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Brazilian singer wows audience

By **David Hendricks** Published 9:44 pm, Monday, January 25, 2016

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Members of the SOLI Chamber Ensemble are (from left) Ertan Torgul, Stephanie Key, Carolyn E. True and David Mollenauer.

Concert: **SOLI Chamber Ensemble** at the **Carlos Alvarez Studio Theater** at the **Tobin Center** for the Performing Arts. “Postcards from Las Américas” repeats at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at **Ruth Taylor** Recital Hall at **Trinity University**.

AUDIENCE: about 100

FIRST TAKE: SOLI Chamber Ensemble contributed significantly to the Las Américas Festival with its Monday night concert, but its larger gift was bringing talented Brazilian-American singer/composer **Clarice Assad** to San Antonio. Assad sang a cycle of four of her songs, titled “Elementos,” because they represented the earth, fire, water and air. She was mesmerizing, singing in a lovely bossa nova in one song and turning her mezzo voice into a percussive effect the next, all bringing Brazil to life. The concert started with a frenetic “Hoe-down” by **Canadian Kelly-Marie Murphy** and an introspective journey that turned jazzy in “Luna Y Mar” by U.S. composer **Adam Schoenberg**. Other works on the program included a movement from Mexican **Mario Lavista** “Cuaderno de viaje,” Colombian Diego Vega’s Sonata for Piano & Clarinet, Peruvian **Gabriela Lena Frank**’s Barcarola Latinoamericana, Uruguayan Miguel Del Aguila Tango Trio, Op. 71, and Argentine **Astor Piazzolla**’s Tango Etude No. 1. But it was Assad who won the audience, which demanded and received an encore, leaving everyone spellbound.

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