



The Berkshire Guitar Society

www.berkshireguitar.freemove.co.uk



Newsletter No 125

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January meeting

For our meeting on Sunday January 11th, we were back to our old haunt in the Garden Room at South Hill Park, thanks to there not being a live band playing in the bar downstairs.

Enough of us had shaken off the torpor of the Christmas and New Year festivities to want to get out and make music with others in 2 ensembles. We followed the usual pattern of each group taking about $\frac{1}{2}$ hour to rehearse in separate rooms before coming back after a short break to run through their piece(s).

Thus we first heard Richard, Gary, Andy, Yvonne and Michelle play John Zaradin's Carnavalito which I'm sure I've heard on previous ensemble evenings but still sounds fresh, energetic and Latin American (Andean?). This was followed by an arrangement by Jeremy Allison of (at least) 2 very British pieces - the consensus view being that the arrangement contained the "RAF March Past" and "Dambusters March" - when we see you next Jeremy, you're going to be asked to whether we've got it right or not. Anyway this was so successful that an encore was required.

The second group, comprising Steve Tucker, Bob Harrison, George MacDonald, Alan Du Feu and myself had been nowhere as diligent and we ran through our one piece - an arrangement of the Bouree from Handel's Water Music which as usual on these occasions seemed to come together quite well after a bit of practice.

This left time for some solo offerings, so we heard a Waltz by Carulli and Largo by Sor from Alan, followed by pieces originally for lute from Steve Tucker, Anon's quaintly named "Go though my window" (!) and an Almain by Robert Johnson (no not the bluesman, but a near contemporary of John Dowland)

BGS News

NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting is on Sunday February 8th, (07.30 pm at the South Hill Park centre as usual) and is the Society AGM followed by a Members Evening. As we all know, AGMs are not usually the most exciting of affairs but they do need to happen so why not come along, make your views known, and bring some music to play afterwards.

SPANISH CIRCLE

For those of you not aware of the Spanish Circle, this is an "evening class" in Reading where the students are seeking to learn Spanish and about Spain (hopefully that's approximately a correct description). For a few years now the BGS has been invited to the Circle for an evening to play appropriate music, be it solo or ensemble.

We have been invited along again this year on Friday March 26th, so this is advance notice if you think you might wish to play something or just come along. Music should have a Spanish connection ie it need not actually be by a Spanish composer but could be Latin American for example. The BGS meeting on Sunday March 14th has been earmarked for practice for the Spanish Circle, but if you've got something ready then the February meeting could be used for this purpose also. Further details will appear in the March newsletter.

COMPOSITION COMPETITION

This year we will be running a competition to encourage members to indulge in a bit of guitar arrangement and / or composition. It is not intended to be at all high brow and is intended to be just a bit of fun. There are no

rules as such, other than that any compositions or arrangements submitted should be substantially original. As a small incentive there will be a prize of £15 for each of the following:

- Best composition for one or more guitars on the theme of - wait for it - the humble potato;
- Best arrangement for two or more guitars.

Any BGS member can enter and entries should be sent to George Macdonald who is acting as organiser by the end of October 2004.

Details of the judging arrangements will be announced nearer the time but obviously anybody entering the competition will be excluded from judging.

As proof that it can be done, if you go to the BGS web site <http://www.berkshireguitar.freemove.co.uk/music.htm> you can see the notation and hear a midi version of "Steve's tune" (a Steve Tucker composition, if you didn't know) that was awarded 2nd prize the last time the Society held a competition like this in 1999.

The results will be announced at the December meeting. Have fun!

GEORGE'S CHARITY RUN

George is going to have a busy year - he is running in the London Marathon to raise money for 'Sense' a charity supporting deaf and blind people. For details go to www.sense.org.uk. George's target is £1600 which is a stretching objective and he would welcome support from BGS members. If you don't want to risk missing George at BGS meetings you can sponsor him quite easily on-line by visiting www.justgiving.com/gmacmarathon. To make this less painful how about making two small donations on line when it suits, rather than waiting for

the moment that might never come when the finances allow one big donation?

PAUL MIRON

Paul hasn't heard the result of his FRSM yet but reports that "the exam went ok.....I didn't blow it and didn't forget anythingand started and finished the Rodrigo with the piano which was good! The sight reading was HORRIFIC and I count myself reasonably adept at that bit. So...we'll see.....have to keep reminding myself to practise for the Aranjuez.....with no exams to do now I feel a bit listless!" Let's hope they don't keep you much longer in suspense, Paul.

To counter those feelings of listlessness Paul is doing a concert with a very fine amateur orchestra called the Aldworth Philharmonic. The programme is Beethoven's Coriolan Overture, Rodrigo's Aranjuez, and Bernstein's Symphonic Dances from West Side Story.

The concert is at the Way Hall, Reading Blue Coat School, in Sonning at 7:30pm on Saturday March 13th. Tickets are available on the door or by calling 0118 926 4712 or emailing tickets@aldworthphilharmonic.co.uk.

Christmas photo

One hawk eyed member spotted that although Allan du Feu was very definitely at the Christmas meeting, the incontrovertible proof being his presence in the group photo, I omitted to mention him in the list of those in the photo. Apologies to Allan!

Other news & Web site of the month ...

Are both taking a rest this month.

And Finally

Three engineers and three accountants are travelling by train to a conference. At the station, the three accountants each buy tickets and watch as the three engineers buy only a single ticket.

"How are three people going to travel on only one ticket?" asks an accountant. "Watch and you'll see," answers an engineer. They all board the train. The accountants take their respective seats but all three engineers cram into a toilet and close the door behind them.

Shortly after the train has departed, the conductor comes around collecting tickets. He knocks on the toilet door and says, "Ticket, please." The door opens just a crack and a single arm emerges with a ticket in hand. The conductor takes it and moves on.

The accountants saw this and agreed it was quite a clever idea. So after the conference, the accountants decide to copy the engineers on the return trip and save some money (being clever with money, after all). When they get to the station they buy a single ticket for the return trip. To the accountant's astonishment, the engineers don't buy a ticket at all. "How are you going to travel without a ticket?" asked one perplexed accountant.

"Watch and you'll see," answered an engineer. When they board the train the three accountants cram into a toilet and the three engineers cram into another one nearby. The train departs.

Shortly afterward, one of the engineers leaves their loo and walks over to the toilet where the accountants are hiding. He knocks on the door and says, "Ticket, please."