



The Berkshire Guitar Society

www.berkshireguitar.freemove.co.uk



Newsletter No 129

June 2004

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**** Next meeting Sunday June 20th ****

Ensemble (Workshop practice)

May meeting

An excellent turnout came along to South Hill Park on Sunday 9th for our May meeting, including two new faces - a warm BGS welcome to Debbie Haeck and Stephen Christmas.

With 14 people eagerly waiting to receive a copy of one of the 3 parts of Jeremy Allison's arrangement of "Dambusters" it took a while to sort ourselves out. Whilst a number of us have seen this piece before in ensemble, this was its "orchestral debut" and it continues to grow on us. Under the guidance of Jeremy's baton it really was sounding good by the time of the last run through after $\frac{3}{4}$ or so of hard work.

We had some energy left to tackle another of Jeremy's arrangements, this time of the Gavotte from J S Bach's Orchestral Suite in D major.

After an interval we re-convened with the intention of listening to some solo offerings. However before this could happen it was wholly appropriate that proceedings were halted for a short while as Richard Butters presented Gary Jordan, our retiring chairman, with a gift in recognition of Gary's sterling service to the Society over 13 years. I thought for a moment we were faced with one of those "Russian doll" scenarios as a rather large box was stripped of its wrapper, opened, and then emptied of a great deal of paper and then bubble wrap, but this in due course revealed a splendid looking glass vase which I'm sure Gary will be able to put to good use.

Good luck to George, our new chairman. The good news George is that the Society is in good health which is much better than becoming chairman of a body with lots of problems!

When we did get round to the solos, Tim Parke played for us the Fandangillo and Arada from Torroba's Suite Cas-

tellana, both being played in fine style. This was followed by Gary Jordan with the Prelude from Manuel Ponce's Suite for guitar and harpsichord, the guitar part standing well on its own. This is not too surprising as the work was originally written for guitar in imitation of the Baroque suite and first played by Segovia.

John Parr then demonstrated continued progress with those "performance nerves" as he played us Stanley Myer's Cavatina.

BGS news

NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting is on **June 20** and is intended as practice for the workshop on July 25th.

Gary will be talking to Ray Burley before this date so that we have the ensemble music for the workshop - if you do wish to join in and haven't made Gary aware of your intention to take part, please do so as soon as possible - it's not too late.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Don't forget that on **Sunday July 11** (afternoon) we will be holding the BGS summer barbeque chez Bob Harrison's residence in Mortimer. Details of timing and directions etc will follow nearer the time.

July 25 Workshop and recital

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

While some places for the workshop have been reserved with SHP, if you wish to participate you do

need to actually ring the SHP box office (01344 484 123) and book your ticket (£25 for BGS members) - if you haven't done so by the end of June then you risk losing your place as that's when booking opens to Joe Public, and it's "first come first served" for the limited places available.

Don't forget the recital in the evening starting at 7.30 pm (£7 to BGS members).

Chairman's Chatter

I do think it is rather preposterous that I should be Chairman when there are so many people in the society who could clearly do the job better than me (not sure who these are, George - Ed), nevertheless I am happy to stand in for a period of time and attempt to keep things running smoothly.

I do actually have three principal aims for my period in office.

Firstly I want to encourage members to play together more. We can all play to our heart's content on our own, but it is more difficult to get to play with others. I feel that this is one of the more enjoyable aspects to playing music and I think this is one area where the society can really help.

Secondly I would like to increase the number of "friends of the society", especially people who could boost attendance at our occasional public concerts.

Last but not least, I would like to leave the society pretty much as it is. Under the excellent chairmanship of Gary the society has offered a wide variety of events, and above all a very friendly and encouraging atmosphere for guitar players young and old and of all standards. I would hope that I am wise enough to realise that I cannot make a big difference, and neither do

I want to, I think that Gary should be rightly very proud of what he has done for the society, and I am sure that you would all like to join me in extending a very big thank you to him. Very many thanks Gary.

George MacDonald

(It is intended that "Chairman's Chatter" will appear on a periodic basis - Ed)

Other news

CHARITY CONCERT

Gary tells me that the charity concert in which he took part on Saturday 8th May was great fun and was attended by about 40 - 50 people, despite the presence of only one society member.

Web site of the month

Thanks to Steve Tucker for this excellent link. Amazon are selling the new John Williams CD entitled El Diablo Suelto (subtitled Guitar Music of Venezuela) for £4.97 +P&P.

The link is http://www.amazon.co.uk/exec/obidos/ASIN/B0000BV1EH/ref=sr_aps_classical_1_1/026-8454894-0279635

Prompted by Steve, I have just bought a copy and endorse Steve's recommendation. Of the 26 tracks, only 7 are of pieces by Lauro - the others are by less well known composers but clearly there is a wealth of excellent Venezuelan music from composers other than Lauro.

I don't normally pay much attention to cover notes but on this occasion these provide fascinating background into the guitar music of Venezuela.

And Finally

Three tortoises, Mick, Andy and Roy, decide to go on a picnic.

Mick packs the picnic basket with beer and sandwiches. The trouble is that the picnic site is 10 miles away so it takes them 10 days to get there.

When they arrive Mick unpacks the food and beer. "OK Roy" he says "give me the bottle opener".

"I didn't bring it" says Roy "I thought you packed it".

Mick gets worried and turns to Andy "Did you bring the bottle opener?"

Of course Andy didn't bring it. So they are stuck 10 miles from home without a bottle opener. Mick and Andy beg Roy to go back for it. But he refuses as he says they will eat all the sandwiches.

After 2 hours debate, and after Mick and Andy have sworn on their tortoise lives that they will not eat the sandwiches, he finally agrees. So Roy sets off down the road at a steady pace.

20 days pass and Roy still isn't back and Mick and Andy are starving, but a promise is a promise, so they keep their hands off the sandwiches. Another 5 days and Roy still isn't back, but a promise is a promise.

Finally they can't stand it any more so they take out a sandwich each, and just as they are about to eat it, Roy pops up from behind a rock and shouts "I knew it - no way am I going to get that bottle opener!"