

October's  
New York  
Concert Calendar

WINNERS 104.3  
WJNCN FM

# KEYNOTE

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\$2.50

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## RECORDS

Reviewed by:

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**RODRIGO:** *Concierto Pastoral for Flute and Orchestra; Concierto-Serenata for Harp and Orchestra.* Nancy Allen, harp; Lisa Hansen, flute; Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Enrique Bátiz, cond. Angel DS-38278 (digital). \$11.98.

The blind composer Joaquín Rodrigo is a master of the well crafted, mildly dissonant realm of "popular modernism," and although some 20 years separate these two works (the one for harp dates from 1956 and is dedicated to Nicanor Zabaleta; the *Concierto Pastoral*, commissioned by James Galway, was premiered in 1978), their essential sibling resemblance is intact and unmistakable. Both use other instruments in the orchestra—trumpets, oboes, and so forth—to create an ongoing dialogue not unlike that of the concerto grosso of Baroque origin; both are crisp in rhythm, sparsely astringent in texture (there is a trace of Stravinskyan neoclassicism as well). We have fine versions of both these pieces by their dedicatees, but this excellent coupling by two exceptionally adroit "younger generation" artists is beautifully reproduced and brilliantly played—graceful, incisive, humorous, and refined. And here, Angel's pressing is impeccable.

H.G.