

**American Record Guide Review**  
**March/April 2010**

**ESPERANZA: Sounds of Hope**

**Rosa Antonelli, Pianist**

Albany 1140 – 74 minutes

The “hope” in the title of this beguiling collection of Argentinean piano music refers to the excitement for new beginnings that has attracted immigrants to that country for so many years. The gentle melancholy of Carlos Guastavino, the delicate trceries and Satie-like minimalism of Alberto Williams, the charming tangos of Astor Piazzolla, the French-tinted effects of Floro Ugarte, the Albeniz-like Spanish riffs of Julian Guirre, and the luxurious lyricism of Angel Lasala are all evoked with the soulful pianism of Rosa Antonelli, who plays with free rubato and color but also restraint. Her Steinway D is given a luscious recording.

The *Three Argentinean Dances* by Ginastera that conclude the collection have a special seductiveness and sophistication. The wonderful composer, who composed in so many different styles, rarely gets the full credit he deserves, though he is certainly better known than the others on this album (except Piazzolla). Altogether, this is a splendid introduction to Argentinean piano music.

SULLIVAN