

DSO nominated for Latin Grammy

First commercially released recording

By IRA PORTER and BETSY PRICE
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The Delaware Symphony Orchestra's first commercially released recording in its 104-year history has turned out to be a big-time hit – garnering a nomination Wednesday for a Latin Grammy award.

The album, titled "Interchange: Concertos by Rodrigo and Assad," was recorded at The Grand in May 2009 with the Los Angeles Guitar Quartet. It was one of four albums nominated in the best classical contemporary composition category when the Latin Grammy finalists were announced Wednesday at Hollywood's Avalon nightclub.

"When we put this recording in, I had the gut feeling it was going to be a winner," said an exuberant Lucinda Williams, executive



News Journal file/GINGER WALL

DSO conductor David Amado called the nomination "amazing."

utive director of the DSO. "I feel extremely good about our chances of bringing the Grammy home to the state of Delaware. It belongs to all of us."

Williams said financial

strains that orchestras across the nation are experiencing have made recording difficult, but the generosity of benefactors Tatiana and Gerrett Copeland, who paid for the recording, made this possible. Williams said a process that normally takes two years to complete was done in six months and it was because of everyone being on board, from the benefactors to the recording label, Telarc International.

"How incredibly proud I am that this orchestra managed to do this," Williams said. "You have to play well to get a Grammy nomination and they sure did. We're going to go and pick that thing up in November."

The Latin Grammys will be awarded on Nov. 11 at the Mandalay Bay in Las Vegas, and broadcast live by Univision.

The 55-minute album features the world premiere recording of a new concerto by Brazilian guitar master and composer Sergio Assad. The Los Angeles Guitar

See GRAMMY — B2

Grammy: Two days to record

FROM PAGE B1

Quartet had never before recorded an album with an orchestra, although it has a dozen previous albums.

The LAGQ was formed in 1980 at the University of Southern California and won a Grammy Award for best classical crossover album in 2005. It is made up of William Kanengiser, John Dearman, Scott Tennant and Matthew Greif.

The composer, Assad, is half of the guitar duo the Assad Brothers, who have performed with world-class artists. Assad, who also has worked with LAGQ for years, tailored "Interchange" for the quartet.

"This is amazing," said David Amado, the DSO's music director and conductor. Amado said working on the project took much time and space, but it was rewarding.

"Every corner has been satisfying in wonderful ways. We didn't know what it was going to sound like. It was a brand-new piece. Recording was a super intense experience, and then we got all these great reviews and now this!" he said.

The recording was made under considerable pressure, as the performers had only two days to record, given the strict union time limits. On evenings before the two recording sessions, the band and orchestra performed the concertos in front of an audience.

Amado said he was most proud of the fact that local talent has boosted Delaware into the international spotlight.

"For me, I'm super-excited about what this means for the Delaware Symphony and what this means for the state of Delaware. We are named for the state, not just those of us at the Grand Opera House. It's a great tribute to what we can accomplish."

When word came in Wednesday, Williams, Amado and the DSO staff went to Chelsea Tavern, across Market Street from the symphony offices in the Grand in Wilmington, to celebrate.

"We're riding high right now," Williams said, noting that the nomination alone is likely to lead to more recordings. She said she had just talked to members of the Los Angeles Guitar Quartet about possible international tours.

"We're just going to ride this wave," she said. "To go right out of the gate with an international Grammy nomination is unprecedented."

Latin Recording Academy President Gabriel Abaroa Jr. said the 11th annual awards competition had the most submissions ever.

Overall, the nominations were spread between established artists and newcomers, nominating songwriters Juan Luis Guerra and Alejandro Sanz in four categories each.

The nominations spanned the Latin Recording Academy's multitude of genres from across Spain and the Americas, with three nods each to Camila, reggaeton star Daddy Yankee and Uruguay's alt-rockers, El Cuarteto de Nos.

The nominators also recognized new talents Jorge Drexler, an Uruguayan songwriter, and Mario Domm, lead singer of the Mexican band Camila, who were also nominated four times.

The rest of the Sanz's "Paraiso Express" was nominated for Album of the Year and his "Desde Cuando" got the nod for Song of the Year, garnering three nominations for producer Tommy Torres. Lee Levin and Dan Warner also totaled three nominations for their work with Sanz and Diego Torres' "Distinto."

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