



The Berkshire Guitar Society

www.berkshireguitar.freemove.co.uk



Newsletter No 115

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CONTENTS

February meeting

BGS News

Other news

Web site of the month

And Finally

**** Next meeting Sunday 9th March ****

Ensemble Evening

February meeting

Our meeting on Sunday 9th February kicked off with the AGM. These occasions can be very "dry" events, but not this one and I for one took the interest and discussion shown to be a good sign.

The formal minutes will be available in due course so I'm not going to fill this newsletter by duplicating these, but a few summarising comments are no doubt appropriate.

In his Chairman's remarks, Gary thought we have had a good year with a modest increase in membership to 19 full members. Highlights of the year were the concerts by Eleftheria Kotzia and Fiona Harrison, with our recital for the Spanish Society, Steve Tucker's talk on The Blues and the barbeque at Paul Miron's Caversham mansion (held on probably the hottest day of the year) also being notable.

Gary commented on the problems caused by inconsistent numbers at meetings and the lack of continuity between meetings that this causes, which played havoc with the Orchestra meetings in October and November and has provided food for thought in planning the Diary for 2003.

Richard produced an excellent set of financial information with which to assist the more arithmetically challenged among us, and from which it emerged that the Society funds at the year end are up on last year. Given the prospect of an increase in room hire costs however, the meeting agreed a £5 increase in the level of subscriptions.

There followed a useful discussion about future events, with a number of ideas which the committee will no doubt discuss further.

The success of this year's AGM was cemented by the offer from James and June to host this year's summer bbq – although the details remain to be confirmed, I suspect this will be the first year for a long time in which the location of the bbq will not be a matter of last minute panic!

The evening continued after an interval with an eclectic collection of solo pieces from most of those present.

John Parr commenced proceedings with a Prelude by Tarrega, followed by James and June with 2 duets – a German folk song and Hungarian dance. Andy played us Albeniz' Cordoba (Jeremy's edition) in admirable fashion, despite such handicaps as a broken fingernail and the page turner turning over 2 pages on one occasion. George contributed 2 pieces with almost 500 years between them, a Pavanne by Luis Milan and a fingerpicking version of Bob Marley's "No Woman No Cry".

This brought us to a "tour de force" by Peter Brown with Tarrega's Fantasia on Verdi's "La Traviata", a piece that I for one have never heard before but can now look forward to hearing again. Steve Tucker's rendition of Jobim's "Girl from Ipanema" provided a complete contrast, as again did Vicente Asencio's Getsemani played by Terry Bryanton. In his intro to the piece Terry said it was intended to convey anxiety and despair – I didn't find this to be quite as melancholy as billed, so maybe we didn't all

go home in quite the depth of despair that we might have!

I started out by describing this mixture as "eclectic" without being sure what it meant so thought I'd better look it up. According to the New Oxford Dictionary, it means "deriving ... from a broad and diverse range of sources" so I think I got that one right!

BGS News

SUBSCRIPTIONS PLEASE!!

As surely as night follows day, the fact that we've had the AGM means that it's time to pay up for the new year's subscriptions.

The subscription for 2003 is £35 (Family £45) so why not get out that pen and send your cheque? At least you know you won't be accosted by Richard when you next turn up for a meeting!

NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting is on Sunday March 9th, 7.30 pm at South Hill Park. This is an Ensemble Evening, so come along and make it as successful as the last one.

DIARY FOR 2003

The full programme for 2003 is included with this Newsletter. This provides a varied and challenging calendar of events for us all to look forward to.

Other news

SPANISH GUITAR CONCERT

Advance notice was given last month of the concert by the Rosewood Guitar Trio (Mike Hinchliff, Gary Jordan and Steve Tucker) and Terry Bryanton at the Shindfield Players Theatre on Sunday March 23rd. The start time is 7.30 pm and tickets are priced at a mere £5.00. They will be playing a varied programme of music by Haydn, Vivaldi, Bernstein, Ponce, Bach and Saintz de la Maza. Why not go along, see our boys in action, and be entertained at the same time?

Full details are included with this Newsletter.

Web site of the month

Frank Nordberg's site Musica Viva <http://www.musicaviva.com/index.html> has free sheet music for a range of instruments - click on "guitar" under the stringed instruments heading and you will be taken to 489 titles listed in the site's guitar archive. This consists of a good selection of "public domain" music with the our old friend "Anon" featuring heavily, as well as Aguado, Bach, Carcassi et al. Music is available in a good quality gif format (notation and tab) and I had no difficulty in printing.

There's also a selection of music for ensemble, and unusually, a searchable encyclopedia of music.

Nothing to do with music, but I recently came across NASA's Astronomy Picture of the Day which contains a stunning collection of high quality images of the cosmos - go to <http://antwrp.gsfc.nasa.gov/apod/archivepix.html> if you are interested in this sort of

stuff (apologies, but for "technical reasons" this isn't a functioning hyperlink - you'll have to type the url).

And Finally

A man was walking in the mountains enjoying the scenery when he stepped too close to the edge of the mountain and started to fall. In desperation he reached out and grabbed a root of a gnarly old tree that was clinging to the side of the cliff.

Full of fear he assessed his situation. He was about 100 feet down a cliff face and 1000 feet from the bottom. If he should slip again he'd plummet to his death.

The man cried out "Help me" Is anyone there?" But there was no answer. Again and again he called out and finally a deep voice replied "Yes, I'm up here".

"Who is it?"

"It's God."

"Can you help me?"

"Yes, I can help you. Have faith in me. Let go."

Looking round the man became full of panic. "What?!?!"

"Have faith in me. Let go. I will catch you."

"Uh.... I sn't there anyone else up there?"