Argondizza, Peter (1996) Suite del Recuerdo for Guitar by Jose Luis Merlin. Sheet music reviewed by Peter Argondizza. [Review],

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SUITE DEL RECUERDO for guitar
by Jose Luis Merlin
Tuscany Publications. 15 pages.
Dedicated to Atahualpa Yupanqui, this six movement suite is a wel-
come and attractive addition to the South American repertoire. It
offers guitarists a desirable alter-
native to the standard fare and
could work well in any mixed recital programme.

The opening Evocation is an
ingenious melody, gently support-
ed by arpeggios and harmonic
motion reminiscent of the famous
Cavatina. The two following dance
movements, Zamba and Chacarera,
present a lively and delightful con-
trast to the plaintive opening.

Arpeggio figures with a melody
harmonised in thirds fingered on
strings five and four start the fol-
lowing Carnavalito. Reminiscent of
Villa-Lobos’ Etude Number 11 in
texture and form, this movement
has a middle section that provides
a stunning contrast to the previous
material before the return to the
opening materials. After a repeat of
the first movement an exhilarating
Joropo follows. Its alternation
between three-four and six-eight
time provides a fitting climax to
this appealing set.

All the movements fit well on the
guitar and will present little diffi-
culty if you are versed in the works
of Villa-Lobos or Lauro.

The presentation is good. Most
page turns are easy except for one
in the last movement. A clear and
useful glossary is provided to
explain the special strumming and
plucking techniques needed for the
performance of the music.

Peter Argondizza