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## Music Reviews

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### Benjamin Verdery Plays the Ambassador

The guitar is a locus for some of the liveliest and most varied new music going. Of course, you may respond, it has to be—few other instruments have such screaming repertory needs.

It is also an instrument that has preserved the tradition of performer-composers. All these facets came together in Benjamin Verdery's recital Monday on the Ambassador Auditorium Gold Medal series.

Verdery closed his program with excerpts from his own "Some Towns and Cities," a strong collection of transfigured pop evocations in a variety of traditional styles. The nine pieces offered here, including the lone encore, ranged from the softly liquid "Mobile, AL"—with Verdery providing carressive bottleneck work on a 12-string instrument—to the frenetic bop suggestions of "New York, NY."

For the rest of his agenda, Verdery turned to the most frequently—and successfully—mined sources for guitar transcriptions, Bach and Albéniz. He offered a fluid, highly poetic and expressive account of Bach's Cello Suite in D, BWV 1012. From the Spanish pianist came a driven, technically deft "Torre Bermeja" and a beautifully hushed "Córdoba."

The guitarist played with generous sound and spirit. His equally stylish and articulate partner in the final four guitar duos was local hero Scott Tennant.

—JOHN HENKEN