

OMAN TRIBUNE

The Edge of Knowledge

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Concert stirs up 19th century romance

By David Solomon

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MUSCAT British cellist Michael Kevin Jones and Spanish guitarist Agustín Maruri brought out all the romance and charm of 19th century chamber music through their concert presentation of cello-guitar music at the InterContinental Hotel on Monday evening.

The rich, warm, deep and mellow tones of the cello were in perfect counterpoint to the plaintive, sparkling notes of the classical guitar to produce an enchanting blend of rhapsodic magic in different shades and moods.

In the first half, the duo presented *La Sal De Espana* (The charm of Spain), a set



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British cellist Michael Kevin Jones and Spanish guitarist Agustín Maruri enthral the audience.

of six Spanish romantic melodies that not only had dramatic content and

flavour, but also brought out the virtuosity of Jones and Maruri, beautifully blending the contrasting tonal timbre and pitch of the two instruments that

seamlessly merged in perfect harmony.

This was followed by *Don Quijote Y Dulcinea* an evocative and haunting musical fantasy by composer Erik Marchelie and *Evocaciones De Espana* (Memories of Spain).

In both these compositions the Jones-Maruri duo moved through some intricate melodic pieces that saw quick changes in tempo and mood.

The second part of the evening's performance comprised *Suite Espanola* by composer Joaquin Nin, that was made up of four separate pieces, capturing the essence of four different regions of Spain and another piece with same title *Suite Espanola* by composer Manuel De Falla.

The Jones-Maruri duo has been performing concerts since 1990 when they first performed together in Madrid and are regarded as the foremost cello-guitar ensembles in the world with a very active concert and recording career.

The duo have performed at concerts in Europe, North, Central and South America, as well as the Caribbeans, Australia and New Zealand. Their first tour of the US was in 1991.

One of the characteristics of this singular duo is their devotion to the original repertoire and the creation of new music by outstanding young composer who, attracted by the special sonority and the rare beauty of this instrumental combination, have written new music for them.

The programme was held under the auspices of the Embassy of Spain and the Spanish Ambassador HE Juan Luis Flores declared the musical evening open with a short introductory speech.