



The Old School Concert Hall
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Dear Friends,

First of all, congratulations to all the participants in the busiest ever guitar section of the Chichester Festival! This year's festival definitely shows an increase in the number of people taking a serious interest in the classical guitar.

Even with the inevitable few cancellations, the classes ran right up to 9 o'clock in the evening, and those who listened to the end would testify that the excitement and spirit grew steadily to the last performance.

It is very enjoyable to see how from year to year and from performance to performance our youngsters grow and improve. But it is the adult section this year that has displayed such excellent artistic potential. All the participants in the classes for adults chose to play wonderful music, and each player succeeded in presenting their work with excellent musicality and conviction. It is even more fascinating to see such admirable progress in adult players.

It was a great improvement for the guitar section that this year we were able to run our classes in the Old School Concert Hall. The adjudicator, Michael Lewin, created an excellent and friendly atmosphere and was very helpful in his comments. To choose the winner in some classes demanded all his wisdom as a professor of the Royal Academy of Music.

Despite us running later than anticipated (for which we ask you to accept our apologies) Michael Lewin was very precise, attentive and always considerate.

Thank you very much to all those who helped us during this long and exciting day: being at the door, helping the adjudicator, making coffee.

To summarise all that took place during the day, we heard thirty-four solos, twelve duets, four trios, three quartets, a quintet, and in four orchestras, more than forty players! Such a big increase in the guitar section makes it very probable that we shall have our part of the festival expanded to two full days next year.

Looking ahead, our next professional concert will be given on 11th March by an outstanding guitarist and most versatile musician- Gerald Garcia.

Gerald will be bringing with him a programme which should satisfy a very wide range of tastes - from the Chaconne by J. S. Bach to Garcia's own arrangement of Irish folk songs. And to conclude a very interesting and colourful programme - a real treat - one of the best full scale works written for the guitar, the Sonata "Homage to Boccherini" by Castelnuovo-Tedesco. Such a programme is sure to appeal to every musical person - so don't forget to invite your friends!

A. Levtov, Artistic Director.