



BGS NEWSLETTER No 153 NOVEMBER 2006

1 Coming events

A packed diary for the next few weeks, so please make sure you've got these dates and times down correctly!

Rebecca Baulch – SHP Recital Room Sunday 29th October 3.00 pm

This is one of our own concerts, so we need to sell as many seats as possible. Bring along friends and family – the SHP Booking Office number is 01344 484 123.

Student concert - SHP Recital Room Sunday 5th November 3.00 pm

The Sunday after Rebecca's recital, we have our Annual Student's concert – an opportunity for some of the local future talent to show what it can do. The concert is being organised by Debbie Haeck, and promises to be as enjoyable and entertaining as last year's highly successful event. Admission tickets are not required, but contributions to cover costs are welcome.

November meeting – SHP Sunday 19th 7.30 pm.

Please note the change from the usual 2nd Sunday. Ivan Andrews will be present to hear what we have made of his Berkshire Themes and for us to have the benefits of his composer's insights. We hope to record our performance for posterity – no doubt after having had a trial run first! It's what we've been working up to in all those ensemble sessions in recent months, so don't miss it!

2 October meeting

Our meeting on Sunday 8th October for a members evening of "20th century music" saw us back in one of our favourite haunts, the Dance Studio at South Hill Park. We also saw an excellent turnout, not least bearing in mind the additional meeting that had taken place the previous Sunday to order to try and get Ivan Andrew's Berkshire Themes into shape.

To start proceedings, Guy Anderton gave us a performance of Astor Piazzolla's Milonga del Angel which I thought was very assured for a newcomer – hopefully the first of many such performances. Petros Andreou came next with the whole of John Duarte's English Suite – a work that somehow I hadn't heard before but discussion afterwards revealed that at one time John Duarte was hearing this work played so often that he was beginning to regret writing it.

I came next with some music from the end of our time period, 3 of Andrew York's Discernments – Chant, Spider Dance and Heath, to be followed by George Macdonald with one of Peter Nuttall's 12 Inventions, and Le Pelerin (The Pilgrim) by Nikita Koshkin. Allan du Feu then gave us Manuel Ponce's Prelude No 6, and to bring the first half of the evening to a close we then played guessing games as we attempted to remember the name of the well known piece from the 70's that was played by Cheryl Slater – whilst we all recognised it, I don't think anyone identified it as a tune called "Eye Level" which was the theme from Van der Valk, one of the many TV detectives from that era.

After a break Nikita Koshkin made a re-appearance as Michelle Cole played his Romance, again a piece I hadn't heard before but was encouraged to make a note of.

Steve Tucker then warned any of us who were not fans of Antonio Lauro that he was about to play the Prelude from Lauro's Suite Venezolano – I don't know why Lauro has his detractors, but there was nothing in Steve's admirable rendition of the piece to encourage negative vibes about Lauro's music among the audience. Steve followed this up with his own composition, a piece simply called "Steve's Tune" which one 2nd prize in the BGS composition competition in 1999 and which is on the web site if anyone wants to have a go:

[http://www.berkshireguitar.freemove.co.uk/music/steve\(1\).pdf](http://www.berkshireguitar.freemove.co.uk/music/steve(1).pdf)
[http://www.berkshireguitar.freemove.co.uk/music/steve\(1\).mid](http://www.berkshireguitar.freemove.co.uk/music/steve(1).mid)

Who that was around then can enlighten us as to what won first prize?

Next we had Richard Butters with 3 Mikis Theodorakis pieces, the music of which has only just recently been published, and which I thought Richard succeeded in making sound very authentically Greek. Dave Stinchcombe then gave us Brouwer's Study No 6, to be followed by Gary Jordan with 2 more pieces of the same ilk, this time Studies 2 and 6 by Gerald Garcia. This was by way of a warm up to the last 2 movements of Merlin's Suite del Recuerdo, music which I for one particularly like and I wasn't the only one who appreciated Gary's performance.

As the evening drew to a close, Debbie Haack played us Andrew York's Sunburst and finally Petros took the hot seat again with the first movement of Torroba's Sonatina.

Thanks to everyone for their efforts, an excellent evening's entertainment which (unusually!) kept within it's brief.

Gavin Smith