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BGS meeting 9th April

With the South Hill Park management having succeeded in re-locating us at least on this occasion into new accommodation, another good turnout found itself with a few minutes to get used to our new surroundings as Gary Jordan perused our library of ensemble music in order to select suitable material for our annual appearance at the Spanish Circle.

The proof of a good choice came in the next half hour or so as to general amazement we performed John Zaradin's arrangement of *Carnavalito* and Ian Gammie's *Tango Betulaceo* in fine style. Although we have seen the former piece before, I don't believe we had previously attempted the *Gammie*, which makes the quality of the result of the more creditable.

After a short break there was time for a number of solo offerings. Richard Butters led the way with 3 short pieces by Vicente Sojo, *Cantico*, *Aguinaldo* and *Galeron*, the latter two being Venezuelan dance forms.

Allan du Feu came next with a creditable attempt at *Bolero* by Bartolome Calatayud, followed by Petros Andreou with Carcassi's *Study no 3*, and Tarrega's *Scherzo*, a study that I for one had never heard played before.

Debbie Haeck and Steve Christmas followed this with an arrangement for guitar duo of *The Millers Dance* from De Falla's *Three Cornered Hat*, in a rendition that was well up to their usual standard. After this Steve gave us *En Los Trigales* ("In the Wheatfields"), one of 3 short musical sketches of the Spanish countryside by Rodrigo.

Tim Blass wound proceedings up in fine style with a selection from Giuliani's *Rossiniana* variations.

BGS News

NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting on Sunday May 14th (South Hill Park at 7.30 pm) will be an Orchestra session and we will be returning to Ivan Andrews' Berkshire Themes. Readers will recall that Ivan (founding Chairman of the BGS) has written these pieces for the Society, and I think I'm correct in saying that all of them are available now. The plan is to work these up so that ultimately we can play them in front of Ivan and obtain the benefit of his opinions.

No doubt there will be time for at least some solo offerings before we finish.

SPANISH CIRCLE

Don't forget our visit to the Spanish Circle in Reading on Friday 26th May. This is always a most enjoyable event for players and audience. Further details will be sent out by email before the event.

CONCERTS

All being well we are on the way to arranging a recital by Rebecca Baulch on Sunday afternoon October 29th 2006, in the Recital Room at South Hill Park.

Rebecca is a member of the Appassionata Trio along with Amanda Cooke (who has previously performed in memorable style for the BGS) and Hayley Savage, but she will obviously be playing in her own right on this occasion.

More details to come nearer the time but to find out more about Rebecca visit her web site

<http://www.rebeccabaulch.net/>

We are also aiming to organise a concert for February / March 2007, hopefully there will be further news before long

Other news

VINCENT LINDSEY - CLARK: CONCERTO MELODICA FOR GUITAR AND ORCHESTRA
With The Southern Philharmonia
United Reformed Church, Farnham 8th April 2006

My thanks to Debbie for this review of the above concert.

As a contemporary guitar music composer, Lindsay - Clark has already done much to enhance the student repertoire. His pieces are widely used across the examination boards and are most popular with students of all ages. This was a rare opportunity to see this new and technically demanding work in the hands of its creator.

The audience was a good size, near filling the church, and presumably rather mixed in musical tastes. The new work nestled in the programme between Mozart's Overture from Don Giovanni and Mozart Symphony no. 39 in Eb.

Lindsay - Clark himself, describes the piece as 'a celebration of tonal melody' which is 'full of thematic development'. He certainly has a talent for choosing attractive melody lines, which moved elegantly between the soloist and around the orchestra. As with any guitar concerto, it seems inevitable that it will be compared to Rodrigo's Concerto d'Aranjuez. However, in this instance the similarities are such that it could easily be considered a younger cousin. This is evident from the first movement when the Spanish

references and use of light and shade make the parallels particularly pronounced.

In the second movement, the guitar takes more of a leading role in the melody. Our appreciation of this was slightly hampered by the problems of balance between the soloist and orchestra. Although the orchestra were sensitive to the dynamic capabilities of the guitar, the use of amplification was a little too subtle and allowed delicate entries of the melody to be swept away at times by the orchestral accompaniment. Nevertheless, the use of the guitar against pizzicato strings was particularly effective and the somewhat virtuosic technical display of the cadenza was a welcome opportunity to hear the guitar.

The final movement was jubilant in feel and the employment of themes and techniques from the other two movements gave a well-rounded sense of completion to the overall work. As the opening theme of the first movement, brought the piece to a close, it was met with rapturous applause from a highly appreciative audience. Concerto Melodica is a well-crafted evolution of large-scale guitar works. It is an extremely enjoyable and exciting addition to the concert repertoire of the classical guitar.

Debbie Haeck

And Finally ...

A modern take on the "birds and the bees".

A little boy goes to his father and asks "Daddy, how was I born?"
The father answers: "Well son, I guess one day you will need to find out anyway, so I might as well tell you now

Your Mum and I first got together in a chat room on Yahoo. Then I set up a date via e-mail with your Mum and we met at a cyber-cafe. We sneaked into a secluded room, where your mother agreed to a download from my hard drive.

As soon as I was ready to upload, we discovered that neither one of us had used a firewall, and since it was too late to hit the delete button, nine months later a little Pop-Up appeared that said: 'You've got Male'.