

**Guitar at St David's Hall**

# Experience and youth get together

**SPAIN, France, the United States, Britain, Argentina and Italy.**

Players from these countries came together for jazz, flamenco and jazz rock in St David's Hall in Cardiff on Sunday evening through their common mastery of the guitar.

There was another absent common link: the jazz violinist Stephane Grappelli.

The youth of Vic Juris and Antonio Forcione started the proceedings with a set of originals from their respective new albums; their pretty ruminations a feast for lovers of elegance.

Barney Kessel and his trio provided the experience, especially in the beautiful ballad *Laura* with its haunting solo introduction.

The flamenco player Juan Martin was the only guitarist not to plug himself into a high-volt-

**By IFAN PAYNE**

age energy source. Yet he elicited by far the loudest applause for his feats of flying fingers.

A triumph of art over technology, one might think.

On the other hand the remarkable Bireli Lagrene demonstrated that mastery of contemporary technology can lead to satisfying creativity. His high-wattage jazz rock does for the jazz guitar what his countryman Jean Luc Ponty has done for the jazz violin, in bringing excitement to his music and a thrilling range of tonal colours to his instrument.

Over all this, Barney Kessel presided with just the right touch of good humour to make this festival an enjoyable and varied feast for gourmets of the guitar.