

Berkshire Guitar Society

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Newsletter No 171

June 2008

NEXT MEETING:

**SUNDAY 8TH JUNE
SHP @ 7:30PM
ORCHESTRA EVENING**

UPCOMING EVENTS:

**FRIDAY 23RD MAY
READING @ 7:00PM
SPANISH CIRCLE**



BGS Meeting News

After a wonderful sunny day spent taking advantage of the weather (I hope) a good number of us made our way to SHP to round off the day in style playing classical guitar.

We started off with a rehearsal of our ensemble pieces for the Spanish Circle on May 23rd, Ian Gammie's Farruca came first and whilst we found that not surprisingly it needed to be speeded up we didn't have too much difficulty getting the piece up to a more appropriate performance tempo. Next came an encouraging run through Derek Hasted's Fundango and hopefully these two pieces will get us off to an impressive start next week.

We then heard a number of solo offerings, some with Spanish Circle in mind, some not. Steve Tucker gave us a piece by Albeniz, Capricho Catalan, followed by Michael Hickey with Romance and Malaguena by Tarrega. Gavin then played the Preludio de Adios from Alfonso Montes' Suite Desde Lejos.

After the break Michael returned to the fray with a piece he is preparing for his upcoming Grade 7 exam, Andante Moderato by Jose Ferrer - a highly encouraging rehearsal I thought. In a change of mode, Gary Jordan and Richard Butters then ran through their duos for the Spanish Circle, 4 Latin American pieces entitled Bolero de Valldemosa, Fandango, Por un Beso (a suitable romantic sounding item which lived up to its title which translates as "For a Kiss") and Joropo.

We then added a 3rd ensemble piece to our Spanish Circle repertoire in the form of that well known song "Senorita" Madonna by - you've guessed it - "Los Beatles".

The evening closed with a solo from Allan du Feu in the form of a waltz from the 19th century by L. Meignen and a rendition by George Macdonald of Allegria, a Juan Martin flamenco piece which sounded much better than George's reluctance to play it would have suggested.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be an orchestra evening on Sunday June 8th.

Upcoming Meetings

- Sunday June 8th - Orchestra evening.
- Sunday July 13th - Rosewood Trio, Steve Christmas and social
- August - No meeting



Spanish Circle on 23rd May

Our 2008 appearance at the Reading Spanish Circle started in the usual manner, as we played our ensemble pieces. Gary Jordan built up the suspense by announcing that we would be playing a “mystery piece” between Ian Gammie's Farruca and Derek Hasted's Fundango, which revealed itself as The Beatles “Lady Madonna”. A rousing start to the performance, much appreciated by an audience of Spanish Circle members which although rather down on recent years in numbers was to prove itself enthusiastic.

Our first solo performer was Michael Hickey, who announced this as his first public performance. Michael played Romance and Malaguena by Tarrega and gave a solid performance which belied the lack of confidence implied by his opening remarks. Gary Jordan came next with Villa Lobos Prelude no 5, followed by myself with Alfonso Montes' Preludio de Adios from the composer's Suite Desde Lejos.



Reading Spanish Circle Friday 23rd May 2008

From top left, clockwise: Michael Hickey, Gary Jordan, Steve Tucker and Gavin Smith.

Thanks to Richard Butters for the pictures.



Steve Tucker switched the style to flamenco with a fandango and then reverted to “classical” mode with Granados' Danse Espagnol no 5. Steve explained for the audience that the Granados was originally written for piano but transcribes well to guitar, and that another Spanish composer, Albeniz, thought that some of his own music sounded better on guitar than the instrument it was originally written for, the piano. Indeed a gratifying degree of interest in the music we were playing and in our instruments was being shown by the members of the audience.

Gary then took to the performer's chair again with 3 pieces which all had links to Spain. First came Ivor Mairantz' A Spanish Village, followed by a piece by Joseph Horowitz called Siesta and lastly Alcazar, again a piece by Ivor Mairantz. Gary explained that including this was prompted by watching a recent TV programme on the Art of Spain which highlighted the impact of the Moors, and the Arabic influences certainly came across in the music.

Our penultimate piece was a Rhumba from Steve Tucker, a fun sounding flamenco piece. The evening was brought to a close by Richard Butters and Gary Jordan with 4 South American pieces, a lively Bolero and Fandango before we slowed right down with “Por un Beso” (aka For a Kiss) before a Joropo upped the tempo again in a suitable finale to the evening.

A most enjoyable evening in which the Society provided entertainment of our usual high standard for our audience, who although relatively few in numbers greatly appreciated our efforts. Thanks to our performers, who in addition to those named above also included Allan du Feu and Cheryl Slater in the ensembles.

And Finally.....

Worth watching, especially for the tremolo technique. I wouldn't want to try this piece with nails!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GDiVQXz3bX0>
