



The Berkshire Guitar Society

www.berkshireguitar.freemove.co.uk



Newsletter No 114

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AGM and Members Evening

January meeting

Thanks to Gary for the following summary of the January meeting which I was unable to attend - sounds like a good start to 2003!

The first meeting of the year gave us the opportunity to practice our sight reading and ensemble playing. We organised ourselves into two quartets and a trio, and rushed off to various corners of South Hill Park armed with chairs, music stands, guitars and scores from our music library in the hope of having something to show for it by the second half of the meeting.

The first performance was by Jeremy, June, James and John. playing Dover Sole and Russian Strut (sounds a bit like the suspension for a Lada?) by Michael Euggetti. Next came Andy, George and Gary, with the second movement from '4 moods' by Stephan Rak, and finally Richard, Tim, Paul and Terry performing music by Handel and Scarlatti.

To round the evening off, we were treated to solos by Paul and Terry, and a final Scarlatti sonata from Paul and Tim.

The success of the evening was aided by a huge box of chocolates thoughtfully provided by George Macdonald.

BGS News

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is on Sunday 9th February - South Hill Park at 07.30 pm. This will be a member's evening, followed by the Society AGM. What more could you ask for but the chance to bring along something to play (no particular theme) and also contribute to the path taken by the BGS in 2003???

As usual on these occasions, it is important that members do make an appearance at the AGM as the Society can't function in a vacuum.

Attached to this newsletter are the draft minutes of last year's AGM and also a summary of the results of the membership survey that was undertaken last autumn. Many thanks to those who took part in the survey.

Whilst the survey produced no startling conclusions, the message that those members responding viewed being able to play in front of an audience as what they valued most highly, followed closely by the opportunity to play with other players, emerged clearly. The score shown is the simple average of the scores out of 5 awarded.

FRIENDS RE-UNITED

Terry Bryanton has registered the BGS on www.friendsreunited.co.uk a web site whose purpose is self explanatory. A search of the "musical groups" section under "Find Teams / Clubs" for the Berkshire Guitar Society will take you the BGS enrolment - all you have to do is to register to keep Terry company!

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

If this newsletter is to remain interesting, I do need to receive more contributions from our readers - so do please keep them coming!!

Other news

A date for your diary - Harry Cook has arranged a concert in which the Rosewood Guitar Trio and Terry Bryanton will be performing to take place in the Shinfield Players Theatre at 07.30 pm on Sunday March 23rd. Expect further details to appear next month.

Web site of the month

Renato Bellucci is an Italian now living in Paraguay whose www.mangore.com is an interesting site which contains a wealth of information. - the site is named after Barrios (aka Mangore - see below) as clearly Bellucci is a fan of this Paraguayan guitarist & composer.

Under the heading of "Audio, Pictures, Video and Scores" on the home page there are a number of scores available on the site, mostly either Barrios or transcriptions of film scores. These are in bitmap or jpg format which means that I for one have had trouble printing them successfully. Also under this heading are a number of audio visual files of Bellucci playing a wide variety of pieces, from Bach to modern South American composers. He does seem to be an accomplished player. You will need the Real Audio program to listen to or watch these - the free Real One Player can be downloaded from www.real.com.

Under the "Masterclasses" heading one can find advice on playing Galileo's "Passo e Mezza", a transcribed version of Beethoven's Fur Elise (a work which many others apart from myself are perhaps familiar with from piano playing days), and also Barrios' La Catedral - an interesting combination of works to my mind. There is also advice on playing tremolo, plus under a separate section advice on other aspects of technique.

It does seem to me to be a characteristic of the classical guitar world that for any one view of what constitutes "good technique" one can easily find sources of contrary advice elsewhere. I don't doubt that this also applies to the advice given on this site. (As a by the by, having trained in the dim and distant past as an economist I recall that similar comments have been made about the inability of economists to agree on anything).

In summary, despite some reservations I found www.mangore.com to be an interesting site well worth looking at but as always, have a look yourself and make up your own mind.

Having mentioned Barrios, it's worth spending a little time on this guitarist composer from Paraguay (1885 - 1944). Opinions vary greatly on his ranking as a performer and as a composer - John Williams has been quoted as saying he was "the best of the lot" but this opinion is by no means universally held. Major musical influences on Barrios were the folk music of South America and he also had a love for the music of J S Bach, both of which come through strongly in his compositions.

Born as Agustin Barrios, in later life he took on the name "Mangore", a 16th century tribal Indian leader and he died recognised as Agustin Barrios Mangore. This persona was taken to the extent of performing in full tribal clothing.

For further information on Barrios, look either at Bellucci's site or alternatively www.cybozone.com/fg/jeong.html which carries a lengthy but interesting article on Barrios from which the above notes were obtained.

And Finally

Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson went on a camping trip. After a good meal and a bottle of wine they lay down for the night, and went to sleep.

Some hours later, Holmes awoke and nudged his faithful friend awake. "Watson, look up at the sky and tell me what you see."

Watson replied, "I see millions and millions of stars."

"What does that tell you?" Holmes questioned.

Watson pondered for a minute. "Astronomically, it tells me that there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets. Astrologically, I observe that Saturn is in Leo. Horologically, I deduce that the time is approximately a quarter past three. Theologically, I can see that God is all powerful and that we are small and insignificant. Meteorologically, I suspect that we will have a beautiful day tomorrow. What does it tell you. Holmes?"

Holmes was silent for a minute, then spoke. "Watson, you idiot. It tells me that somebody has stolen our tent!"