

Gary Ryan Concert

The 2004 - 2005 season of the West Sussex Guitar Club began with a superb concert by Gary Ryan. Gary delighted the capacity crowd with a varied programme of traditional and modern compositions, also entertaining us with his informative, relaxed and often amusing comments. Gary made his debut at the Purcell Room in 1994 and has literally gone from strength to strength, being appointed Professor of Guitar at The Royal College of Music in 1996.

Gary began with *Sonata in A Major* by Scarlatti, originally written for harpsichord. It provided us with a precise and delightful slice of late baroque music, transposed for the guitar. Next came *Fantasia no.7 in E Major* by John Dowland,

originally written for the lute, a piece recorded and loved by Julian Bream. He also played *Allemande*, these two pieces bringing the rich heritage of Dowland's Elizabethan lute music, albeit on guitar to an appreciative audience. The prelude and presto from Bach's *Lute Suite*



no 3 in A minor was the final piece of baroque music on the programme.

Gary next played his own composition, the three part *Scenes From Brazil*. I was especially struck by the use of every part of the fret board and the percussive use of the body of the guitar in *Junglescape*, the second

movement. What made the evening musically diverse and interesting was the artists ability to easily traverse the traditional world of classical guitar composition and be equally at home in his interpretation of modern innovative works. A tango, *Verano Portena* by Astor Piazzolla, ended the first half.

After the interval Gary continued in Spanish mood with *Tango en Skai* by Roland Dyens and more Spanish music, this time by Francisco Tarrega, *Capricho Araba* and *Recuerdos de la Alhambra*. The delightful *Sakura Variations* by Yuquijiro Yocoh, based on a popular Japanese folk song *Cherry Blossoms*, then evoked the ephemeral beauty and importance of cherry blossom trees in Japan.

The evening finished with another of Gary Ryan's own compositions *Scenes From The Wild West*. The suite explores and blends a wide range of guitar techniques and styles, incorporating, to quote Gary, 'musical references to steel, slide,

plectrum, rhythm, electric and flamenco guitar - as well as to the mandolin and banjo, country and western, gospel jazz, rock, electronic dance music,

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New Members

We extend a very warm welcome to the following new members:

Mrs Reynolds Havant

Lynne Avery
Chichester

William Browne
Portsmouth

We hope you enjoy many happy evenings with us.

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film soundtracks, classical, TV nursery rhymes and incidental music to cartoons.' The overall effect being a that of a highly enjoyable slice of American music styles and American history.

All in all Gary was an excellent choice for the opening concert of the season.

Mark

Teacher's Sunday Afternoon Concert

The object

of the afternoon was for some local guitar teachers to present a concert which would encourage children to become interested in the guitar and want to play. There were quite a number of young children in the audience and they were attentive – the proportion of converts and potential converts is not known. Each teacher gave a short 15 minute performance.

The afternoon started with Sasha Levtoy and it was wonderful to see him give a rare solo performance. He started with two tuneful Tarrega studies which he said could be played by an absolute beginner within a year of starting the instrument. This was followed by a piece dedicated to his Russian teacher and finally *Villa Lobos Prelude no 1*.

Mitch Callow then took to the stage to play some Baroque pieces which were then followed by *Teen Spirit* by Kurt Cobain (of Nirvana fame) played on both the classical and electric guitar.

Sally Paice followed and sang and played



Don't Cry for me Argentina and a piece she had written herself – *Me and My Guitar*. This was a very inspirational piece because it demonstrated to would-be students the many different styles of playing guitar all weaved into the one song – arpeggios, flamenco, tango, rock and roll.

Mitch returned for a couple of duets with John Mason – an exciting

improvised piece and a clever arrangement of *The Good the Bad and the Ugly*.

The concert finished with Linda Kelsall-Barnett playing music for a range of abilities – *Spanish Guitar Blues*, *Romanze*, then a cracking rendition of Andrew York's *Sunburst* and finally Pernambuco's *The Sound Of Bells*. These pieces showed would-be students just what can be achieved if you diligently stick to your studies and practice.

The afternoon was very successful and entertaining and showed some of the wide range of styles and music that can be played on that most versatile of instruments – the guitar.

A New Name For Hago

Just to drop you a quick email to tell you that Hago has changed its name to hago... Well yes, there is slightly more to it than that! We've ceased to be the Havant Area Guitar Orchestra and have become the Hampshire Area Guitar Orchestra!

Why's that? Well, the months between Summer 2003 and Summer 2004 have been hectic and exciting, and have taken us for the first time to venues outside Hampshire - to London for the Guitar Orchestra Competition, to Cambridge and to the International Guitar Festival in Bath. Actually, we did escape Hampshire before to team up with you at WSGC, but that's not quite what we meant!

It's become apparent that once we leave Hampshire going north, not only do people not have the foggiest where Havant is, but they certainly can't pronounce it! If we had a pound for every time someone says ha-VANT, we'd probably be able to afford a stretch limo to take us all to our concerts!

We've even met people who think that havant is an adjective that you apply to an area, like

"grassy" or "overgrown". Enough is enough!

That, and the welcome appearance of new players from much further afield, means that we need to be a little more honest about what we are - we really are from the Hampshire Area of the UK, and that's why we've changed our name.

Of course, now people will think we're from America's (new) Hampshire, but we'll deal with that as it happens. Just bear in mind that we're the new Hampshire Area Guitar Orchestra, not the New Hampshire Area Guitar Orchestra and we'll be fine.

We have a new website appearance too, at www.hago.org.uk. We're continuing to expand our repertoire and styles, and we're continuing to enjoy immensely all that we do, so we do extend a warm invitation to any of your members who want to know more about hago and perhaps consider trying a rehearsal with us, to give me a ring on 023 9247 9200, or email derek@hago.org.uk. All the best from the new hago

Derek Hasted

With Regret...

Regretfully we are standing down from the WSGS committee in order that we can pursue projects that we are both involved in. It is a very sad time for both of us as we love the WSGC and all it stands for. The tremendous work that Sasha and Nina have done along with the committee has been incredible.

We do not feel we are doing justice to the committee because of our external workload and feel it would be better suited to someone who has more time and can give a creative input.

When the other projects quieten down we would both love to return to the committee, should they require our help. We shall still stay on as members and come along to evenings whenever we

are able to do so. We both enjoy the artistic talent that performs at the club. We are hoping some new blood and energy will come forward to replace us, keeping the standards of the club as high as is possible. Bognor Regis needs this little oasis in such a harsh desert to create a spark of harmonious life.

Can I just ask that if possible all members who enjoy coming along to club evenings please bring along a plate of homemade food for the table for everyone to share and enjoy. Thanks to all at the club for allowing us the pleasure of being part of all the magic

Graham & Helena Bengie

I am sure we are all very sorry to see Helena and Graham leave the committee after many years of unstinting dedication. Many thanks and best wishes for your new ventures.

Ed

Song Writing

My name is Peter Watkin and I have been a member of the WSGC since it began. I am an amateur songwriter and have been so for some 30 years now. I was wondering if there is anyone else in the club who also writes songs. Apart from playing guitar, has anyone ever considered trying to form a partnership with another songwriter etc. If there is anyone out there interested, please call me on 01903 785509

I started writing songs when I was in my 20s. When I get an idea for a song the words and music usually come all in one and I just start singing the whole thing to myself. As an example, I wrote a song some 20 years ago called 'Coffee Time

Baby' based on an idea from a work colleague who was singing to himself. I had a Dictaphone with me so I could record the thoughts in my head before it was forgotten. When I got home I used my guitar and recorded it onto tape. Today I carry a tape player in my bag just for those moments. I suppose I have written some 40 songs since then – all of different types – Country, Rock, Blues etc. It would be nice to meet someone with similar interest in writing songs. My problem is that I cannot really sing, so I tell people to just listen to the words and the music, but not the voice!

Peter Watkin

It would be interesting to learn how others in the club set about writing songs and music. I know Lennon and McCartney said that half the time the words came first and for the other half the music came first. Presumably once the initial ideas are written down the song can be refined and honed later.

Serendipity can of course play a large part in composition. If mistakes are made when playing a piece or when attempting to work out something by ear interesting sounds can sometimes be generated which could form the basis for a new original composition. Alternatively, an existing piece can be played backwards which sometimes can produce a harmonious tune – witness Rachmaninov's 'Rhapsody on a Theme by Paganini'.

It is truly amazing that over the centuries the myriad of different tunes that have been written without duplication but which all use the same combination of just 12 notes. You would think all combinations would be exhausted by now, but new gems are still being composed if not daily then at least every month.

Don't forget that both the WSGC festival in November and the Chichester Festival in February have classes for guitar composition. So have a go. Perhaps any composers amongst us can let us into some secrets of how they do it.

Ed

And Now ... a Word For Our Sponsors

A big thank you to all of you who have paid your subscriptions so promptly. The Club has a lot of expenses very early in the season and all your pennies make it a lot easier for your Treasurer (that's me) to satisfy our creditors. For those of you who have misplaced your renewal forms or just plain forgotten let this be a timely reminder. Debbie Burford was the lucky winner of the draw for two concert tickets for renewing her membership before the AGM.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our supporters and review what our sponsors have

agreed to bring to the Club and our members.

Firstly the local councils who provide financial support: **West Sussex County Council** and **Bognor Town Council** for our festival and **Adur District Council** for the season as a whole.

Secondly the charities, again providing financial support, represented by **The Marsh Christian Trust**. Our thanks are also offered to **The Bassil Shippam and Alsford Trust** who assisted us over the previous three seasons.

Finally to our local business sponsors who provide support in kind: **The Regis School of Music**: who offer us preferential booking and

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A Word for Our Sponsors...

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hire rates. Anyone who needs a venue for an event should consider talking to Sasha Levtoy about the availability of the School. 01243 866462.

ChichesterWeb: Ian Burt produces our attention grabbing concert brochure offering his design skills at a most acceptable rate. Anyone interested in what's going on in the Chichester neighbourhood should visit his website at www.chichesterweb.co.uk for what I consider to be the most comprehensive site for such information.

Town Flowers: Anyone who has been to one of our concerts cannot have failed to notice and be astonished by the floral arrangements produced by Barry Smithen, our very own local Chelsea Flower Show medal winner, at no cost to the Club. So the next time you need flowers visit either of his central Bognor or North Bersted shops or give him a call. 01243 824030 or 01243 868652.

Duende Flamenco Store: for all things Flamenco. Based in Worthing and run by Graham and Helena Bengé who have put so much time and effort into the Club over the past ten years. Discount offered to Club members. For informa-

tion call 01903 204321.

Ackerman Music: The new music shop in Chichester (formerly Bern's Music) with other branches in Crawley and Hove. Lynne Avery (Director) has agreed to provide prizes for our Festival in November and the Christmas Party. A discount of up to 10% is also on offer to Club members. 01243 781844.

Please note: any offers available to Club members are dependent upon the production of a current membership card (even more reason to get those renewals in!). If you can also have your card available when coming to Club events it will be a great help to whoever is on the door.

Finally, to plagiarise a famous politician, may I implore you to "ask not what your Club can do for you – ask what you can do for your Club". The committee is still urgently seeking assistance in running affairs and any offers of help will not only be most welcome but instantly accepted. Hoping you enjoy the season.

Jonathan Parrott

Editor's Note

Here is the 2nd edition of the new smaller format Newsletter. The smaller size does make the production of colour copies more affordable, so I hope you think it worthwhile. You will see on page 8 that there is a competition for coming up with a new name for the magazine.

You will be aware that we ask much from our committee. Like all of us they are finding time a commodity in short supply. The hassle of earning a living, gardening, decorating, maintaining the car and house make demands on us all. However, there are many ways in which you can help. For example, do a turn on the door collecting money, helping out for an hour or so at our Festivals. Many hands do make light work and it would be a shame if some of our activities were to be curtailed. I think we have a wonderful

club please try to help the committee if you can. Many thanks to Graham and Helena who have recently stood down from the committee after many years of dedication to the club.

Thanks to those who have contributed to this edition, please keep the articles coming in, I am always very short of copy. Particular thanks to Janet Fitzpatrick of the Southampton Guitar Society for her review on West Dean.

Finally, good luck to everyone who will shortly take part in the West Sussex Guitar Festival. The adjudicators are always very encouraging. Do not look upon it as a competition, rather see it as an opportunity to have a short master class with a professional player who can offer some constructive advice to improve your playing technique.

Terry Woodgate

The AGM

We had the western theme summer party on 17th July and then this long Summer recess of 2 months before the next club meeting. How could we manage with no meetings for 2 whole months? Well the summer just sped by at incredible speed, the late sunsets, hot sunny days all flew by and it seems as if by magic it was business as usual with the 1st club evening – the AGM followed by a concert given by the Linda Kelsall-Barnett family.

The minutes of the AGM will be issued in due course, but here is a brief synopsis. A number of the committee are finding it difficult to continue to remain on the committee with work and home commitments. Some have stood down, but the core of the committee was re-elected. It is hoped they can offload some of their work onto other members. More volunteers are urgently needed. If you can help a little for example sometimes taking money at the door, or helping for an hour or so at our music festival it will be of great assistance. No previous experience is necessary. Remember – many hands make light work and without the extra assistance, regretfully the club may have to curtail some of its activities. June Nicholas kindly offered to help distribute cards reminding members of

club evenings. It makes for a very friendly atmosphere if members can bring some food along to club evenings (not concert evenings). Roger Ainley offered to take over as membership secretary and Julie Angus has volunteered as Events Liaison Officer.

A number of improvements were suggested to make club evenings more attractive in order to encourage more members to attend. These were:

- 1) Let players get advanced sight of the orchestral pieces. A number of members struggle to read the music on the fly, but could make a better job if allowed to prepare the music.
- 2) Select a composer and have a talk on his life and then let the members play some of the composers pieces. This should not necessarily deter beginners from performing since many composers cover a wide range of abilities and there are always simpler arrangements of pieces to be found. The composer theme is not expected to last all evening perhaps only for an hour say, which would still leave time for members to play other pieces if they wish.
- 3) Let teacher members give a short talk on different aspects of guitar playing, how to relax in front of an audience etc.

Concert by Linda and Family

The AGM was followed with a concert given by the Linda Kelsall-Barnett family. Many combinations of family were presented. Tamzin is 8 years old and Zoe 5 years old. Both played exceedingly well. This was especially so since the AGM overrun and many children of that age would have been fast asleep in bed.

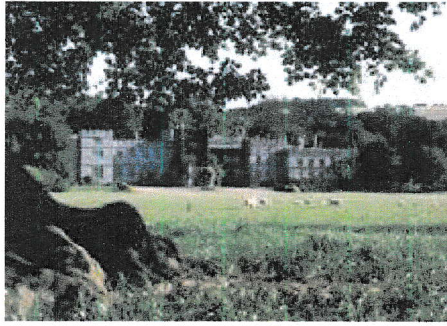
The concert began with Linda, Zoe and Tamzin playing 2 pieces from *the Primary Suite* by Jerry Nutall – *The Jersey Promenade* and *The Gallop*. The trio was joined by Gran Pat who then played a Debbie Cracknell Gigue. We were treated to some songs in addition to the guitar playing - Tamzin and Zoe sang a duet - *Sing a*

Rainbow and Tamzin sang *Strawberry Fair*. Zoe played *The Cuckoo* by John Anderson. Tamzin played a grade 3 solo piece *Premier Amour* by Gerard Montreuil. Linda then played the haunting Uruguayan piece *Milonga* by Cardoso who Linda had seen playing in the summer at West Dean. This was followed by *A Day in November* by Leo Brouwer. The evening finished with an exciting *Tango Espanol* by Joep Wanders with Linda and Tamzin on guitar and Zoe on tambourine.

A wonderful concert and so nice to know that there are some really tuneful pieces being composed these days for children to play that are a joy to listen to.

West Dean 2004

For those of you who've never been to The International Classical Guitar Festival & Summer School you don't know what you've missed - it's so close to home and yet after a week of guitar indulgence it could be a million miles away! It is held in the gracious and spectacular surroundings of West Dean, well worth a visit for its gardens alone,



West Dean College

the house not open to the public except for students at the college. The course director is John Mills who must put in a huge amount of time and effort into organising the course to ensure the smooth running of the week's events, and the line-up each year is impressive.

This year's concerts, held in the College's delightful little church within the grounds, were given by no less than David Russell, Jorge Cardoso (and who doesn't know that Milonga!?) Maria Isabel Siewers (Argentina), Pavel Steidl (Czech Republic) The teaching staff also included Paul Gregory, Gerald Garcia, Neil Smith and Andrew Gough. Andrew dedicated the whole week to complete beginners attending the week's course, making it accessible to any classical guitar devotee. Around 70 guitarists of all abilities make up the list of international students - many returning year after year.

A typical day would start promptly after breakfast with ensemble (led by one of the professionals mentioned above) the students having been allocated a suitable group in which to play. A coffee

break would be followed by a performance workshop or classes focusing on a multitude of technique problems - stage-fright and nail perfection etc. Within this schedule there were also two private lessons for each participant - a privilege to have a one-to-one with such high profile guitarists. After (an excellent) lunch the students had a half-hour slot

to put on a lunch-time concert which preceded the

daily, and sometimes public, formal master-class (not for the faint-hearted!) The afternoon was rounded off with further ensemble rehearsal and then, just as everyone was more than ready for a drink at the bar there was an hour and half of the guitar orchestra (at least 40 of us!) led by the irrepressible Gerald Garcia whose enthusiasm and high expectations produce incredible results. Then a very sociable but rushed dinner before making our way to the church for the evening's concert. The highlight for me (and I know for many of us) this year was Pavel Steidl of whom I knew little until his extraordinary concert where he proved to be the master of entertainment and brilliance - an exceptional virtuoso.

I've been attending this event for the last 10 years and it's always been an inspiration - next year's dates for the West Dean experience is Saturday 13th August 2005 for one glorious week

Janet Fitzpatrick

Christmas Party 18th December 2004

Our Christmas celebrations this year will consist of musical performances, the buffet and 'Carols by Candlelight'. The musical theme will be the all encompassing 'Seasonal Music from Around the World'. All instruments are welcome. If you wish to perform, whether on guitar or other, please give Sasha a call as soon as possible on 01243 866462

Competition Time

With the new format A5 newsletter now in colour, the committee have thought it is time to have a new name for the Newsletter. Can you think of a more inspiring title than just 'Club News'. If you have any suggestions, please send them to the

editor – address below. There are 2 free tickets to be won for one of our future concerts this year. Please put on your thinking caps and come up with a winning name.

West Sussex Guitar Festival 2004



Stanley Yates

Whether you're playing in the Festival or not do take this rare opportunity of seeing one of the world's finest guitarists in concert. Stanley Yates will be performing at the Regis School of Music on 20 November at 7.30pm. Space prohibits me from listing all his accolades but a visit to his website (www.stanleyyates.com) should convince you to attend.

If you're not performing in the Festival classes, come and be a spectator. For an entry fee of only £1 you can hear many words of wisdom from our adjudicators Helen Sanderson and Lee Solory to say nothing of some fine playing from the competitors. The classes are on November 13th, 14th (Junior) and 21st (senior) and run from 9.30am to 5.30pm each day.

Looking ahead, the dates for the Chichester Festival of Music are February 5th, 6th (juniors) and 13th (seniors). Entry forms will shortly be available.

Dates for your Diary

Nov 13-14th WSG Festival Junior Day

Nov 21st WSG Festival Senior Day

Nov 20th Stanley Yates Concert

Dec 4th WSG Festival Club Evening

Advance Notice: Christmas Party (by invitation only)
18th December see page 7 for details

Most events take place on Saturdays at 7.30pm in the Regis School of Music, 46 Sudley Road, Bognor Regis. For details phone 01243 866462. For concert tickets phone 01243 528573 or visit the **Ticket Hotline** at www.westsussexguitar.com

Please send copy for the next edition of Club News by **15th Jan** to Terry Woodgate, 75 College Road, College Town, Sandhurst, Berks GU47 0RA
Tel: 01276 34042 or e-mail to: terry_woodgate@btinternet.com

West Sussex Guitar Club is grateful for the continued support of:

