



The Berkshire Guitar Society

www.berkshireguitar.freemove.co.uk



Newsletter No 116

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March meeting

The meeting on Sunday March 9th was an Ensemble evening, where we break up into groups, each group working on a piece which the group then play for the edification of the other participants.

So it was on Sunday March 9th. Richard, Andy, George and myself retired under Jeremy's guidance to our own room in the SHP Centre to re-familiarise ourselves with Jeremy's arrangement of Albeniz's Cordoba. Although we have obviously used this piece before, I find that it is still growing on me.

We also had a go at Jeremy's arrangement of Grieg's well known piece "Varen" which translates as "Spring" and which I thought worked very well for 4 guitars. No doubt we will be coming back to this one!

Meanwhile John, June and James had been beavering away with Gary on Bransle de la Roynne, a dance by Michael Praetorius (1571-1621).

After a well deserved break, the two groups came together to play their respective renditions, and good these sounded too.

An enjoyable evening closed with June playing us Brouwer's "Simple" Etude no 5. Gary sped us on our way with Giuliani's Andante in C Major played rather quicker than suggested by the title of the piece and which therefore provided a suitable high point to speed us on our way.

BGS News

NEXT MEETING

Please note that there is a change to the scheduled meeting for April announced in the diary sent out last month. The session on Guitar Making will have to be re-arranged for later in the year as our presenter has found he can't make the date, so the next meeting will be a members evening on the Theme of Scordatura - or altered tunings, originally planned for July.

Although this may sound daunting, it isn't really. While there are many "exotic" tunings for the guitar, all that matters for this

session is that we don't use standard tuning. Thus pieces in "dropped D" (i.e. The 6th string tuned down one tone from E to D) qualify and there are many examples of music in this tuning available. However please try something more "exotic" if you wish!

The subject matter may have changed, but the arrangements for the next meeting are the same - 7.30 pm at South Hill Park.

SUMMER BARBEQUE

A date for your diary - the summer barbeque which James and June have kindly agreed to host will be held on Sunday 27th July commencing at 2.00 pm. Further details nearer the time.

PAUL MIRON

You will recall that Paul Miron sat his LRSM last December, and will no doubt be pleased to know that Paul achieved a distinction. Many congratulations, Paul.

Not content with this, Paul is now planning to go for the FRSM, the highest diploma offered by the Royal Schools of Music. Paul tells me that "it's sooooo hard I'm going to take some time over it, and try and do it at the end of this year". The pieces Paul is going to attempt are the Giuliani Grande Overture, the entire Aranjuez and the Bach Chaconne.

Paul has been studying with Fiona Harrison but as she is about to have her first baby, he is looking forward to working for a while with Craig Ogden.

On top of this programme of hard study, Paul will also be trying to fit a few concerts in, not to mention the day job!

Here's hoping it all goes well, Paul.

Other news

SPANISH GUITAR CONCERT

On the evening of Sunday 23rd March I and a good number of people attended the recital by the Rosewood Trio (Gary Jor-

dan, Steve Tucker and Mike Hinchliff) and Terry Bryanton at the Shinfield Players Theatre. It was pleasing to see a good representation from the younger generation, although just possibly attendance might not have been totally voluntary in all cases!

Terry's solos either side of the interval covered the years from John Dowland's Lachrimae Pavan to Carlo Domeniconi's variations on a Turkish Folksong and Roland Dyen's Tango en Skai.

Terry having dropped a Bach Fugue from the programme and replaced it with Castelnuovo-Tedesco's Tonadilla, we listened to what in my limited experience is a recital first, namely a programme without anything by Bach.

I particularly liked the Spanish folk songs and the Vivaldi Mandolin Concerto played by the Trio, who gave us the 007 theme as a suitably light hearted encore.

A highly enjoyable evening - well done everyone, particularly Steve Tucker whose first outing with the Trio I believe this was.

INTERNATIONAL GUITAR FESTIVAL AT SOUTH HILL PARK

The IGF comes to SHP (sorry to overdo the TLA's!) on Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th May. The programme includes both workshops and concerts covering a variety of styles but for members of this society the sessions likely to be of most interest are those featuring Tom Kerstens, who holds a classical workshop on Saturday 3rd and a recital on Sunday 4th at 3 pm in the Recital Room.

To book tickets for the recital, contact the SHP booking office on 01344 484123. For a workshop booking ring 0870 240 6096 between 3pm and 7pm.

Web site of the month

You may well be aware of Naxos www.naxos.com who claim to be the world's leading classical music label. They sell modestly priced CDs and to us classical guitarists are notable for their extensive Guitar Collection which I think it would be fair to say covers a good proportion of the classical guitar repertoire.

These comments however are less about the available CDs than the fact that it is possible to listen to many of these recordings by means of a streamed feed over the Internet.

To do this you will need to subscribe. This is free of charge and can be done by following the "subscribe" link of the Naxos home page. Having registered, if you are using Microsoft Internet Explorer 6 you need to follow the advice on configuring the browser. However I did not find this difficult to do.

Having done this you should then by clicking on the "Series" and "Guitar Collection" links on the home page come to the listing of available CDs. Clicking on the CD catalogue number then presents you with a list of the tracks on the CD. The presence of a speaker symbol by the track means that the recording is available over the internet. Click on the link and you should then receive a streamed feed via the media player you have installed on your computer.

Not all of the collection is available in this fashion - if copyright restrictions apply then either none of the recording, or only part of it, will be available.

Apart from the Guitar Collection it is also possible to listen to the Naxos Radio Network www.naxosradio.com which is a streamed feed of Naxos classical recordings under various heading ranging from "Easy Listening" to "Chamber Music".

It took me couple of attempts to get this all working properly but having done so I'm now hooked.

The nature of your own set up may affect your ability to get this working - the Naxos Radio page indicates minimum requirements for your internet connection. I am fortunate enough to have a broadband connection via cable modem but the Naxos Radio home page indicates that this is not necessary for most of the available channels, although modem speed may affect the quality of sound you receive.

And Finally

Thanks to Gerri Suggett for this gem.

An Irishman by th' name o' Pauly McLean moves into a tiny hamlet in County Kerry, walks into the pub and promptly orders three beers. The bartender raises his eyebrows, but serves the man three beers, which he drinks quietly at a table, alone. An hour later, the man has finished the three beers and orders three more. This happens yet again.

The next evening the man again orders and drinks three beers at a time, several times. Soon the entire town is whispering about the Man Who Orders Three Beers.

Finally, a week later, the bartender broaches the subject on behalf of the town. "I don't mean to pry, but folks around here are wondering why you always order three beers?"

"Tis odd, isn't it?" the man replies, "You see, I have two brothers, and one went to America, and the other to Australia. We promised each other that we would always order an extra two beers whenever we drank as a way of keeping up the family bond."

The bartender and the whole town was pleased with this answer, and soon the Man Who Orders Three Beers became a local celebrity and source of pride to the hamlet, even to the extent that out-of-towners would come to watch him drink.

Then, one day, the man comes in and orders only two beers. The bartender pours them with a heavy heart. This continues for the rest of the evening - he orders only two beers. The word flies around town. Prayers are offered for the soul of one of the brothers.

The next day, the bartender says to the man, "Folks around here, me first of all, want to offer condolences to you for the death of your brother. You know - the two beers and all..."

The man ponders this for a moment, then replies, "You'll be happy to hear that my two brothers are alive and well. It's just that I, meself, have decided to give up drinking for Lent."