

UWM Piano Chamber offers the right mix in season finale

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The UWM Piano Chamber Concert Series closed the 1997-'98 season on Sunday afternoon with a concert of music by Central and South American composers.

The centerpiece of the program, held at the UWM Fine Arts Recital Hall, were works for piano alone. Judit Jaimes performed the "17 Piezas Infantiles para piano" by Antonio Estevez, and Elena Abend performed "Sonata No. 1" by Alberto Ginastera.

Jaimes handled the 17 vignettes for children with a gentle touch. From the playful "La Candelita" to the murky "Ancestro" movements, she made profound music, giving each of the little pieces its own character and meaning.

The Ginastera sonata is a bold, crashing contrast to the

children's pieces, full of spice and passion. Abend gave a commanding performance, reaching to dynamic extremes, executing rhythms with absolute clarity and maintaining a compelling momentum throughout.

Cellist German Marcano offered Leo Brouwer's "Sonata" for cello solo and Ginastera's Pampeana No. 2, which was accompanied by Abend. His fluid, relaxed style of playing brought the folk music elements of the sonata to the foreground and made the guitar-inspired pizzicato sections sound more like a strumming guitar than a classical cellist hard at work.

Cellist Paul Gmeinder and pianist Floralba Vivas-Diaz gave a spirited reading of "le Grand Tango" by tango master Astor Piazzolla.

Deadline required this reviewer to leave before the end of the final piece.