

CLASSICAL

McGillicuddy's Rant ★★★½

Daniel Bolshoy, guitar (Centaur)

One of the things that make classical guitar recordings so popular is the instrument's inherent gentleness. It's a bit like the harpsichord in that regard, or the harp. Any of these instruments can imply violent emotions, but they can't portray them as directly as a piano, a string quartet or an orchestra.

So guitar music is often taken as something for background listening, perhaps as accompaniment to a hazy sort of meditation. One could use this CD that way, or much of it anyway, but Daniel Bolshoy has chosen a program that has enough meat for people who like really to listen to their music. The fact that he plays the four works on the program beautifully makes the collection all the more congenial.

The title of the CD is taken from Clark Winslow Ross's 11-movement theme and variations of the same name. A gently polytonal piece, it is concise and not overly serious, but deliciously spiced in its harmonies. This is its first recording.

Sonatas by Manuel Ponce and Antonio José are also included, along with Brazillian guitarist/composer Sergio Assad's delicately coloured *Aquarelle Suite* pour guitar.

Richard Todd