

# Album Review: Joie de Vivre by Katrin Endrikat

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NICOLE NEAL

Hello folks, I have another superb recording in my guitar string-calloused little mitts to review for you. And once again it's another cracker.

*Joie de Vivre* album is the second recorded offering from young German guitarist [Katrin Endrikat](#) (her first being *Between the Worlds*, released in 2014). Katrin, born in Berlin, Germany in 1989, graduated with a Master of Music in Guitar Performance from the Yale School of Music (USA) under the guidance of Benjamin Verdery in 2014. She obtained her bachelor's degree from Hochschule für Musik Detmold (Germany), where she studied with Dale Kavanagh and Thomas Kirchhoff.

So she's no slouch! And this album is testament to that.

In fact this album is more than testament to that, and really lives up to it's name – *Joie de Vivre* or joy of life! This recording bristles with a lively and exciting vibrant energy. And it was so lovely to read in the album liner notes that Katrin has dedicated this recording to her at-the-time unborn daughter – *Joie de Vivre* indeed! You can hear and feel the excitement and emotion in the playing attached to such an exciting time of life.

On this recording we're treated to some well-known favourites and , such as Torroba's *Sonatina* (a delightfully vigorous interpretation, particularly the *Allegretto*, with some fabulous ponticello tones), Barrios' *Danza Paraguaya* (Katrin really brings out the lively, yet unhurried dance-like qualities of this piece. And again I really love those ponticello tones), and a lovely *Recuerdos de la Alhambra* (a good deal of direction and drive, beautifully clear baseline that others don't perhaps emphasise so well and a lovely even tremolo). We're also presented with lovely interpretations of Granados' *Villanesca* (again I was struck by the lovely ponticello tones – check this recording out if you want to hear how genuinely lovely and non-twangy a really god ponticello can be) and Albeniz's *Sevilla* (a rousing, energetic exploration of this favourite).

*Joie de Vivre* also features all five movements of José Luis Merlin's *Suite del Recuerdo*, a piece I'll admit I'm not overly familiar with. The first movement and album opener (my favourite of the five movements), *Evocacion*, is lyrical, yet vibrant, with sensitive phrasing.

I particularly like Lauro's *El Marabino* – a wonderful foot-tapping little waltz, with just the right smattering of rubato, without becoming trite or “obvious”, if you catch my meaning.

The recording is rounded out by a delightful Brazilian number *Jongo* by Paulo Bellinati, with some absolutely fab percussive sounds. Love it!

But for all of the wonderfully energetic renditions on *Joie de Vivre* my favourite has to be the lullingly soothing interpretation of the traditional (arranged by Miguel Llobet) *El Noi de la Mare* (which rather aptly translates as Mother's Child). A case in point that a guitarist doesn't have to present the flashiest, most technically challenging piece to demonstrate mastery of the instrument, allowing the music to speak through the delivery of a sensitively shaped melody, divine phrasing and full harmonies with beautiful tone.

All in all, *Joie de Vivre* is a wonderful recording – a delight of tonal variation, energetic flow and direction coupled with beautiful lyricism. Katrin Endrikat is certainly a guitarist worth keeping an eye (and ear!) on.

Be sure to check out Katrin’s website here: <http://katrinendrikat.com>

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