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YOUNG & ROLLINS "Sevilla" Baja/TSR Records

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Flamenco music with a pop flavor or pop music with a flamenco twist? No matter how you view it, the sound fashioned by Washington-based guitarists Young & Rollins on "Sevilla" has a way of tunefully exerting itself.

Dan Young, well versed in jazz, blues and rock, and Lawson Rollins, bred on flamenco and classical music, make for an inspired pairing as they move through this collection of appealing melodies with the support of a nimble rhythm section. As you might expect, there's no shortage of dramatic guitar flourishes -- "Desert Heat," "Sevilla" and "Fiesta" crackle with them -- and the duo can always count on percussionist Alfredo Mojica to generate additional rhythmic momentum.

The moods, though, are varied. Twinkling harmonics illuminate the ballad "Nightfall." Guitar and cello soulfully conspire on "Melancholy." "In the Moment" hews to a supple jazz pulse, while "Stay With Me" drifts into minor key pop balladry. There are plenty of mid-tune shifts as well, contrasting passages that add both color and verve to the duo's woven arrangements.

The results are radio friendly, to be sure, but there's nothing on "Sevilla" that sounds overly calculated or tediously formulaic. The duo's deft musicianship and melodic flair keep the music distinctive and engaging.

-- Mike Joyce