

# Latin beat added to Westben line-up

## Special to The Examiner

CAMPBELLFORD - A little extra Latin heat is set for mid-July as the passionate music of Spain, Mexico and Brazil comes as a special double-header at the Westben Concerts at the Barn near Campbellford.

First up with a performance that is as smooth as 10-year-old Tequila is classic guitar whiz Daniel Bolshoy on July 13, one of five Tuesday night concerts in the Music of the Night series.

He will take a musical voyage that stretches from Spain (Granados' music) to Brazil (living legend Sergio Assad).

"For me, music is something I care passionately about," he said. "That's why at concerts, I love to speak to the audience about the music I'm playing."

Music fans in eastern Ontario will see first-hand why one U.S. critic wrote of Bolshoy: "Remember the name Daniel Bolshoy. You are destined to hear more of it. A young fresh face on the classical guitar circuit, Bolshoy has everything it takes to be a master classical guitarist."

Bolshoy's swift rise through the ranks of the concert world could have taken a very different course if he had followed his childhood heroes: Jimi Hendrix and Eddie Van Halen.

"I loved all those great guitar rippers, probably because their music was hard to get hold of in Israel where I grew up and that made it special," he said. "Once my family emigrated to Canada, I found that their music was pretty mainstream."

After leaving high school in

Ottawa, he studied for two years under the Canadian guitar icon Norbert Kraft at the University of Toronto.

At 28, he is dividing his time between teaching at the Indiana University School of Music (the biggest in the United States) and blazing a trail through the concert world mostly in Canada.

The Latin theme slips into high gear four days later with the second concert Bach to Brazil (July 17 and 18). Baroque and Spanish music is on the menu but the main course will definitely be a stunning rendition of Villa-Lobos' Bachianas Brasileiras No.5.

This haunting blend of vocal heroics backed by a soccer team-style line-up of cello players has already become a "hot play" on classical radio stations this year: It was Brazilian composer Hector

Villa-Lobos' very successful attempt to evoke of the spirit of Bach in a Latin framework.

Concert star soprano Donna Bennett, co-founder of Westben, is performing the Villa Lobos piece.

"I've had to take Portuguese lessons from a friend who is fluent in both Spanish and Portuguese so that I can bring the proper accent to the lyrics of Villa Lobos," Bennett said. "This is not an easy language to master."

Bennett will be backed up by a phalanx of eight celloists led by two stars of the instrument, Thomas Wiebe and Paul Widner, on the Villa-Lobos piece.

The Latin double-bill is one of the highlights in a busy schedule of 45 concerts that Westben is presenting through the summer months until Sept. 25.