

## Lorenzo Micheli - Grace and Brilliance

**A**n excited phone call from Wayne

Lines of the Southampton Classical Guitar Society, where Lorenzo Micheli had just played, alerted us to anticipate an extraordinary performance on Saturday 28th April - and the actual event surpassed all expectations.

When he entered, Lorenzo seemed shy, modest, diffident; but as he took the guitar into his hands, his special relationship with the instrument became immediately apparent. His total absorption was reflected in the unusual iconic posture he adopted of sympathetic inclination towards the source of his music.

As the delicately crafted structure of Giuliani's *Grande Overture* arose from the series of beautifully executed variations, it became evident to the audience that we were listening to an artiste with extraordinary technical ability, which was matched by the equally outstanding musicality of his



*Passion and virtuosity from Lorenzo Micheli*

interpretation.

His performance of Barrios' *La Catedral*, familiar and much loved by both audience and artiste, revealed new shades of meaning. The three evocative movements held those listening spellbound - the first, with its intense lyrical lament, the second portraying the

grave imminence of a spiritual reality, and the velocity of the third suggesting frenetic human activity before the final separate and distinctive resolution was reached.

The first half concluded with Tansman's *Cavatina*, written for Segovia in

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## Gary Ryan Workshop Success

**O**n Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March, twenty guitarists and a handful of enthusiastic observers spent an inspiring day under the skilful and energetic guidance of Gary Ryan, following his impressive concert held in the Recital Hall the previous weekend.

The day began at 10am with the ensembled guitarists playing two pieces, 'My Bonny Lass' by Thomas Morley and 'Ballet du Roy' by M. Praetorius. In

### New Members

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members:

*Sue Pafford,  
Hove*

*Kenneth Wakeford,  
Lancing*

*George Williamson,  
Reigate*

We hope you enjoy many happy evenings with us.

## Lorenzo Micheli ...

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1951. The searching *Prelude*, with its often unresolved harmonies, led into the rest of the suite.

*Sarabande* introduced a kindly, gentle and reassuring voice; *Scherzino*, (the joke) parenthesised rhythmic song-dances of childhood in a more ambivalent setting; while the audience was lulled, almost mesmerised, by the undulating *Barcarole* as the video testifies! Here the suite would have ended, but Segovia was dissatisfied; so the composer wrote the final and perhaps ironically-named *Danza Pomposa*, in which the previous themes were entwined into a colourful and triumphant celebration.

Lorenzo opened the second half with Bach's *Prelude, Fugue & Allegro*. He immediately adopted a lively pace very well suited to his style; and yet the *Prelude* retained

its tranquillity, evoking an image of the passage of descending light. His control of the *Fugue* was masterful, building from a single voice into a structure of great depth and complexity. The jubilant rendering of the *Allegro*, which flooded the hall with light and colour, completed the most brilliant interpretation of the masterpiece ever played on our stage.

The fluttering delicacy of the next programme item, the *Scherzo-Vals*, paid tribute to Llobet's favourite composer Chopin and revisited the 19 century salon from which much of the guitar's virtuoso repertoire has emerged. The cascading variations on the *Folia* by the same composer explored in depth one of the most prolific themes, which inspired composers from Handel and Paganini to Rachmaninov and Ponce. Llobet's mastery of the

guitar enabled him to incorporate every imaginable technique into his passionate variations, including the ninth, composed entirely of *legados* which Lorenzo played with enthralling clarity.

The consistency of Lorenzo's bright tone derived much from stability and astonishing economy of his right hand; such a superb performance seems impossible to fault, but perhaps the occasional touch of *tasto* would add even more shades to the brilliant range of colours in his palette. Every item was greeted with rapturous applause; after several encores the committee enthusiastically offered Lorenzo our stage for the next season, and we are delighted to announce that he has graciously accepted.

Angela McTavish  
& Sasha Levto

## Gary Ryan Workshop ...

(Continued from page 1)

spite of a very fast first reading of both pieces, the ensemble achieved a successful and satisfying performance by the end of this first session.

A welcome break for coffee was followed by 'Tonic Sessions', individual coaching of Lara, Richard and Linda, each with a prepared piece of music. In order to fit into the brief 15 minutes allocated to each performer Gary gave a general comment and then selected a technical point, which would be of interest to everyone, to discuss with the soloist. This worked extremely well and was also applied to performances by two



Gary makes a point to an attentive ensemble

ensembles, Regis Guitars and the Chichester Quartet, the latter playing very well in spite of a last minute substitution of one of their players.

By now everyone was ready for the excellent lunch which

had been prepared in the Ensemble Room by Barbara Lunn. Plates were individually set out with quiche, salad and pasta and served with French bread. A chocolate gateau and coffee completed the meal and everyone felt

well prepared for the afternoon's activities.

After lunch there was a second ensemble session in which 'The Entertainer' was to be played. This lively, amusing music presented more difficulties than the two previous pieces and the players took a little while to settle into their parts. However, with Gary's help an acceptable performance eventually emerged!

A further set of 'Tonic Sessions' featured Brian, Alastair and Len who each receives pertinent and informative comments, often given with a twist of humour.

A highlight of the day began with the

(Continued on page 3)

# ¡Viva España!

THE FOURTH RSM  
SUMMER FESTIVAL IS  
NEARLY HERE

**F**orget the wet winter  
and the slow, cold  
spring! This month the  
School is bringing to Sussex  
the music and culture of Spain.

By tradition, the first  
performance of the Festival  
explores the historical roots of the  
country's music. The **Tamburrini  
Ensemble's** special passion is the  
Spanish Renaissance.

In the Sunday afternoon  
Recital, mezzo-soprano

**Alexandra Gravas**, accompanied  
by **Nigel Foster**, draws on her  
extensive operatic experience to  
give power to her recital of  
Spanish vocal music.

**Spanish Lace** on Wednesday  
is brought to you by our students,  
who have loved the special nature  
of Spanish melodies and rhythms.  
They will be joined by some young  
Flamenco dancers who performed  
at the West Sussex Guitar Festival  
earlier this season.

After some notable  
performances at the Wigmore Hall,

## Money Matters

**I**would like to thank all of you  
(over 50%) who returned the  
recent questionnaire  
concerning subscriptions. We have  
reviewed their content (article in  
future issue) and as a result of  
which we will be adjusting the  
subscription rates for next season  
in line with scheme 1 which had  
the support of over 90% of those  
replying. The Committee  
anticipated this response and  
continued their efforts to identify  
alternative sources for funds. I am  
now pleased to be able to inform  
our membership that The Marsh  
Christian Trust and The Bassil  
Shippam and Alford Trust have  
pledged their support, the latter  
guaranteed for three years.

Please don't forget to take  
advantage of concessions agreed  
with sponsors, local business and  
other societies. Currently discounts  
may be obtained from Mike's Music  
Warehouse (Bognor), Bern's Music  
(Chichester) and Duende Flamenco  
Store (Worthing). Concessionary  
rates may be obtained at events  
organised by The Friends of The  
Regis School of Music, The Bognor  
Regis Concert Club and The  
Southampton Classical guitar  
Society.

If anyone knows of any new  
locations for the display of posters  
or club brochures, or has contact  
with a potential sponsor please  
notify a member of the Committee.

*Jonathan Parrott*

the talented young Spanish pianist,  
**Alba Ventura**, comes to us on  
Friday. She will be including in her  
programme works by Ravel,  
Debussy, and Granados.

Throughout Saturday and  
Sunday, the Recital Hall will be  
home the **Arts & Crafts Fair**,  
while the School's **Recorder  
Consort, Guitar Ensemble** and  
**Chamber Choir** give short  
performances of Spanish music.

On Saturday evening Flamenco!  
**Duende**, with a cast of three  
guitarists, three dancers and a

singer, brings its new show to the  
Alexandra Theatre. A triumphant  
mix of colour, sound and  
movements, it will tell the  
extraordinary life of Spain's  
legendary painter, Goya. See page  
4 for a preview of this very special  
performance.

Club members will enjoy a  
reduction of £1 off each concert  
and the season ticket to all five will  
cost them £30 (instead of £33) -  
the same discount as enjoyed by  
the Friends of RSM.

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playing of 'Asturias' (Albeniz)  
firstly by Simon Puttock and  
secondly by Michael Hulmes,  
presenting two very different  
interpretations of this piece.  
After discussing both  
performances Gary proceeded  
to explain the dynamics  
involved in his own  
interpretation. The insight he  
gave proved to be a  
wonderful experience as he  
demonstrated the colour and  
three dimensional qualities of each  
section of the music. A vivid sense  
of landscape and atmosphere was  
the magical result, and listening to



*Workshop members*

*Drawing by Roger Rose*

this popular piece will never be the  
same again.

The workshop ended with a  
discussion about the new Trinity

Syllabus which Gary is in the  
process of compiling. During  
this debate Gary made it clear  
that he would welcome any  
helpful comments or  
suggestions from guitarists.

At 5.30pm Sasha offered  
thanks on behalf of everyone  
to Gary for a thoroughly  
enjoyable and informative day,  
to Geoff for all the work he  
had put into organizing the  
workshop and to Barbara for  
her excellent catering. It was

agreed that this had been a most  
successful Guitar Club Event.

*Pam Davis*

## Flamenco! Duende - Alexandra Theatre - Saturday 23rd June

**Luz y Tienabras – light and shade - is a life of the painter Goya told in Flamenco Dance & Guitar with Rosario Serrano & Tomas Jimenez & the dancers & musicians of Duende.**

**D**uende's powerful depiction of the troubled life of the Spanish painter Goya uses the equally colourful palette of the deepest, purest, Flamenco for its telling. The story opens with an aged, senile, Goya as he reflects to his young daughter Rosarito on the turbulent times he has lived through. A long, hard, scramble from a humble birth in a tiny pueblo culminates in his skills gaining him the post of First Painter to the Spanish court, then the grandest in Europe.

Yet as his fame grows while painting the nobility in their finery it takes all of his charm to survive the court's wrath at his cartoon parodies of their swaggering. He becomes captivated by the wit and beauty of the widowed Duchess of Alba and they embark on a tempestuous affair.

His wife, Josefa, is resignedly tolerant of his wanderings but Josefa's forbearance is in sharp contrast to Queen Maria Luisa's enraged jealousy which leads to the Duchess's untimely death, poisoned, it is said, by the Queen's henchman.

Embittered by his fall from Royal favour and mourning the tragic loss of his great love his senses are further assaulted by the epic tragedy of the Napoleonic

invasion which sweeps over Spain, some of his most visually stunning works depicting the brutality of that struggle.

Reeling from the tumult of these events, the crowning of a new King, Ferdinand VII, sees him stripped of his noble patronage, the loss of his fortune and the death of his loyal wife, Josefa, circumstances that drive him to near madness during his last years. In despair, the demons within him spill out onto a series of dark, tormented, canvasses, the so called Black Paintings, some of his last yet most powerful works, completed before senility and death overtook him while exiled in Bordeaux.

In a near 2 hour performance the 3 dancers, 2 guitarists and singer of Duende pack 7 solo guitar pieces, 3 songs and 9 dances, portraying the oft troubled life of Goya from joyously happy to heartrendingly despairing.

*Graham Bengie*

## Club Evening - 16th June

**O**n 16th June we shall be placing ourselves in the capable hands of Linda Kelsall-Barnett who will be directing the evening's activities. As usual there will be an opportunity for members to play for each other so, if you would like to play, please give Linda a ring on 01243 784442. Otherwise just come and be ready to join in!

### For Sale

Manuel Contreras  
1992  
spruce top  
+ case

£1300 o.n.o.  
(originally £2000)

Ring Peter Russell  
on  
02392 753039

## Fabio Zanon Recital - 30th June

**I**t's a special pleasure to welcome back to our stage one of the world's outstanding guitarists, Fabio Zanon. This will be the fourth time Fabio has played in Bognor and he never fails to delight with his passionate performance of the finest guitar repertoire. Fabio now spends most of his time in Brazil so opportunities to hear him over here are becoming rarer. This occasion promises to be a spectacular climax to what has been one of our best seasons ever. Don't miss it!

Help with the buffet will also be welcome - phone Helena on 01903 204321.

WSGC gratefully acknowledges the support of:



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AND ALSFORD TRUST



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