



The Berkshire Guitar Society

www.berkshireguitar.freemove.co.uk



Newsletter No 121

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Members Evening - "Keep it Simple"

September meeting

As I was enjoying myself in not so sunny Scotland, my thanks to Gary Jordan for providing the following.

By reason of an unfortunate "hiccup" in the management of South Hill Park, we found ourselves obliged to meet at an alternative venue for the September meeting. The facilities offered by Easthampstead church were a little more functional than we were used to, however once we had managed to get the room divider to work, the large 'L-shaped' room proved most suitable for our ensemble meeting.

We split into two groups, 'them', lead by Jeremy and 'us' lead by blind panic.

The 'them's' definitely made more noise - I think June's clarinet contributed more than a small part to this achievement, and until we finally got the better of the room divider, the complexities of the rhythm of John Whipp's Milonga that the 'us' group were grappling with seemed completely impossible. I was very relieved to find that it was actually easier to play the piece by listening to the rhythm, than by counting 6+1 in each bar.

After a very short break (none of the other-sort-of-bar being available) we performed our pieces back to one another. Our group started - Richard, Steve, Andy and I managed to get through the dance without too much deviation, although the audience did comment that each of us seemed to be tapping our feet to different rhythms!

Jeremy's group consisted of Alan, James and June, who having damaged her finger brought the clarinet along. She assured me at the start of the meeting that it was a clarinet in C, making it easy to play from guitar music. I was most impressed to hear that she has in fact managed to bring her B flat instrument instead, and so had to trans-

pose at sight throughout the three pieces that they played!

The enhanced guitar ensemble played an Alemande and Galiard by Susato, and finished off with I an Gammies' arrangement of Grandfather's Clock.

A few solos followed; Richard started off with two of Manuel Ponce's first 5 preludes. By pure coincidence Alan then played the 5th prelude from the same collection. I wound up the evening with the Leyenda Espanol by Barrios.

BGS News

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place as scheduled on Sunday 12th October at 07.30 pm and as we are back to our usual haunt at the South Hill Park Centre if you can just point the car in the right direction it shouldn't have any difficulty finding the way.

This month we have a member's evening on the theme of "Keep it Simple", the idea being to bring along something to play that is no more demanding than Grade 3. For anyone who is put off by the thought of either following or preceding the sort of pyrotechnics that we sometimes see and hear, then this is the occasion for you.

This doesn't mean that you can only play music assessed by one of the examination boards as grade 1 / 2 / 3 - if you're not sure exactly what grade a piece is, just remember the spirit of the session and bring it along anyway.

Hope to see you there!

Other news

GUI TAR PROGRAMME ON BBC RADIO 3 SUNDAY 5
OCT 15.30 - 16.00

To quote from the Radio 3 web site about John Williams' "Guitar Notes":

"In the first of his new series about the great instrumentalists and composers who created the classical guitar repertoire, John Williams looks at the way the instrument developed in the 19th century. He demonstrates the kind of playing techniques used by the celebrated virtuosi Legnani and Paganini, and introduces recordings of their major compositions. He also explores the works of the two giants of the period, Sor and Giuliani and their very different ways of writing for the instrument".

Now that does seem worth listening to. If you are not already aware of it, by the time you receive this newsletter the first programme may have already happened but you may be able to catch up with it from the BBC Radio 3 web site, and at least you know about it for the future!

At the time of writing this, I am not aware of when future programmes will be broadcast but no doubt all will become clear on Sunday!

SIMON DINNIGAN AT SOUTH HILL PARK

A reminder that Simon Dinnigan gives a performance in the Recital Room at South Hill Park at 07.30 p.m. on Saturday 1st November. At the time of going to press, no details of the programme are available but judging by some of the reviews of other performances on his various tours that I've seen, this is one that should not be missed.

Tickets are priced at £10.00 with concessions (including BGS members, I believe) £7.50. Call the SHP booking office on 01344 484 123 to reserve an advance ticket.

CG MAGAZINE - "WORTH A LOOK"

If you don't have a subscription to Classical Guitar magazine, it might be worth laying your hands on a copy this month if you've sought to include Tarrega's "Lagrima" in your repertoire. In his column "A Closer Look", John Mills gives a wealth of advice on playing this popular piece.

Web site of the month

One of the problems with this slot is that although there are many sites on the WWW that offer free resources for our use, some of these would seem to be in breach of copyright regulations with regard to the music they offer and I am reluctant to publicise these sites.

This leads to another problem, in that "legal" sites therefore tend to contain music that is old enough to be in the public domain and it follows that they tend to cover much the same music, typically from the "baroque" and "romantic" composers.

Although this month's site does focus very much on our old friend J S Bach, <http://www.savageclassical.com/> does seem to set itself apart. This site features the work of Richard Sayage who has transcribed many of Bach's 2 Part Inventions, The Well Tempered Clavier Collection, Cello Suites and Violin Concertos. These can be ordered in book form but the "samples" page allows you to download free of charge the first page of some of the Inventions, and Fugues from the Well Tempered Clavier. These can be printed using the Adobe Acrobat pdf reader.

Also on the samples page there are a number of MP3's covering many of these works plus some other pieces by Weiss and Sor, which you are invited to download. I find these to be the main attraction of the site as the playing on these recordings seems to me to be of a high order and certainly whets the appetite for this music.

As always, suggestions for this slot would be most welcome so please, let's have some ideas.

And Finally

Some famous quotes for your edification

Those are my principles - if you don't like them, I can change them. (Groucho Marx).

I don't feel old - I don't feel anything until noon - Then it's time for my nap (Bob Hope).

Money can't buy you happiness, but it does bring you a more pleasant form of misery. (Spike Milligan)

My wife is a sex object - every time I ask for sex, she objects. (Les Dawson)

My wife has a slight impediment in her speech - every now and then, she stops to breathe. (Jimmy Durante)

The male is a domestic animal which, if treated with firmness and kindness, can be trained to do most things. (Jilly Cooper)

Whatever women do they must do twice as well as men to be thought half as good. Luckily, this is not difficult. (Charlotte Whitton)