

Cabaret Arts dinner theater opens year with a distinctive Latin beat

By Sherman Spencer

Special to The Record

The romantic aspects of Latin American music opened the fall season of Cabaret Arts, dinner theater at Le Bistro Restaurant.

Juanita Newland-Ulloa, with a stripped-down version of her Picante Ensemble, offered a selection of traditional and modern love songs.

Newland-Ulloa, with a lush mezzo-soprano voice that ranged from the passionately sensual to a vigorous belting style, covered the range of Latin love lyrics. Her considerable musical training shows in her fine sense of pitch and musical phrasing. She also demonstrated an engaging and informal stage presence in her introductions to the songs.

Ensemble members included Jinny Morgan, Carlinus Oliveira and Carlos Barreda.

Morgan sang an upper harmony part to many of the vocal arrangements and played a dark-toned viola that perfectly complimented Newland-Ulloa's rich voice.

Barreda played the drums, and Oliveira provided some fine guitar solos that contributed considerable musical interest to several of the numbers.

Review

- WHO: Juanita Newland-Ulloa and Trio
- WHAT: Cabaret Arts
- WHERE: Le Bistro restaurant, Stockton
- WHEN: Thursday evening

The evening's selections ranged from ballads to folk songs.

Newland-Ulloa included several works by Latina composers, including two of her own compositions — "Amane," a rhythmic novelty with a repeated refrain,

and "Ixta," an instrumental work that depicted the plot of a Mexican folk legend.

Other women represented among the program's dozen songs included Consuelo Velasques' "Besame Mucho" and Maria Grever's "What a Difference a Day Makes" and "Gypsy Lament."

Old favorites like "Frenesi," "Cielito Lindo" and "Solamente Una Vez" received spirited send-offs.

For a finale, the performers ended with a lively Macarena demonstration in which the audience joined.

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