



The Berkshire Guitar Society

www.berkshireguitar.freemove.co.uk



Newsletter No 130

July 2004

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Sunday July 11th - Barbeque

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June meeting

As advertised, the focus of the June meeting was preparation for the workshop with Ray Burley on July 25th.

For those of you who were not present, we are performing Poulenc's Suite Francais. This provides us with 7 short movements each with 4 guitar parts, which have been broken down by level of difficulty into selected movements for 2 groups.

Once an excellent attendance had organised itself into the 2 groups then in the usual way they went their separate ways for a while and after an interval came back together again to demonstrate the products of their endeavours.

Thus we managed to at least attempt 4 of the movements which both demonstrated the potential of the music for our purposes and also showed us that we have some way to go before being familiar with the notes so that on the day we can concentrate on the ensemble aspects.

A warm BGS welcome to a number of new faces - Richard Barbosa, Dave Fiennes and Anthony Poole.

BGS News

NEXT MEETING

Don't forget the barbeque at Bob Harrison's this coming Sunday 11th July from 2.00 pm onwards - in my experience these have been very enjoyable occasions and hopefully the weather will allow this event to be as successful.

Please see emails sent separately for details and directions.

JULY 25

WORKSHOP & RECITAL

As indicated above things are taking shape for the workshop with Ray Burley on July 25th and no doubt those of us who are participating all know the music backwards by now (!) but if not there's still another couple of weeks in which to rectify the situation.

Interest in the workshop is high so if anyone interested hasn't booked their ticket yet I'd suggest they contact the South Hill Park Box Office on 01344 484 123.

The workshop starts at 11.00 am and runs to 4.00 pm and is followed in the evening by a recital given by Ray Burley which starts at 7.30 pm.

Tickets for BGS members are priced at £25 for the workshop and £7 for the recital.

2004 DIARY

We may be well into the year but it's not too late to produce the diary for 2004 which is attached and can at least point the way forward to what lies in store for us during the autumn and winter months.

After our efforts in the workshop we'll deserve a break and there will be no meeting in August.

The first meeting on the resumption will be a members evening on the theme of "Early Music" on September 12th. It may help to define "Early" in this context - the term is taken here to mean "before Bach" i.e. earlier than about 1650. There is a wealth of music out there belonging to this period - if anyone needs a hand selecting something to play then please contact a committee member.

November promises to be a busy month, with 2 concerts in addition to the monthly meeting, which we hope will be Steve Spearing's presentation on guitar making which was postponed from last summer.

The committee also hopes to put on another concert in the new year, probably late January - details all to be announced.

The newsletter is also treating itself to a month's break, so the next edition of this august organ to hit the newstands will be in early September.

COMPOSITION COMPETITION

Just in case the composition competition that we are running this year has been forgotten, the following substantially repeats what was said on the subject earlier in the year.

The objective is 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 to arrive by the end of October 2004.

It remains to be decided how the judging will be done (except that competitors will be excluded from the judging) however it is intended that the results will be

announced at the Christmas meeting, when the composers can expected perform their piece!

So don't just waste those long hours that you'll be spending during your summer holidays on some sunny beach - let inspiration flow and get something on paper!

Other news

JOHN WILLIAMS IN READING

Mention was made at the last meeting of the forthcoming appearance of John Williams at Reading. JW (aka "God" is some guitaristic circles) is appearing with the English Chamber Orchestra at The Hexagon on Wednesday March 16th 2005 and he will be playing Rodrigo's Aranjuez Concerto plus Giuliani's Concerto No 2 in A major Op 36. The programme also includes works by Rossini, Borodin and Mozart.

Tickets are priced from £18 - £29 and booking is open from August 23rd. Follow the link for further details:

<http://www.readingarts.com/whatson/default.asp?venue=2&month=3&year=2005>

Web site of the month

Thanks to Gary Jordan for providing this link to a picture of what must be the smallest guitar in the world (until that is, someone makes one even smaller):

<http://www.aip.org/png/html/nanotar.htm>

One has heard a lot about nano-technology, it's fascinating to see an example one can relate to. I wait however to see the nano - fingers or nano - pick needed to play this instrument!

And Finally

Two prawns were swimming around in the sea - one called Justin and the other called Christian. The prawns were constantly being harassed and threatened by sharks that patrolled the area. Finally one day Justin said to Christian, "I'm bored and frustrated at being a prawn, I wish I was a shark, then I wouldn't have any worries about being eaten..."

As Justin had his mind firmly on becoming a predator, a mysterious cod appears and says, "Your wish is granted", and lo and behold, Justin turned into a shark. Horrified, Christian immediately swam away, afraid of being eaten by his old mate.

Time went on and Justin found himself becoming bored and lonely as a shark. All his old mates simply swam away whenever he came close to them. Justin didn't realise that his new menacing appearance was the cause of his sad plight. While out swimming alone one day he sees the mysterious cod again and can't believe his luck. Justin begs the cod to change him back so, lo and behold, he is turned back into a prawn.

With tears of joy in his tiny little eyes, Justin swam back to his friends and bought them all a cocktail. Looking around the gathering at the reef, he searched for his old pal. "Where's Christian?" he asked.

"He's at home, distraught that his best friend changed sides to the enemy and became a shark", came the reply. Eager to put things right again and end the mutual pain and torture, he set off to Christian's house.

As he opened the coral gate the memories came flooding back. He banged on the door and shouted, "It's me, Justin, your old friend, come out and see me again!"

Christian replied "No way man, you'll eat me. You're a shark, the enemy and I'll not be tricked." Justin cried back "No, I'm not. That was the old me. I've changed"...(wait for it) . . .

..."I've found Cod, I'm a prawn again Christian"