

Profundo
Romantic Music for the Spanish Classical Guitar

By

Joseph Sullinger

Written by

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Many will know of **Joseph Sullinger** for his albums *Earth Voyage* and more recently *Adore*. Here the artist reveals his classical and more romantic side, and gives us an opportunity to be a part of this quite wonderful performance, with the album *Profundo Romantic Music for the Spanish Classical Guitar*.

We start with **Op. 11: No 2, Menuet in G Minor**, which flows with great respect into **Op. 11: No 1, Menuet in G Major**, listen to the subtle, but profound distinctiveness of both tracks, the slightly serious intent of the first piece is lifted by the major tones of the second, originally produced by *Fernando Sor*.

Now I have a Spanish guitar in my music room and I wish I could play it half as well as Joseph. As an example of styles listen to **Gran Vals**; a more pronounced Spanish ethic can be felt here, and Sullinger continues this theme by performing a second track from the artist *Francisco Tarrega* entitled **Tango**. Both of these two dance styled compositions really highlight the amazing standard of Sullinger's exceptional performance.

This next piece will be very familiar to many, it is called **Spanish Romance**; whilst its originator is anonymous, this is a perfect example of how a nylon acoustic guitar should be played, and **Joseph Sullinger** performs with style and class on this most blissful arrangement.

This is a moment to sit on the veranda and blissfully chill out with a glass of Sangria, as the tones of **Scherzino Mexicano** arrive with its calming influence

upon our table. There was something so delightfully sun kissed about this one, and while I write, the cicadas join in with their own choir.

We now return to the works of composer **Francisco Tarrega** for the next two offerings and can be grateful for this most agreeable performance; Sullinger really takes his time and produces a very classy and somewhat moody presentation for **Capricho Arabe** and then on the short form piece **Etude in Em** produces something so moving and memorable for us all to enjoy. I found this particular track quite emotive.

So, we now move into the second half of the release and start that journey with a composition originally from the pen of *Agustin Barrios Mangore*, this one is called **Op. 8: No 4 Waltz in G Major**. As an arrangement this has great movement and the quality of Sullinger's performance is a full flowing and extremely cheerful narrative, as only a Waltz could be.

The artist now delivers to us a track from the composer *Isaac Albeniz* called **Suite Espanola, Op. 47: IV. Cadiz**. The implementation of this composition is pristine in its technique and in my view this is one of the most technically gifted tracks off the album.

I adored these next two pieces which are Sullinger's own compositions, one called **Romance**, which had a perfect romantic resonance with a little emotive energy thrown into the mix, and then on **Rocio** a slower, but more radiant composition, this is also a track that could cross genres with ease, beautiful performances abound here, and a total pleasure to listen to as always.

When I arrived at the doorway to this piece from *Luys De Navaez*, I felt a really defined change to a more middle aged based composition. Then when I checked the date of the composer's life and works, and found that to be between 1490 and 1547, it all made sense. **Joseph Sullinger** has produced something different and very intriguing with **Guardame Las Vacas**.

We now move through the last few corridors of this quite stylish release and come across a track from composer *Gasper Sanz* called **Pavana al Aire Espanola**. This is one technically brilliant performance and a good deal of patience must have gone into just getting the sound right, yet another wonderfully enjoyable opus of tone.

We now knock on the last two doors of the album and here the musician gifts us a couple of musical presents to take along our way. The first is **Sueno**, a fluent, melodic arrangement that seems to weave its way across our minds in a pattern so grand and complex. I personally have learned so much from just listening to this master of the acoustic guitar.

We now finish with **Pavana**, this reminds me of the style of music I love to play on the rocks of our shores here in Cyprus, and **Pavana** has that sun kissed and peaceful motif about its construction that you just cannot help but fall in love with.

For those of you like me, who love *all* things guitar, especially acoustic, you will revel in each and every technically brilliant movement of this release. **Joseph Sullinger** has produced another master piece here for us to all kick back and enjoy. He has produced and manifested into our realm, an album of lovingly created tracks from the Romantic Classical music genre for Spanish guitar and done so with not just technical brilliance, but with a style filled with passion and pride, this is one not to be missed.