



American Record Guide

Vol 68, No 1 January/February 2005

www.americanrecordguide.com

e-mail: subs@americanrecordguide.com

Editor—Donald R Vroon

Editor, Music in Concert—Shirley Fleming

Art Director—Lonnie Kunkel

Advertising—Ash Morland (215) 674-3126

Reader Service—(513) 941-1116

FORTEA: *Guitar Pieces*

Agustin Maruri—EMEC 062—71 minutes

Daniel Fortea (1878-1953) was a student of Tarrega and one of the most important guitarists in Spain in the first half of the 20th Century. He performed all over the country and was one of the most influential guitar instructors in Madrid (Regino Sainz de la Maza was one of his students). He was a colleague of the great guitarists of the day, including Segovia, Llobet, and Pujol (the booklet includes a wonderful picture of the four of them, with the young Segovia doing his best to adopt the posture of the long-hair intellectual, complete with pince-nez).

As this recording demonstrates, Fortea was also a prolific composer. His compositions are very similar to Tarrega's, showing an accomplished mastery of what one could call the Spanish salon style. There are some imaginative textures here and there, and the melodies are direct and well-shaped; the harmonies and forms are pretty predictable, though. The recording's "authenticity" is heightened by the fact that Agustin Marruri—the very fine guitarist here—plays on Fortea's own 1928 Domingo Esteso instrument.

Considering the primarily historical interest of the record, I wish they had done a better job with the booklet. The pictures are wonderful, but the English translation of the text borders on unreadable. The Spanish original is fine, though, and includes much more information than the garbled English summary.

RINGS