

Promising Italian guitarist

Popular view proved wrong by skillful exposition

Alessio Nebiolo, a promising 30-year-old Italian guitarist who teaches at the Conservatoire de Musique de Geneve (Switzerland) gave Delhi music lovers a skilled exposition of some of the many possibilities this very basic of instruments holds, even in the classical field. Alessio's recital at the Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre, on Tuesday was organised by the Delhi Music Society, the Italian Cultural Institute and Regione Piemonte. The auditorium did not fill up, probably due to the popular perception of the guitar being too lightweight for a classical recital. In the event, however, Alessio proved them wrong, as have other classical guitarists in the past.

Alessio began the recital with Suite Espanola by Gaspar Sanz, a relatively obscure composer. The two closing movements, La Minona de Cataluna and Canarios, were particularly noteworthy as good models of the intensity and sensitiveness the young guitarist brings to bear on his playing. Invocation et danse by Joaquin Rodrigo, a Spaniard who became blind at the age of three and best known for his composition, Concierto de Aranjuez, followed, the elegantly couched dance invitation being rendered with admirable control by Alessio. Niccolò Paganini's Romanza et Andantino Variato, which the Italian master violin-

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ist-composer would probably have never visualised as a piece for the guitar, came next. The haunting melody, lovingly and painstakingly re-created by Alessio, was the highlight of the evening. Tombeau, a dirge by Johann Jakob Froberger (1616-67), German composer and organist and pupil of Frescobaldi, came after the intermission. Meant to be played very slowly and without regard to metric regularity, Alessio adopted an innovative approach to the composition, his scholarly mind-set determining the pace of his playing. Dusan Bogdanovic's Jazz Sonata which followed was a musical omnibus with strains of both types of music discernible.

Sonata op.47 by Alberto Ginastera, the Argentine maestro born in 1916, played in four movements, Esordio, Scherzo, Canto and Finale, concluded the programme. It had moments of cascading melody interspersed with near full-stops of silence. Alessio's admirable control was much in evidence.

Alessio, born in Alessandria in 1976, began his musical education in Asti. He earned a diploma at the Vivaldi Conservatory in Alessandria. He has won awards in a number of contests including in Varenna, Rome, and Pistoia. Alessio has performed in most major towns of Italy as well as appearances in Germany, Portugal and several towns of Switzerland. He has recorded for the French television channel TFI and the national radios of Switzerland have broadcast his recitals.

■ G GEORGE