

Gary Ryan Sell-Out

The recital by Gary Ryan, the youthful Professor of Guitar at the Royal College of Music, attracted a capacity audience including many children at the West Sussex Guitar Club on Saturday 17 March.

Very much at ease, Gary Ryan struck an immediate and tangible rapport with his audience as he played the opening Fantasia X by the sixteenth century composer Alonso Mudarra, with its amazingly contemporary-sounding harmonies. The following two pieces by Dowland – distinctive in voice, ornamentation and complex rhythmic changes - were played with meticulous control and fluency. Contrastingly Albeniz's Mallorca, depicting the light inconsequential happiness of a cloudless Balearic seascape, required a lyricism which was central to Ryan's sensitive interpretation.

The following four items were all closely related to dance. While Tango en Skai by the French-Tunisian composer Dyens humorously parodied the conventions of the dance, the Argentinian composer Piazzolla's composition Verano



An enthralling performance from Gary Ryan

Porteno developed the potential of the tango as an art-form. Lyrical passages were built into the traditional fabric of the tango, with its familiar syncopated rhythms, and the whole composition skilfully interpreted by the artiste. The first half of the programme ended with two other Latin-American items –

Brouwer's Elogio de la Danza, which counterbalanced falteringly unpredictable openings with exhilarating releases of energy played at electric speed; and the resonating Afro-Brazilian rhythms of Bellinati's Jongo, which provided an exciting conclusion.

The second half of
(Continued on page 2)

Amanda Cook - Her Gentle Powers

Amanda's performance on our stage in January was eagerly anticipated by all of us who have followed her formidable progress in the last few years. It was one of the best attended performances and it attracted to the club many new faces as well as a large group of Amanda's fans, as her name is now well known on the local music scene.

She played for us an entertaining, technically demanding programme

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New Member

We extend a warm welcome to the following new member:

*Jonathan Wilson,
Seaford College*

We hope you enjoy many happy evenings with us.

Gary Ryan ...

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the programme consisted of two longer items. The eight movements of Bach's Lute Suite No.4 in E Major juxtaposed a variety of contemporary dance forms in one intricately crafted composition; Ryan's brilliant playing brought out the fullness of Bach's genius and humanity. By contrast, the four movements of the Sonata Op.47 conveyed

Ginastera's desperate search for stable meanings and harmony in a fractured world, simultaneously explored the potential of the guitar. Particularly memorable were the dynamics of the second movement, with its extraordinary bee-like velocity; and the colour of the third, as the guitar became a deep pool of liquid sound from which notes were plucked, suspended and regrouped

discordantly. The audience strained to capture each nuance of sound up to the final stasis. A single encore - Ryan's creative interpretation of Villa Lobos's Choros No.1 - was clearly insufficient to satisfy their delighted appreciation of this thoughtful and excellent programme.

Sasha Levtov
& Angela MacTavish

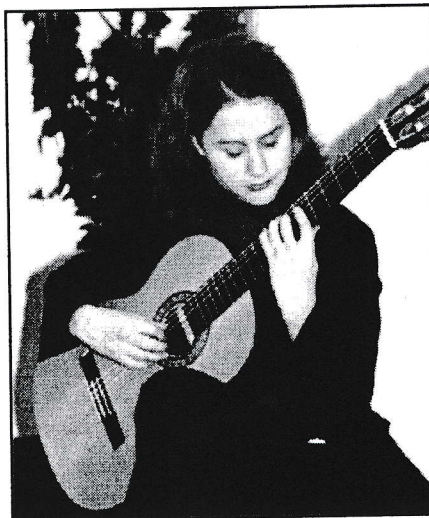
Amanda Cook ...

(Continued from page 1)

with superb musicianship and presented it with real charm. The quality and the power of her tone and her easy and natural manner were a real inspiration to everyone who came to this recital.

In the first half Amanda played three pieces based on variations. The *Passacaille* by Bach's contemporary Leopold Weiss provided an ideal opening. The theme, quiet and thoughtful drew the audience immediately into the programme; and then gathering strength from variation to variation the piece resolved itself in the final elegantly spread chord. Contrastingly, the *Variation on a Turkish Folksong* by the brilliant Domeniconi transformed the simple lament into a rich and complex torrent of sound. The title of the folksong "The Long and Narrow Road" evokes an image of a lonely mountain pass descending into a populous highway - and finally resumes ones again its plaintive isolation.

The two pieces by Dowland



Amanda Cook - a joy to hear

Photo: Pam Davis

which followed created a very different mood. In Amanda's hands the guitar produced a bright, silvery sound in the first lively *Allemande* and the following *Fantasia* contained a short spell of beautiful tremolo - as she commented, probably the first example of the use of tremolo in the lute and subsequently the

guitar repertoire; definitely a high point of Amanda's technique.

The first half concluded with the inventive and brilliant *Gran Jota* by Tarrega. The excellent programming allowed Amanda to display a wealth of guitar technique and to show her technical accomplishment, displaying at the same time real understanding of the style and confidence as an artist.

The second half opened with *This Morning in Omagh the Sun Rose Again* - a very special piece written by William Lovelady as a universal tribute to the tragedy in Omagh and first performed in this country by Amanda. It was played very movingly and again displayed her excellent mastery of the tremolo.

With real Slav intensity Amanda then played Mertz's *Fantaisie Hongroise*, first making us smile with her humorous rebuke to the composer's urge to show off in this fiery piece. The collection of wonderful pieces by Torroba was

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We would like to invite all our guitarists and supporters to the
Club Evening on Saturday, 7th April.
We shall start with ever popular all-age guitar orchestra and after
the buffet shall repeat the much liked "Musical Hat" game.

Chichester Festival - Everyone a Winner

This year's Chichester Festival was, once again, a great success with a record number of entries over the two days.

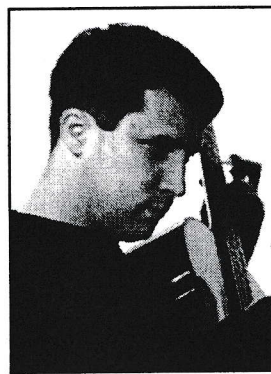
The standard of playing on both the Junior and Senior days seems to improve from year to year - and is a tribute to our teachers as well as to all who took part.

Thanks are due to our adjudicators, the



Mark Eden

Eden-Stell Duo. Chris Stell encouraged the Juniors, and Mark Eden



Chris Stell

commented helpfully on the Senior entries.

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Delightful Debut for Alex ...

Alex Iles concert in the young professionals series on 13th January was a special delight to

members who have followed the growing talent of this young man over a number of years. The only thing that seems to grow faster

than Alex's talent is his shoe size !!

But it was a special delight, almost a shared family feeling, to watch a young man who had delighted us so often at club nights with fiendishly difficult pieces extremely well played to see him mount the first rung of the professional ladder and to do so with such self assurance. For on his past showings,

and the increasing maturity he showed at this concert, a professional career is assured if he wants it and can retain his focus. He is still, after all, a very young man but one with enormous potential.

To the chagrin of many other playing members his technique is precise and delicate of

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Diary Dates 2001

April	7	Club Evening
	21	Recital by <i>Benjamin Verdery</i> at The Point Dance and Arts Centre, Eastleigh, 8pm. (Southampton CGS) 013 2931 0792 for tickets
	28	Recital by <i>Lorenzo Micheli</i>
May	19	<i>All Day Workshop with Mark Eden & Chris Stell</i>
	19	Club Evening
June	16	Club Evening
	15-24	Regis School of Music Summer
	30	Recital by <i>Fabio Zanon</i>
July	21	Summer Party

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

Amanda Cook ...

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full of poetic imagination; Amanda generously shared with the audience the inspiration she derives from Spain, the country where she recently performed so well at the prestigious Tarrega's Competition.

The programme concluded with three lighthearted and exhilarating pieces by Benjamin Verdery, and the great rapport between Amanda and her one-time tutor was very evident. Amanda's talent and natural charm again won the hearts of the audience, as the queue to reserve her very first, and still forthcoming CD confirmed.

Sasha Levto

Alex Iles Debut ...

(Continued from page 3)

touch with good use of dynamics and an obvious pleasure in the material and he's not afraid to play very well known pieces - e.g. the Albeniz - which might show up any flaws in his playing, and so often does with lesser players.

The programme, from *Romanza* to a variety of Villa Lobos pieces, notably included no northern European or "classical" works that are the staple diet of

most professional guitarists, this was a warmer music from a warmer part of the world - or several parts - for Alex's programme ranged across the musical landscapes of Italy, Spain and South America, with several favourable nods to other guitar forms such as the Scott Joplin and the walking blues. A real treat of a first professional concert.

Graham Bengé

Flamenco Workshop

Duende Flamenco Store in Worthing presents a Flamenco Guitar Workshop with maestro of the Flamenco guitar, Tomas Jimenez, on Sunday 1st April, 10am-2.30pm. The workshop is for beginners and experienced guitarists and costs £16 for players and £4 for spectators. Private lessons are also available on the day. Please note places are very limited and must be booked and paid for by 30th March. Call Duende Flamenco Store on 01903 204321 for details.

Lorenzo Micheli Recital - April 28th



Our professional recital on April 28th is to be given by Lorenzo Micheli, the young Italian guitarist who has risen to prominence by virtue of being the first Italian to win the prestigious Guitar Foundation of America competition in 1999, adding this

to a string of international competition successes.

His other accomplishments include writing and recording the soundtrack for the Italian TV movie 'Viaggio verso casa'. He plays all over the world as a soloist, in chamber music ensembles and with orchestra and has recently recorded CD's featuring the works of Aguado and Castelnuovo-Tedesco.

Having heard both of these CD's I can vouch for Lorenzo's great musical sensitivity and strong technique. He is undoubtedly a player of world-class stature so this will be a recital not to be missed. Put it in your diary now, or better still, ring Jonathan on 01243 528573 to reserve a ticket.

Details of his programme will be published on the web site as soon as they become available.



Lorenzo Micheli

Regis School of Music discounts

Just a reminder to members that they can enjoy concessions on all concerts organised by the Regis School of Music on presentation of a West Sussex Guitar Club membership card.

Congratulations, Simon!

Congratulations to Simon Puttock, who has won a County Music Award to study on Saturdays at The Gulidhall School of Music, London. This is similar to the way Amanda Cook got started on the road to professional acclaim, so watch this space. Well done, Simon!

Admission to all recitals:

£7.00 (non-members)

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Full-time students half price

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For further information and tickets
phone 01243 528573

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