

The Porter Center Concerts in Review: Carlos Perez, Classical Guitar

by Jason DeCristefaro
Arts & Life Editor

The Porter Center is renowned in the Southeast for featuring some of the finest soloists performing concert repertoire today. Classical guitarist Carlos Perez was no exception when he performed there on Sunday October 5. In fact, he provided one of the most enjoyable concerts given by a soloist give at the Porter Center in a long time.

The music Perez performed for the concert was standard repertoire for the instrument, primarily from the catalog of Carulli in the first half of the show. The best selection, "Polonesa Opus 141," is a staple in the pantheon of classical guitar literature. It isn't surprising that Carlos chose to perform the work, seeing how Carulli is one of the most influential classical guitar composers, writing over 400 works for the instrument. What was surprising, however, was the intensity and musicality that

Carlos poured into his performance of the piece.

The constant rhythm of cascading chords in



the first half often sounds monotonous in the hands of an amateur. Perez, however, carefully observed the dynamics and brought out the

romantic qualities of the introduction. The harmonics before the entrance of the theme were angelic and crystalline, resonating like a bell. The use of the pedal point in the development section had a powerful and round tone without dominating the melody – even a section as simple as this carried more meaning because Perez's mature musical interpretation. The cumbersome technical requirements of the piece never prevented Carlos from making the "Polonesa" sound effortless and dance-like...this is the sign of a true master.

The second selection of the concert that was especially impressive was the "Cinco Piezas (5 Pieces)," by the late Argentinean composer Julio Sagreras, also an important figure in the world of classical guitar composers. Perez was wise in selecting this piece, since it allowed him to demonstrate many of his virtuosic capabilities on the instrument. Some of these included artificial harmonics, two finger tremolos, and execution of counterpoint between the lower and upper registers of the instrument. Even the most ornery sections of the five pieces never seemed to phase Perez – he seemed extremely natural and relaxed while performed the guitar, almost as if the instrument was an extension of him. A world class musician and royalty among classical guitarists, Carlos Perez provided an astounding and breath-taking performance that only a handful of artists have managed to match in caliber at the Porter Center for Performing Arts.

The Clarion

Senior Staff

Editor in Chief:	Joseph Chilton	Managing Editor:	Travis Wireback
News Editor:	Open	Copy Editor:	Ryan Fiffick
Business Editor:	Radosav Babic	Layout & Design:	Travis Wireback
Opinion Editor:	Open	Photo Editor:	Marc Newton
Arts & Life Editor:	Jason DeCristofaro	Business Manager:	Emily Clark
Sports Editor:	John Lange	Faculty Advisor:	John B. Padgett

Other Staff

Chris Dixon	Elyse Veeneman
Dabney Farmer	Zachary Porch
Shawn James	Nina Willis

Unsigned editorials represent the collective opinion of the staff of *The Clarion*. Other opinions expressed on this page are those of respective authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the faculty, staff or administration of Brevard College.

Letters Policy

The Clarion welcomes letters to the editor. We reserve the right to edit letters for length and content. All letters intended for publication must be signed.

All correspondence should be mailed to:

The Clarion, Brevard College, One Brevard College Drive, Brevard, NC 28712

Upcoming Events at the Porter Center:

Sat. Oct. 11 @ 7:30 p.m. – East Village Opera Company (Classical Operas performed by 2 Vocalists, a String Quartet, and a Rock Band)

Student Tickets: \$10