

Flutist star of guitar society performance

By PUNCH SHAW
Special to the Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — Life is full of surprises.

Like going to a Fort Worth Classic Guitar Society concert and being impressed by a flutist.

Odd though that sounds, that was exactly the case with the Festival of Four performance last night at Pepsico Hall on the Texas Christian University campus.

This unusual, California-based (is that redundant?) ensemble comprises guitarists Richard Patterson, Marc Teicholz and Guillermo Rios, which makes sense, plus flutist Viviana Guzman.

Where most of the concerts in this series are grimly serious about the guitar and its classical repertoire, this group brought a lighter touch that was nicely glossed with Guzman's engaging command of almost any flutelike instrument in the known world, including examples from China, Chile, Norway and Ireland, and even an American Indian flute.

Almost all of the music on the program was folk or traditional music from some spot on the globe. The only thing the works had in common was that they were all delightful.

The lone "classical" piece was a Bach partita performed solo by

Teicholz. And even though he dropped more notes than a fifth-grader in love, his arrangement of the well-known work had the same easy, breezy feel that won the audience over on all the pieces. Indeed, it seemed every member of last night's smallish audience was purchasing the group's CDs in the lobby at intermission.

The true star of this show, however, was Guzman. All sculpted cheekbones, dark Latin eyes and raven tresses tumbling down to the base of her spine, the native Chilean was dazzling on the previously mentioned oddities (did you know that a Norwegian flute doesn't have any holes along its shaft?) as well as a more familiar gold flute. At one point, while Patterson and Teicholz played a wonderful arrangement of the folk tune *Shenandoah*, Guzman chimed in unexpectedly from the back of the hall, walking down the aisle to the stage while joining in.

If all that wasn't enough, she later added a sexy, serpentine dance to an Arabian-flavored piece. After that added attraction, Teicholz (who had narrowly avoided being mauled by the crowd earlier when he announced that this was the group's "first visit to Dallas") ventured to the microphone again to tell us what a



Special to the Star-Telegram/SAMUEL MORALES

Viviana Guzman of Festival of Four plays in last night's Fort Worth Classic Guitar Society concert. The other members of the ensemble are, indeed, guitarists.

fortunate audience we were. "We alternate who does that dance each night," he deadpanned.

The show was further aided by a varied structure, offering the players in solos and various combinations.

So this was not the typical, sounds-so-clean-you-could-oper-

ate-off-of-it guitar society concert. Festival of Four was rarely note-perfect, but the performance never lacked a sense of joy and a genuine love for the music. They proved that classical guitar recitals do not have to be grimly serious to be good.

And there is no surprise in that.