



The Berkshire Guitar Society

www.berkshireguitar.freemove.co.uk



Newsletter No 120

Sept 2003

CONTENTS

July meeting

BGS News

Other news

Web site of the month

And Finally

**** Next meeting Sunday 14th September ****

ENSEMBLE EVENING - 8.00 PM START

NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE

July meeting

The meeting on Sunday 13th was one of those occasions when the dreaded words "there's been a change of plan" greeted members as they arrived at South Hill Park. As it was known that due to holidays a number of us were not going to be able to make the presentation on guitar making, and as we wished to ensure that our presenter had a decent audience, it was decided to postpone the scheduled meeting to a later date. As we were using temporary accommodation (see below) which would have been unsuitable, this was just as well.

Not for the first and almost certainly not for the last time Jeremy Allison stepped into the breach to produce some ensemble pieces from the portable library that is his car and the group had a go at Andre Couasnou's arrangement of The Beatles' Lady Madonna and then the Rondeau and Chaconne from Raymond Burley's arrangement of 9 pieces from Henry Purcell's "The Fairy Queen".

I was not the only one present who thought that the Chaconne worked particularly well which prompted me find out some more about the composer. Purcell lived in Restoration England, and composed ceremonial music for the coronations of James II (for Scottish pedants, better known as James VII), William III and Queen Mary, as well as music for the funeral of Mary and various odes for court occasions. He had an unparalleled talent for setting the English language to music which has inspired a number of modern emulators such as Britten and Tippett. He also wrote an operatic masterpiece in Dido and Aeneas, and a number of popular semi-operas (operas which include speech) of which The Fairy Queen is one. Although he died aged only 36, Purcell is regarded as one of the greatest composers Britain has produced.

After an interval, we started on a short "members evening". A welcome new player, Alan du Feu, was brave enough to play us Tarrega's "Lagrima" on his first outing, followed by Richard Butters with 2 Lauro pieces, "Ana Cristina" and "Nelly". Jeremy played us Lauro's "Valse Venezolano No 4" and "Se Ela Perguntar" by the Brazilian guitarist Dilermando Reis. Thanks for the translation of the latter title Jeremy, which apparently means "If she asks ...". By total coincidence the theme set by Jeremy was continued by myself with a piece from the same volume of Reis transcriptions, "Dois Destinos". John Parr then played us Tarrega's

Study in E and the evening was brought to a suitable close with a Malaguena from Andy Scott.

BGS News

SUMMER BBQ

Due to the understandable attractions of foreign climes, the attendance at the Society barbeque on Sunday 27th July was somewhat thinner than in the past but this did not stop the 20 or so who came along from having a great deal of fun.

We were blessed with a lovely afternoon which was sandwiched in between a run of wet days, and full advantage of this and James's croquet lawn was taken to acquire (or, in some cases, improve) our skills with the mallet.

I had no idea that croquet could be so ungentlemanly - all this stuff about knocking other people's balls out of position makes other sports seem positively civilised!

We didn't forget our guitars and the afternoon closed with a number of musical offerings - a couple of duets from Gary Jordan and John Parr, "Eterna Saudade" by Dilermando Reis from myself, a Granadinas from Andy Scott (described by



Some of the action from the croquet lawn (above) and Gavin, Andy and Thais concentrating on the next stroke (if that's what it's called by the croquet aficionados!





Some of our number taking advantage of James' splendid terrace to recover from their exertions on the croquet lawn ..

Andy as "fairly free form flamenco". Gary Jordan brought proceedings to a close with Barrios' "Spanish Legend" and a selection of pieces from Stefan Rak's "15 Descriptive pieces from Guitar".

Many thanks to our hosts James and June for a highly enjoyable afternoon.

NEXT MEETING

As planned, our next meeting will be on Sunday 14th September however those of you that were at the July meeting will recall that SHP had not booked us in - we have since discovered that SHP will no longer allow us to book using our "standing order" for accommodation. As there is also a festival of some sort taking place at SHP, so that there is no accommodation available for us in any case, we have had to find an alternative venue for the September meeting, which has been no mean task.

After much effort Gary has hired a couple of adjoining rooms at **Easthampstead Baptist Church** for our meeting on the 14th. The church is located close to SHP, and quite easy to find, there is also wheelchair access. **Please note we will start at 8pm, not 7:30**, so that we don't overlap the evening service.

To get there, find the Bracknell Sports Centre roundabout - (the one before the Sainsbury's turnoff when leaving Bracknell if you are coming from Reading), and take the road towards Crowthorne with the Sports Centre on the Right. The church is a couple of hundred yards on the left just before 'The

Golden Farmer' pub on the other side of the road. For a graphical description go to www.multimap.com, type RG127NS into the Quick Search box and you should get a handy map.

There is plenty of parking, but please use the side entrance so that we don't get in the way of the departing congregation.

This is an ensemble session, so after a summer spent practicing those solo pieces (!!), why don't you remind yourself of the pleasures of playing with others and come along??? PLEASE NOTE - IF YOU NEED A MUSIC STAND, BRING ONE AS THE VENUE WON'T BE PROVIDING ANY!!

Other news

SCGS CONCERT SAT 20th SEPTEMBER

The Southampton Classical Guitar Society, our neighbours to the south are holding a "mini festival" on the above date which ends with an evening concert by the McClelland Couste duo at The Point in Eastleigh. The programme ranges in time from Dowland to Bernstein and in location from Europe to North and South America. Tickets £9.00 from Box Office 023 8065 2333.

SIMON DINNIGAN AT SOUTH HILL PARK

An opportunity to listen to one of the country's leading players on our own home ground will occur when Simon Dinnigan gives a performance in the Recital Room at the South Hill Park Centre at 07.30 p.m. on Saturday 1st November. Watch out for more details next month, in the meantime just make sure you get this recital into the diary!

NEW NAXOS RELEASES

I am no doubt not the only member of the society with some Naxos CDs on the music shelves. Anyway Naxos have recently added 2 releases to their admirable Guitar Collection, a recording by Anabel Montesinos (cat. no. 8557294) including works by Aguado, Coste, Regondi and Tarrega, and by Dmitri Ilarionov (cat. No. 8557293) with a programme including Giuliani, Tansman, Rehkin, and Castelnuovo Tedesco.

These are budget priced discs. As I understand it they cannot be ordered direct from Naxos in the UK - in the past I have used www.crochet.co.uk where they and other releases in the Naxos collection are available at a price of £4.35 excluding postage.

Web site of the month

This feature will appear in the future on a more occasional basis than in the past. As always, suggestions are needed and welcomed - why not let the rest of the Society know where you have been surfing (for guitar related stuff, that is ...).

And Finally

Seems unlikely I know, but apparently these lines have actually been uttered in court

Q: What is your date of birth?

A: December 30th.

Q: What year?

A: Every year.

Q: What gear were you in at the time of the accident?

A: Gucci and Reeboks.

Q: What was the first thing your husband said to you when he woke that morning?

A: He said, "Where am I, Cathy"

Q: Why did that upset you?

A: My name is Susan.

Q: So the date of conception of the baby was August 8th?

A: Yes

Q: And what were you doing at the time?

Q: Are you qualified to give a urine sample?

Q: How was your first marriage terminated?

A: By death.

Q: And by whose death was it terminated?