

## A Great End to the Season!

In the last three months the Club has played host to three outstanding musicians. For those of us who were able to attend all three recitals the experience was simply unforgettable. Each of the performers studied at some stage in this country, but came from totally different backgrounds. Each of them possesses great natural talent yet had to work very hard to reach the present stage in their career.

In May Nicola Hall's long awaited recital left all those present feeling very uplifted indeed. Although Nicola hardly changed her favourite solo programme which she played for us last year: Praetorius, Weiss, Torroba and in the second half - Walton, Mertz, Brouwer and Paganini, her wonderful concentration, amazing composure, and friendliest of presentations made a great impact. What was particularly encouraging was that this time our audience included many young guitarists. Now Nicola is devoting all her energy to a new career in Law. She left us, however, with a promise to play again for the club one day... something we look forward to very much.

In June our guest was Stephen Marchionda, another bright personality on the modern guitar scene. Stephen's name became



Nicola Hall

known after his successful performances at several International competitions.

This particular recital was arranged at short notice with the help of John Mills, with whom Stephen studied at one stage. Stephen is indeed a player of great character. An hour long programme started with a Fantasia by Dowland. Simple and lonely at

first, the melody gradually becomes quite elaborate and rhythmically animated, then graceful before being rounded up in to a very positive and satisfying ending. Calm, beautiful tone and well calculated sustain in development made this an excellent opening. Two pieces by Tarrega (*Mazurka* and *Gavotte*), followed in-

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## Mediterranean Moods

Rain beat relentlessly on the car roof as I drove from Chichester to Bognor through deep puddles which threatened to turn roads into rivers. The wettest July for many years hardly seemed the best setting for the club's Annual Summer Party.

Amazingly, once inside the Regis School of Music and away from the influence of the grey skies, the atmosphere was miraculously transformed. Palm trees, tables set with candles and flowers, and the enticing aroma of Mediterranean food transported us in an instant from Bognor to the shores of the Mediterranean, this year's party theme. A cheerful greeting and a glass of sherry presented at the door by exotically dressed 'French' and 'Spanish' characters completed the illusion.

Mitch set the musical scene with a lovely Spanish guitar solo, 'Mallorca' by Albeniz. This was followed by the Regis Guitar Ensemble playing music from four Mediterranean countries (France, Spain, Greece and Italy) and Alex played us a piece by Brescianello.

A break for refreshments from the sumptuous display of Mediterranean food gave us the opportunity to partake of wine and

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## A Great End to the Season! (cont'd)



*Stephen Marchionda*



*Fabio Zanon*

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roducing a very different, romantic mood. Stephen possesses a powerful sound which he can instantly convert to a sensitive and poetic tone as he did for Tarrega.

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Torroba's *Garrotin and Soleares* exposed a very different world evolving under the burning Spanish sun. These wonderful pieces required a very different approach. The player's fingers galloped across fingerboard producing a dry, Flamenco type sound.

The modern piece by an American composer, Robert Beaser, which followed was an excellent example of contemporary writing - very clear in its idea and full of positive images. This excit-

ing piece was played by Stephen with extra inspiration, after all he was chosen to premiere it in New York's Lincoln Centre.

The final piece was *Variations on a Catalan Song* by John Duarte. Brilliantly developing the idea of the original melody called "Song of the Thief" the composer explores in music many devices to steal ... but in the end perhaps only a heart! Our inspiring performer faithfully followed the thread adding life and sparkle to every bar of a most lovely piece. Two encores, both of Spanish origin, brought the atmosphere in the audience to a quite ecstatic point. What an evening it was.

The final recital of this season was given by **Fabio**

**Zanon**. When, four years ago, Fabio played at the club for the first time, it was clear that we were listening to an extraordinary musician of great talent, intelligence and spirit. His second appearance, two years later lived up to all our expectations, but the entirely different repertoire Fabio played on this occasion allowed us to observe an artist searching for new ground.

In the following year Fabio won the Guitar Foundation of America Competition. The tour of America and Canada which followed must have been a

serious trial to any performing artist as well, of course, as a great experience. We were waiting for his latest visit with great anticipa-

tion.

The treat began with a *Fantasia* by Sor. All was vivid here - Sor's fascination with military rhythms, his great melodic gift and his ability to create drama. The romantic side of Fabio's playing was fully engaged and the evening had the best possible start.

Fabio preceded Bach's *Second Violin Sonata* with a short but very insightful introduction.

A most spirited interpretation followed. Fabio brings so much to Bach! The polyphonic lines are immaculately traced, the changes of tone continuously follow

**F**abio brings so much to Bach! ...the architecture of the suite unfolds with a logical inevitability

the movement of the melody, the embellishments are placed and executed with real wizardry and the

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## Mediterranean Moods (cont'd)

good conversation as well as to enjoy the wonderful feast.

The entertainment resumed with a very witty presentation of the World Cup Theme, Fauré's 'Pavane', by the Gala Quartet. The group were attired in French berets and striped shirts and John's unusual footstool proved to be a football.

Alex treated us to a second solo, this time by Villa-Lobos, and Linda played two pieces by Tarrega, 'Adelita' and 'Recuerdos de la Alhambra'. Little Tamzin did her best to upstage her mother, causing much amusement, but in no way distracting our attention from the beautiful quality of Linda's music.

An ice-cream 'vendor', thinly disguised as Sasha and complete with ancient bicycle, then arrived on the scene and distributed ice-cream cornettos to one and all, an unexpected treat which was enjoyed by everybody.

At this point Paul, wine glass in one hand and guitar in the other, stepped onto the stage to delight us with his playing of a Pavane and a Malaguena, the latter leading into a flamenco dance dramatically performed by Helena. This had a spell-binding effect upon the audience.

Helena then danced a Sevillanas.

again to Paul's accompaniment, a lively Spanish regional dance with castanets. The powerful beat soon had us clapping in time with the compelling rhythms.

An alluring aroma of Turkish coffee suddenly began to waft across the Recital Hall, acting as a

The evening ended with a spirited performance of 'Harlem Rag' by Alex and then we all joined in an energetic



*Helena's Sevillanas*



*"That's my mum!"*

magnet and drawing us towards the Ensemble Room where coffee was being served.

Greek circle dance led by Pam. Exhausted but happy we left the Regis School to face once more our damp English summer, feeling that at least

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*Gala Quartet in Gallic spirit!*

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for one evening we had been able to enjoy a little Mediterranean warmth.

Our thanks go to Sasha and Nina for transforming the Recital Hall into such a colourful Mediterranean location, to all those who contributed so generously with gifts of food and drink, and to everyone who entertained us during the evening. It proved a very enjoyable way of celebrating the end of another successful season.

Pam Davis

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architecture of the suite unfolds with a logical inevitability...

After the interval - three *Preludes* by Villa-Lobos. The order was unconventional (IV, V and I) yet anyone who knows the *Five Preludes* would appreciate the wisdom of this choice. The tragic Fourth followed by the heavenly opening lines of the Fifth and the rhapsody and fiesta of the First brought to a conclusion this feast of the spirit.

*Sonatina Meridional* by Ponce was next. In this piece Fabio portrayed a passionate and colourful world, where moods changed from bouncing and restless to longing and romantic. In the final movement he skilfully allowed the passion to take hold of his, and inevitably our, imagination and brought the piece to its exciting conclusion.

The final item in the

WSGC meets the 21st century! - We are now on the World Wide Web. Please visit our site at:



<http://members.aol.com/wsgcmail/wsgcmail>

## 1998/9 Programme

1998		
<b>September</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>AGM &amp; recital by Paul Gregory</b>
	<b>26</b>	<b>Recital by Simon Dinnigan</b>
<b>October</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Club Evening &amp; Junior Orchestra</b>
	<b>31</b>	<b>Recital by Michael Partington</b>
<b>November</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>Club Evening &amp; Junior Orchestra</b>
<b>December</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Christmas Party</b>
1999		
<b>January</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>Recital by Amanda Cook</b>
<b>February</b>	<b>13/14</b>	<b>Chichester Festival - Adjudicator: Nicola Hall</b>
<b>March</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Recital by Stephen Marchionda</b>
	<b>27</b>	<b>Club Evening &amp; Junior Orchestra</b>
<b>April</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>Recital by Julian Byzantine - tbc</b>
<b>May</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Club Evening &amp; Junior Orchestra</b>
	<b>22</b>	<b>Recital by The London Guitar Trio</b>
<b>June</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Club Evening &amp; Junior Orchestra</b>
	<b>26</b>	<b>Recital by Charles Ramirez &amp; Helena Kalumjunjak</b>
<b>July</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>Summer Party</b>

All events (except the Festival) take place on Saturdays at 7:30pm at the Regis School of Music, 46 Sudley Road, Bognor Regis. For details phone 01243 866462

# Don't miss!

## Paul Gregory

plays

**Handel,  
O'Carolan,  
Grainger,  
Gregory and  
Asencio**

on  
**12th September**

ogramme was *Apassionata* by the Brazilian composer Ronaldo Miranda. The piece explored two themes, very different in character which, as Fabio put it, are "constantly fighting each other". At the end we all felt relief and satisfaction, when the culmination declared both triumph and perfect agreement?

A fine composition indeed, and a passionate performance brought to us by a dedicated musician who is prepared to share with his audience the intimacy and depth of discoveries he has found through revelation, hard work and humility.

Three beautiful encores left everyone in a jubilant mood, wanting more but feeling good indeed.

Sasha Levrov

