



**Rafael Scarfullery.**

Alfredo Cáceres of Guatemala was joined by percussionist Behzad Habibzai to perform a set of mostly original flamenco fusion which incorporated elements of jazz, Brazilian music, salsa and pop. Cáceres won the National Jazz Competition in 2004 with his composition *Colores urbanos*, and he performed on the 2009 Grammy-nominated album *Bajo el sol* as part of the Russ Hewitt Band. Cáceres and Habibzai performed amplified in the cavernous open arena of the Museum of the American Indian, capturing a massive audience as guests entered the front door. Cáceres performed his

*Peregrinaje de Kali* in addition to a traditional Guatemalan song by Paco Perez, *Luna de Xelaju*, a deeply nostalgic tune with a strong, dance-like rhythm.

In contrast, Agni Durden of Ecuador followed this set on electric guitar with Joe Calvo on drums, Edwin Vasconez on bass and Diego Lascano on electronic devices. The group filled the hall with the ambient, post-progressive, Andean Nu-Metal and Post Industrial rock sounds. Durden works as both a guitarist and producer and has been recognised by *Rolling Stone Magazine* in addition to sharing the stage with well-known rock groups like Suicidal Tendencies, Coheed, Cambria and Apocalyptica. He is currently working on a fusion of post-progressive rock with Andean music using traditional instruments, such as the *queña* (Andean flute), *zampoñas* (pan-pipes) and *bombo* (a drum made of a hollowed-out tree trunk), all processed through software technology.

Classical guitarist and Fulbright scholar Walter Quevedo-Osegueda of El Salvador performed a programme of Agustín Barrios's *La Catedral*, followed by Spanish composer Leonardo Balada's modern *Lento con variación*, Ponce's rondo-structured *Allegro non troppo* from *Sonata III*, Salvadoran composer Germán Cáceres's *8 variaciones sobre 8 notas* and Brazilian composer Marios Nobre's *Entrada y tango Op. 67*. His playing reflected a quiet, serious and scholarly intensity. Quevedo-Osegueda's first guitar teacher was José Cándido Morales, a student of Agustín Barrios Mangoré's and, since 1995, he has been a conductor of the Guitar Orchestra of the María Escalón de Nuñez Foundation which performs in El Salvador and Honduras.

Ruben Seroussi of Montevideo, Uruguay, performed Ponce's dramatic and lyrical oeuvre, *Variaciones sobre 'La Folia de Espana'* y *Fuga* and Uruguayan composer Abel Carlevaro's pensive *Aires de vidalita* and milonga-based *Aires de malambo*. Seroussi, who has received the Israel's Prime Minister Prize in Composition, is a senior faculty member at the Buchmann-Mehta School of Music at Tel Aviv University as composition studies coordinator and guitar instructor.



**Manuel Ponce Quartet.**