



The Berkshire Guitar Society

www.berkshireguitar.freemove.co.uk



Newsletter No 128

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CONTENTS

April meeting

BGS News

Other news

Web site of the month

And Finally

**** Next meeting Sunday May 9th ****

Orchestra and Members Evening

April meeting

On Sunday 18th April we were back to what seems to be our new home in the SHP, the dance studio, which although not ideal acoustically does have plenty of room and we can be confident of not being disturbed in this somewhat out of the way corner of the building ...

Anyway for our ensemble evening we split into 2 groups as usual to work on our respective pieces prior to coming back together to play for the other group.

Thus it was that after an hour of sweat Bob, Peter, Alan, Robert, Graham and John were able to provide a very acceptable rendition of Derek Hasted's arrangement of English Country Garden and by acclaim found themselves having to give it a second go.

This led on to Tim, Yvonne, Michelle, Gary, Richard, Jeremy and myself performing Jeremy's arrangement of the "Dambusters". Although this had made it's BGS debut a couple of months ago, the arrangement has moved on considerably since then. Jeremy says that he chose "Dambusters" to arrange as he likes the tune and found that working from the piano score it fitted pretty well onto the guitar. It's certainly a fun piece to play and I'm sure we'll be seeing more of it.

We also had a go at an arrangement by Eythor Thorlaks-son of Granados' Spanish Dance no 3 for guitar trio and although this was somewhat mangled in performance by common consent was worth continuing to work on.

As usual, most enjoyable. Thanks to Graham Cooper for taking the trouble to download the Hasted and Thorlaks-son arrangements and making them available on the evening.

BGS News

NEXT MEETING

Our next session is on Sunday May 9th when in the first half of the evening we will be having a go as an orchestra at something from the library. This will be followed by a "members session" so if you have something to play then bring it along.

FUTURE MEETINGS

We have a busy time coming up so attention please, there are some changes from the usual schedule, so please read what follows carefully and get those diaries out ...

June 20 Practice for workshop - see below

July 11 (afternoon) Society Summer barbeque

Bob Harrison has kindly offered to host the summer bbq but as the only possible date is our normal meeting date that's when it will be. Bob lives in Mortimer and details of timing and directions etc will follow nearer the time.

July 25 Workshop/concert

You will recall the advance publicity given last month to the workshop and recital on Sunday July 25th, both featuring Raymond Burley.

The workshop starts at 11.00 and runs through to 16.00. It is focussed on ensemble playing. Although it is hoped that there will be significant interest from the public (the event is being advertised in the SHP diary), the success of the workshop does depend upon involvement from society members and also upon the

participants being reasonably familiar with the music prior to the workshop, so that Raymond Burley can focus upon the performance of the pieces. At the present time, we don't know what ensemble music it is proposed to play but it is intended to resolve this so that we can allocate parts and have some practice at our meeting on June 20th.

The workshop will be followed in the evening of July 25th by Raymond Burley in recital starting at 19.30.

Early booking is strongly suggested so that we can get a better idea of where we stand - don't forget that it is your society's funds that are at stake here. Bookings can be made by contacting the South Hill Park Box Office on 01344 484 123. Tickets for BGS members are priced at £25 for the workshop and £7 for the recital.

NEW CHAIRMAN!

As predicted exclusively in these columns (as they would say in the tabloids) Gary will be handing over the baton to George MacDonald at the May meeting, now that George has recovered from his exertions in the London Marathon.

Congratulations to George on his Marathon effort - to get so close to the £1600 fundraising target is a magnificent achievement and must make all the training and getting so wet on the day worthwhile.

Other news

CHARITY CONCERT

Gary Jordan is participating in a charity concert on Saturday 8th May starting at 8.00 pm at the Wesley Methodist Church, Queens Road, Reading.

Gary will be playing the Vivaldi Concerto in D and the Ponce prelude for guitar and harpsichord. The programme is mainly baroque music, and includes works by Purcell, Telemann, CPE Bach and others.

Admission is free and there will be a collection in aid of the Southern Ethiopian People's Aid Group. There is car parking by the church.

INTERNATIONAL GUITAR FESTIVAL AT SHP

Don't forget the festival at SHP on June 4th - 6th. For further information you can go to:

www.southhillpark.org.uk/pages/diary/diary-frame.htm

Web site of the month

I recently settled down with a bottle of my home made raspberry wine and spent an enjoyable evening watching Benjamin Verdery who is professor of guitar at the Yale School of Music (as well as being an international performer) on University of California TV in a masterclass with 4 students. The works given the Verdery treatment were by Bach, Giuliani and Albeniz.

Clearly the students were competent players (but not "brilliant") and what I found most valuable was that the theme of Verdery's comments was not technique, but the performance of these works as pieces of music - a reminder not to get too hung up on the technical stuff.

The link is:

<http://www.uctv.tv/library-arts-series.asp?summary=show&seriesID=Soundscape>

and you need to scroll down the list of programmes until you come to "Soundscape: A Masterclass with Benjamin

Verdery". You will need the Real Player to watch the video.

A fast internet connection will obviously help with this so if you have broadband, go for it is my advice. You won't have the raspberry wine but I'm sure you can find an acceptable substitute

And Finally

A young man was in a supermarket when he noticed an old lady following him around. Whenever he stopped, she stopped, and she also kept staring at him. She finally overtook him just before the checkout where she turned to him and said:

"I hope I haven't made you feel uncomfortable - it's just that you look so much like my late son."

"Oh, that's ok," he said.

"I know it's silly," she continued, "but if you called out 'Goodbye, Mother' as I leave, it would make me ever so happy." The old lady proceeded through the checkout and as she left the supermarket, the young man called out "Goodbye Mother." The old lady waved back, and kindly smiled.

Pleased he had brought a bit of sunshine to someone's day the man went to pay for his groceries.

"That'll be £105.35," said the checkout girl.

"How come?" inquired the young man. "I've only bought a few things!"

"Yeah, but your mother said you'd pay for her..."