



The Old School Concert Hall
Bersted Street
Bognor Regis
West Sussex
PO22 9QE

Telephone (01243) 866162

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Newsletter No. 11

Dear Friends,

With one month to go to the end of the season, we were treated last Sunday to an astonishing performance by the Zagreb Guitar Trio, playing to a full house! We hope that a detailed review of the evening will appear in the Classical Guitar magazine in due course. For the moment, suffice it to say that we heard three gifted virtuosos blended together by immaculate ensemble playing. Within this framework the trio communicated an abundance of passion with a unique Eastern European romanticism. Those of you who could not come must be sure to see the video that was made, courtesy of the musicians.

Our Club evening with David Ireland was an extremely enjoyable occasion. David performed an imaginative programme with a very positive sense of style, and a greatly appreciated sense of humour. We await his permission to add yet another splendid performance to our video collection.

The final professional concert in our season will be given on 8th July by one of the most original performers in the UK. Charles Ramirez is well known as Professor of Guitar at the Royal College of Music. His arrangement of the Goldberg variations received an enthusiastic blessing from Segovia himself, whilst his instinctive feeling for the Spanish repertoire promises to make his performance for us an unforgettable experience.

Another date for your diary is 15th July, when Amanda Cook, currently studying with Charles Ramirez, will be playing (with John Beale at the piano) during the Chichester Festival. This will be a very popular event, and tickets are available from Diana Green (01243 829868).

Finally, top-secret preparations are underway for our Club Party on 22nd July, codename - "The Italian Job"! All we can reveal at the moment is that there will be plenty of Italian flavour to the food, the drink and, of course, the music. Dress will be informal - Italian designer clothes are optional!

One experienced Gondolier is required for the evening - applications to the Club Secretary, please. Mafioso need not apply!

We look forward to seeing you there!

A Levtoy, Artistic Director

Dear Friends,

Our club is at the beginning of its third season. It is a time to glance back to the past year to summarise our achievements, and to assess the ways in which we could improve.

With membership standing at 111 and 140 addresses on our mailing list, we are now in a position to engage professional artists up to seven times a year.

Our 1994/95 season began with a superb performance by the Versailles Quartet. Among our soloists were such artists of international status as Paul Gregory, Gerald Garcia, the brilliant Fabio Zanon and the unique Charles Ramirez.

An invitation to the Zagreb Guitar Trio was an unforgettable musical experience! John Mills together with Cobie Smitt demonstrated all the extraordinary potential of the guitar duet.

In our club evenings, as always we provided an opportunity for all our guitarists to become involved. The orchestra met several times, and as a result we had a chance to invite a professional conductor. The orchestra then played a few Brazilian Folk Tunes. The enchanting Santa Lucia at the Italian Evening was another successful performance. Who could forget the moment when our dozen guitarists were joined by the gentle sound of the accordian and mandolin! And before that the orchestra assumed the part of a string ensemble in the 2nd movement of Vivaldi's "Spring".

The contribution to our musical life by the Gala Quartet and the gifted duo Timothy Smithen and Jack Enticott has once again been proved invaluable inspiration for the others.

The solo performances this year have been as plentiful and enjoyable as ever. We even staged a professional workshop for the most advanced players with Fabio Zanon.

We successfully launched the new series of short recitals by young professionals. Linda Kellsal and David Ireland were the first club members who contributed to this very popular series. One of such evenings was dedicated to voice and guitar - Stephen Lyley and Helen Sanderson - (a pupil of Charles Ramirez.) What an unforgettable experience for all present!

Both of our parties gave us an excellent opportunity to use theatrical effects to the obvious benefit of the music and musicians.

The formation of the library in the club is another achievement. Kit Crowhurst accumulated and cataloged many items: magazines, records, tapes and videos.

After two years of serving on the committee, both Ian Burt and Rob Enticott are leaving their posts as Chairman and Treasurer. The Club is in such an enviable position now greatly due to the invaluable contribution by Ian and Rob. From the very first day Ian most generously gave his talent, time and expertise to a very demanding task - representing the club through his original, dynamic and highly professional art work. Ian was also directly responsible for obtaining for the second year running, a grant from the Arun District Council.

It is thanks to Rob that the books are so professionally organised. It is a serious commitment to look after the interests of an organisation such as a music club, and Rob's expert advice insured that we were always able to offer artists a professional fee. We hope that the success of the club will make both Ian and Rob proud of the role they have played in the club's formation.

As much as we regret that Ian and Rob are passing their official duties within the club onto new members, it is essential that we involve new people who no doubt will be able to maintain the excellent standards, but will also bring with them new ideas.

Our plans for the new season include concerts by top performers from this country as well as from abroad.

Guests as well as our resident guitarists are warmly invited to participate at our club evenings.

We would like to introduce in our evenings a special spot for recorded music where everybody will be able to share with others favourite performers and favourite pieces of guitar music. Some of the evenings will be dedicated to a particular composer. We also will be able to organise an invitation evening to groups of guitarists from different areas.

We can explore different guitar styles and will try to keep our young professional's platform well lit up.

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