



Album of the Month
December 2007

Navidad Nuestra
Caliche
University of Warwick Chamber Choir
EM4

As very often happens when you buy a CD for a particular piece of music, you then discover other equally wonderful pieces. I first came across *Navidad Nuestra* after I'd heard, loved and bought a copy of the *Misa Criolla* (one of the other pieces on this CD) and it was performed by **Caliche**.

The following is taken from their website:

"**Caliche** have been one of the leading groups promoting the music and culture of South America in Britain for the last 18 years. **Caliche** play instruments such as panpipes, flutes, charangos and mandolins which evoke the magic of the Altiplano scenery, cradle to the Inca civilisation. The wind instruments of the native South Americans, the strings of the Spaniards and the rhythms of the coastal black communities have combined to produce one of the world's richest folk traditions. **Caliche**'s music expresses the joys and the sufferings of the campesinos of the Andes and the shanty-towns dwellers of the great Latin American cities."

The website goes on to explain that these beautiful works for mixed choir and folk ensemble are by the Argentinian composer Ariel Ramirez. *Misa Criolla* is a Creole Mass and *Navidad Nuestra* a Christmas cantata. Both are based on the rhythms and traditions of Hispanic America. The latter piece of music is especially interesting as each part of the Nativity is expressed by the music of a different region of Argentina.

Enjoy

Valda
4 December 2007