

Forcione and Niebla at Chapter

Guitar duo
inspired
by each
other's skill

By IFAN PAYNE

REVIEW

SOME two years ago I found myself transfixed in a record shop, listening to an album of Larry Coryell playing guitar duets and suddenly realised that I really loved the sound of two guitars.

It has been a pleasure to have heard guitar duos in Cardiff during this past year, including Vic Juris and Antonio Forcione at St David's Hall.

I wrote favourably at the time of their performance so it was a pleasure to welcome Forcione back to Cardiff this time with his established partner Eduardo Niebla.

The two appeared at Chapter on Saturday evening in an inspired concert full of rhythmic drive and of musical tension and joyous relief.

This time around Forcione's lovely composition *Sun Step* was an even more exciting *tour de force* filled with

exuberant, high-flying improvisations.

Forcione and Niebla so clearly delight in each others playing and there was great sensuousness in their performance of the nostalgic *Dedicato* and in the yearning *In Memory Of You*.

In contrast there was wit in the amusing *Light And Shade* and *Elephant Walk*.

These two creative performers make constant and intelligent use of electronic enhancement.

But it is the animal sensuality that gripped this listener — the racing rhythmic lines soaring across the frets as the music sweeps onwards like two proud stallions cantering through wind-blown surf.

ECM should sign up Forcione and Niebla immediately so that their music may reach a wider audience.