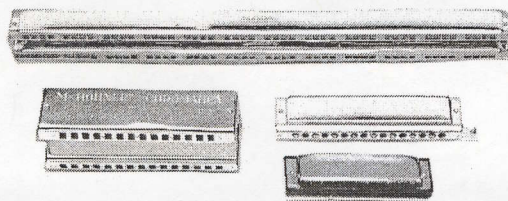


# THE HARMONICA EDUCATOR

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**EXPANDS  
KNOWLEDGE OF  
HARMONICA  
TEACHING AND  
PLAYING**



**PROVIDES  
IN-DEPTH INFORMATION  
ON A WIDE RANGE OF  
MUSICAL AND HARMONICA  
RELATED TOPICS**

Volume 13 Issue 2 International Publication Dedicated to the Advancement of Harmonica Education Summer 2006

Since the 1980s, Nick Dallett has been active in the acoustic music scene in the Pacific Northwest, and has composed and performed a wide variety of music, from contemporary classical chamber music to hard rock. In addition to creating music, Nick has been active since 1990 in promoting regional musicians of the Pacific Northwest. This has been through his radio program "A Portable Stage" on KSER (90.7, Everett, Washington), through his record label, BAF, through his work in cataloguing the Folklife Festival tape archives, and through the Olympic Acoustic Guitar Association, an organization he co-founded in 1991.

Nick Dallett wrote a book called, "The Musical Experience," which is published by Acoustic Confusion Music (© 1991 Nick Dallett/Acoustic Confusion Music). Mr. Dallett has given his kind permission to reprint some articles from his book. The following reprint is called "Interpretation: Finding Your Style." Many of the ideas in this article will be of value to harmonica soloists and ensemble players.

## Interpretation: Finding Your Style (Reprinted from the Winter 1997 Issue)

By Nick Dallett (Reprinted with permission of Acoustic Confusion Music)

### EXERCISE - Comparing

I) Find two recordings of a classical composition. Try to make them as dissimilar as possible - say, two recordings of the same piece made fifty years apart. Aside from record stores, some possible sources are friends' record collections, the public library, or a local radio station.

Play both recordings and note the differences. First, think about the recordings, environment. Is one recordings, made in an empty hall, with lots of reverberation? Is the tone dark on one record and bright on the other? Identify as many of these variables as possible.

Turn your attention to ways in which the actual performance is different. How does the tempo compare? Is one performance faster than the other? Does one seem precise and angular, while the other is more rounded and comfortable? Pay attention to any ornamentation that may be present

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## REVIEWS OF COMPACT DISKS

**Review of new CD by Willi Burger called, "Music from Spain and South America," Willi Burger (European Classic Editions EC01)**

By Pat Missin

Italian-born **Willi Burger** has been a prominent name on the European harmonica scene for many years, since winning the 1955 contest run by the Federation International de l'Harmonica and drawing praise from such luminaries as Larry Adler and Tommy Reilly. Listening to any of Burger's recordings, it is easy to see why they were so impressed.

As the title says, this CD focuses on works by composers from Spain, Argentina and Brazil, including Manuel de Falla, Pablo de Sarasate, Heitor Villa-Lobos and tango legend Astor Piazzolla, as well as the French composer Jacques Ibert. None of these pieces were written expressly for harmonica, but Burger's transcriptions make them sound so natural for his instrument, exploiting the wide range of possibilities that the harmonica offers - trills, double stops, expressive dynamics and punchy staccato phrasing contrasted with smooth legato passages.

The accompaniment on this album is of an equally high standard, with sensitive piano playing from Marcello Parolini and some passionate guitar work by Venezuelan guitarist Jesus Eduardo Alvarez. Most of the tracks are quite short, making the CD very accessible even for those who are not seasoned fans of classical music. The longest track is a 13-minute reading of Pablo de Sarasate's "Carmen Fantasie", a piece based upon themes from Bizet's opera "Carmen". This is my favorite piece on the entire CD, at times playful, at other times introspective, but always thoroughly engaging, with Burger's love of the music shining through every note. This track alone makes this a "must have" CD for all fans of the chromatic harmonica.

Those with internet access can find more details and some audio samples at:

[www.harmonica.it](http://www.harmonica.it)

The CD can be ordered from:

EUCLED S.r.l  
CP 29  
FE Centro  
44100 Ferrara  
Italy

Email: [euclred@tin.it](mailto:euclred@tin.it)

Those who enjoy this CD would also be advised to seek out Burger's earlier album "Transcriptions for Chromatic Harmonica (French Transcriptions)" on the Agora label, featuring works by Debussy, Ravel, Satie and Faure.

**Editor's note: See the full-page Ad for Willi Burger's new CD, on page 69.**