latin panache, passion and dance energy.

Catherine Milligan

