



DEBORAH WAI KAPOHE
Canciones españolas (Trust Records)

This delightful soprano's recital in the St Andrew's On The Terrace series coincided with the launch of her first CD – a selection of Spanish songs, most of which were in the recital. New Zealand's distinguished London-based accompanist and Wai Kapohe's long-standing mentor, David Harper, is at the piano. Her love of this music and her charming, sensuous way with it is rather more obvious in the flesh than on silver metal. But I feel that about all music: it might have gained greater human warmth if it had been recorded live. Nevertheless, her guileless young voice, beautiful Spanish and sparkling piano lend these highly spiced songs – Montsalvatge, Obradors, Rodrigo, Granados – authenticity and ardour. Another art collector's cover – Ralph Hotere and Milan Mrkusich.

★ ★ ★ ★ ½

Lindis Taylor