

GINASTERA: Harp Concerto;
Variaciones Concertantes
Sidsel Walstad, hp; Norwegian Radio/
Miguel Harth-Bedoya
LAWO 1182—48 minutes

Ginastera's harp pieces redefined the expressive and technical possibilities of the instrument. Though written in the 50s, the Harp Concerto premiered in 1965 with the Spanish harpist Nicanor Zabaleta. In this attractive recording, Sidsel Walstad turns in a colorful, sharply articulated

performance, with poetry and virtuosity to spare. Her coordination with the Norwegian Radio Orchestra is deft, and her cadenza in the finale is stunning. Aggressively rhythmical and hauntingly lyrical, the concerto is a mesmerizing work, full of special effects for the harp and colorful solos for other instruments as well, especially brass and percussion. The slow movement is a mournful song initiated by strings. The percussive finale ends with a startling dissonance. Variaciones Concertantes, from a decade earlier, is an even more entertaining piece, creating what Ginastera calls an "Argentinean mood" with folkloric solos for just about everyone in the orchestra as well as the harp. These sound like folk song quotations, but the tunes are Ginastera's own. At the end, all the forces come together for a joyous rondo.

SULLIVAN, *American Record Guide*

