

ACOUSTIC GUITAR

April, 2006

JASON VIEAUX

Images of Metheny

A note on the back of this CD directs the retailer to “File Under Classical,” but identifying the recording’s musical genre is not quite that cut and dry. Vieaux, an accomplished classical guitarist who devoted his last CD to the music of 19th-century Spanish composer Isaac Albeniz, here plays 13 solo guitar arrangements of compositions by jazz guitarist Pat Metheny. Hearing Metheny classics like “Every Day (I Thank You)” and “Message to a Friend” stripped to their essential harmonic construction and melody sheds new light on these pieces and provides, as Metheny says in the liner notes, “a new way of hearing what these tunes can mean.” Vieaux strings together five Metheny pieces “in the form of a Baroque suite” that includes the tune “Question and Answer,” imaginatively and successfully arranged as a Gavotte and Double. The set closes with an exquisite version of “The Bat,” played as a tremolo piece. But while Vieaux, an exceptionally musical guitarist with a rich, warm tone, reveals new dimensions in these pieces, he imbues them with the same sort of almost mystical poignancy that characterizes so much of their composer’s playing. Whatever you file this under, it’s an exceptional and beautiful recording by a remarkable player and arranger. (Azica, www.azica.com)



—RON FORBES-ROBERTS