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## Brilliant Recital of Virtuoso Guitar Transcriptions - ,

June 16, 2016

By [Dennis E. Ferrara](#)

**This review is from: Invitation Francaise (Audio CD)**

This is the second recital of **this brilliant French guitar quartet** which calls itself **Quatuor Eclisses**. The Ad Vitam label has an extremely interesting catalogue of young and exciting musicians and this group is certainly one of their stellar attractions. Their transcriptions and arrangements have total complicity, originality and subtlety. The ensemble's musicians include: Gabriel Bianco - (who has issued a solo recital on the Ad Vitam and it will be reviewed very soon); Arkairz Chambonnet; Pierre Lelievre (who has also issued a solo recording on the Ad Vitam label); and Benjamin Valette.\* Transcription by the Los Angeles Guitar Quartet; \*\* - Transcription by the Quatuor Eclisses

The Program: Invitation Francaise - Quatuor Eclisses - Guitares - Ad Vitam - TT: 53:37 - Maurice Ravel - (1875-1937) - \*Alborada del Gracioso - (1905); Claude Debussy - (1862-1918) - \* Suite Bergamasque - (1890) - i. Prelude; ii. Menuet; iii. Clair de lune; iv. Passepied; Camile Saint-Saens - (1835-1921) - \* Danse macabre - (1875); Georges Bizet - (1838-1875) - \*\* - Carmen Suite - i. Aragonaise; ii. Habanera; iii. Seguidilla; iv. Toreadors; v. Entr'act; vi. Les triangles des sistres tintaient - (Gypsy Dance); Gabriel Faure - (1845-1924) - \* - Barcarolle, No. 1, Op. 26 - (1880).

**This group is truly amazing in its rich tonal pallet which features a unique warmth, balance, a superb understanding for a 'singing tone' and a total understanding for the art of the musical phrase.** At times, they sound as if there is only one guitar. As Hector Berlioz once said, "The guitar is a small orchestra." Moreover, this is certainly true of this group's tonal orchestral sound especially in the Ravel, Debussy, Saint-Saens and the Bizet. This musical ensemble plays together like old friends making beautiful music together.

As is a excellent feature with Ad Vitam releases, there are excellent program notes in French and in English as well as interesting photographs throughout the release.