

Enticing aural experience

LET us start with the music of Ginastera, which was the final item in the fascinating recital given by the Chilean pianist Roberto Bravo at St Donats Art Centre on Thursday evening.

The neglect of Alberto Ginastera's music can be explained but not excused and much of his work, like his spirited *Piano Sonata 1952* deserves a wider hearing.

As it was Roberto Bravo performed this Argentinian composer's *Three Argentinian Dances* with flair and wit, creating an enticing visual as well as

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aural experience. In particular the lovely, slowly swaying, wistful second dance will remain in the memory a long time.

Indeed the neglect of south and central American composers, such as Revueltas, Chavez and that marvellously idiosyncratic self-proclaimed Mexican, Conlon Nancarrow is unconscionable.

Mr Bravo made up for this neglect, in part, by his persuasive playing of Villa-Lobos's seductive

Lenda O Cabloco and by performing two delightful encores which included a superbly-presented contemporary Argentinian Tango and Rodriguez's *Clowns*.

Before displaying some of that richness of contemporary South American classical music Roberto Bravo played a sequence of three Liszt works, which showed his technique at its best. This sequence culminated in Liszt's technicolour musicscape, *Funerailles*, of which Mr Bravo gave a solid, cohesive and con-

vincing performance.

Firstly, the recital had opened with more conventional, and less convincing, items by Bach, Beethoven and Chopin.

Finally, though, the recital had blossomed in that South American sunshine which brought comments of approval from the large audience in the Tythe Barn. For this, Roberto Bravo is to be complimented, as he is for suggesting through his playing that there is much beautiful, attractive and approachable music being composed outside the European tradition.