

## PAPAS CALIENTES

Gustavo Pazos Conde and Esther Stenburgen (guitars)

PAN 172CD

Featured here is threequarters of an hour's traditional music from the Rioplatense region of Uruguay and Argentina, in addition to compositions by Gustavo Pazos Conde himself. The Uruguayan-Dutch pairing play splendidly in this very specialised programme, and the material ranges from the nostalgic and wistful to the hugely energetic and powerful. A listing of 14 tracks will reveal that each item here could be classed as 'miniature' - and certainly there are some gems. The eponymous *Papas Calientes*, arranged by Eduardo Eguez, is certainly one such, with its delightful tongue-in-cheek humour. I enjoyed the whole disc, and two works by Conde himself stand out: *La Payada*, a 'milonga de contrapunto', is animated and impassioned, while the 'milonga-habanera' *Dona Ana* metamorphoses from an initial languishing into sheer out-and-out joy. To conclude, the guitarists

have a surprise, their arrangement of Barrios' *Choro da Saudade*: regardless of whether or not it 'belongs' here, - not my problem - I have to say that I liked it. This CD will doubtless give pleasure to many.

Chris Kilvington