



The Berkshire Guitar Society

www.berkshireguitar.freemove.co.uk



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October meeting

After travelling to a strange venue in September, it was good to be back at SHP, albeit in the rather dimly lit Terrace Room. At least this kept us away from the sounds of a more "modern" and electronic variety that would have been coming up through the floor of the Garden Room from the bar below.

For our "Keep it Simple" members evening (supposedly nothing more difficult than "Grade 3") we had a good turnout, much better than I recall on the last occasion we tried a member's evening with this theme.

One problem for your editor is that almost by definition, the pieces played were rather short and numerous so on this occasion I'm not going into the detail of who played what as to itemise everything would be rather tedious. However the format offered plenty of opportunity to play, so that we were able to return after a break in the bar for more and I think all of those present had more than one go at being "centre stage".

I was struck by the music on offer now at Grades 1 - 2 - 3, which seems to be so much more interesting to play than what I recall from my early days, which also provides a reminder that music doesn't have to be technically difficult in order to be effective.

It was good to have prospective new member Steve Spearing coming along and joining in - hope to see you again soon Steve.

BGS News

NEXT MEETING

We have a very full agenda for our next meeting on Sunday 9th November, 7.30 pm at the South Hill Park Centre.

This meeting is the first of two sessions where we play as an Orchestra, the idea being to prepare something for our Christmas meeting in December.

For anyone not familiar with the Orchestra format, this is where different parts of an ensemble piece are divided up among all those attending, so that there are multiple players for each part.

This can be very effective and great fun, however it is dependent upon a good turnout so come along folks, let's see you there and help ensure that our Christmas meeting is also a success.

NEXT MEETING 2

You may recall that Paul Miron is sitting his final RSM Diploma in December. As part of his preparation for this, Paul will be playing through his programme at our meeting on 9th November.

Paul's programme includes major works such as Brouwers Hika, Bach's Chaconne and Rodrigo's Aranjuez concerto (all of it - sorry, but the accompaniment will be provided by CD rather than a

Chamber Orchestra), plus a number of other pieces.

It's not often you will be given an opportunity to hear such music "gratis", and that's another big reason for coming along on the 9th.

Other news

CONCERTS

If Paul Miron hasn't sated your appetite for the concert repertoire, in their final concert of the year, the Southampton Classical Guitar Society are featuring Jose Manuel Dapena (born in Spain, now living in the USA) who will be playing at The Point Dance and Arts Centre, Eastleigh on Saturday November 15th at 8 pm.

The programme from this up and coming guitarist will include Turina's Sonata Op 61, Rodrigo's Elogio de la Guitarra, and Eduardo Sainz de la Maza's Platero y Yo.

Tickets from the Box Office 023 8065 2333 or if you contact Wayne Lines via the SCGS website <http://www.scgs-guitar.org.uk/> you should be able to get a reduced price ticket as a BGS member.

Also within travelling distance, the following weekend on Saturday 15th Raymond Burley is playing at St Giles Church in Oxford (no other details available) and on Sunday 16th John Mills, Cobie Smit and Hayley Savage are giving a trio recital at the Royal Holloway Hall in Egham (Tel 01373 865039).

Web site of the month

I recently came across the web site of the Guitarra "e-magazine" which is published in the USA by Sherry Brener:

<http://www.guitarramagazine.com/> .

This site is different from most of those that have featured in this spot in the newsletter in that it does not offer much in the way of free music, although there is a limited amount of interesting material available - to get there, click in the menu list box and select "music library".

The main point of interest with this site is the numerous articles on technique - click on "practices and techniques" in the menu list box and you will find a list of articles covering many aspects of technique. The first of these provides food for thought regarding the achievement of a legato sound which I for one would like to keep in mind but there are many other interesting articles to delve into.

As always with matters of technique, others will no doubt have different views on the advice offered here but that seems to be in the nature of the classical guitar world!

To take advantage of this site one does need to invest in some reading and thinking time but I'd suggest that if you are interested in technique then this site is well worth a look.

And Finally

Some more famous quotes I'm afraid:

Don't go around saying the world owes you a living. The world owes you nothing - it was here first. (Mark Twain)

I was married by a judge. I should have asked for a jury. (Groucho Marx)

I once had a rose named after me and I was very flattered. But I was not pleased to read the description in the catalogue: "no good in bed, but fine up against a wall". (Eleanor Roosevelt)

The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending and having the two as close together as possible. (George Burns)

Another good thing about being poor is that when you are seventy your children will not have you declared legally insane in order to gain control of your estate. (Woody Allen)

It takes only one drink to get me drunk. The trouble is, I can't remember if it's the thirteenth or the fourteenth. (George Burns)

A woman drove me to drink - and I hadn't even the courtesy to thank her. (W C Fields)