

Gabriel Bianco Concert

You probably know the story how Sasha and Nina were in California last year visiting their son. Quite by chance the prestigious Guitar Foundation of America competition was being held just a couple of blocks away at the same time. Sasha was fortunate enough to see the final of the competition which was won by Gabriel Bianco from France. The competition prize was a 6 month concert tour of the US and Canada



giving over 50 concerts. When he returned home, Sasha asked Gabriel if he would come and play for us in Bognor Regis before his grand concert tour began and fortunately Gabriel said yes. Those who attended the concert were therefore able to see an amazing performance from a young guitarist who is destined to have a wonderful future ahead of him and before he has become too famous. And what a spectacular concert it was.

The concert contained a number of pieces I had not heard before. However, it began with Sor's familiar variations on *Mozart's Magic Flute*. Here

New Members

We extend a very warm welcome to the following new member:

Jennifer Craven
from Bognor Regis

We hope you enjoy many happy evenings at the Club!

we heard variations within the variations as Gabriel's mastery of the guitar made each repeated section sound different. This was followed by a beautiful but very short piece *Lob der Tranen* (*Praise of Tears*) written by Schubert for voice and

piano which Mertz had arranged for guitar. The first half finished with a *Sonata* in 3 movements written by Koshkin some 12 years ago for the Greek guitarist Elena Papandreou. This is a bold piece to choose to play since it lasts some 26 minutes and is certainly not at all lyrical. It was convincingly played and I suppose it is up to the audience to do their best to try to appreciate what is going on. I could imagine a rooftop chase for example where the baddie is trying to escape from the pursuing goodie (why do baddies

always try to escape by going up on the roof – it is obvious they will be cornered eventually). Maybe this is too simplistic an approach and the piece has deeper connotations, but no one has ever been able to explain to me what atonal music is all about.

The second half began with Gabriel's arrangement of Bach's *Sonata no. 3* for violin. Gabriel explained that he took the original score as written and did not have to change even one note. Here we were on more familiar territory and I could understand and appreciate what was being played. We then heard 5 *Preludes* by Tarrega (one being a Tarrega arrangement of a Chopin Prelude). Although all were unfamiliar to me, this was typical Tarrega and as such thoroughly enjoyable. The formal part of the concert finished with an *Introduction and Capriccio* by the Italian composer, guitarist (and concertina player!) Giulio Regondi. This was a fitting end to a fine concert giving the artist the opportunity to play with panache – a true showpiece in the finest Italian tradition. And what a resounding climax at the finale – really great stuff!

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Irina meets Gabriel



Patrick meets Gabriel



Sasha conducts the Jez Operetta



The Feeding of the 5000



Debbie switches to the piano



There's a hole in bucket, dear Tamzin

The Summer Party 13th July

Gabriel Bianco Concert ...

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The audience were ecstatic and were not going to let Gabriel go without an encore. He chose to play the Garrotin and Soleares from Turina's *Homage to Tarrega*. A very enjoyable piece on which to conclude

a superb evening. It really is quite daunting to see the high standard that is required to win the GFA competition. Previous winners who have played at the club include Fabio Zanon, Jeremy Jouve, Margarita Escarpa and Lorenzo Micheli. TW

Duende Flamenco

We were delighted to read Ray's letter about Flamenco in the last newsletter such a delight that someone else at WSGC is an aficionado. As most members will know Helena and myself have long been involved in the Flamenco scene both in the UK and in Spain.

Can I commend Ray on his mention of the book "*Song of the Outcasts*" by our friend Robin Totton. Robin now lives full time in Jerez and has become very friendly with a modern Flamenco guitar legend whose works I can recommend to anyone learning Flamenco guitar. Moraito – son of the legendary Manuel Morao – is not the typical guitar superstar, his solo performances are rare as he prefers to accompany singers and dancers but he can be seen doing so in a number of video recordings in the last ten years or so. Ray mentions the Jerez Festival, Moraito played one gig which sold out in two hours

of being announced!

Can I also suggest essential reading is Don Pohren's *Art of Flamenco*; probably the most comprehensive book in English on the subject and probably the best video is Carlos Saura's "*Flamenco*."

Good to hear Ray enjoyed the Camino Flamenco trip, they're good people. Just for info, we still give a commission to the club in respect for any members booking one of our Flamenco tours to Sevilla, Madrid or Cordoba, see www.duendeflamenco.co.uk for more information.

Helena is still teaching Flamenco dance every week in Chichester and is shortly to start touring again in a Flamenco biography of the poet Lorca, look for shows from September onwards in the area.

Helena and Graham Duende Flamenco

Thanks Tony

After three years as our successful sponsorship secretary, Tony Poulett is retiring at the end of this season. Tony will still be very much around and attending our functions. Tony was responsible for obtaining grants from Bognor Town Council, West Sussex County Council and the Marsh Christian Trust. In addition, for our November Festival, Tony set up the West Dean Scholarship prize

and last year liaised with Sibelius who very kindly donated a copy of their G7 software which was a prize in the composers/arrangers class. Without sponsorship, the club would not be able to operate as it does and so many thanks to Tony for all his hard work. Patrick Butcher has volunteered to take over Tony's job, but will require to be voted in at the AGM on the 12th September. TW

Guitar Evening Classes

The evening class, which 16 years ago provided a nucleus for what is now the WSGC continues to be very popular, but this year has reached a critical mass. From September the class will be divided into two sections - Intermediate (up to Gr IV) and Advanced (Gr V and above). Sasha is going to continue with the Advanced Group and Chris Sweatman, who this

year is completing his masters Degree at Chichester University, will take the Intermediate Group. The classes take place on Mondays at the Recital Hall. The Intermediate class at 6:45 – 7:30pm (straight after the Theory Class) and the Advanced class follows at 7:45-9:30pm. Please contact Chris on 07900 893 096 or Sasha on 01243 866162 for further information.

Gabriel Bianco Off Stage

During his visit to the UK, Gabriel kindly gave an interview which is transcribed below.

How did you come to play the Classical Guitar from such an early age?

My father taught classical guitar and so he taught me from the age of 5 years old. In fact I cannot remember anything from the time before I played the guitar.

You have studied with Judicael Perroy who is coming here in January.

Yes, I studied with Judicael for 5 years. Judicael was studying at the Conservatoire when my father was also studying there.

Is the rest of your family musical?

Yes, my mother is a violinist and used to tour with an orchestra. I have a brother who is 14 years old. He used to study the guitar and was very good, but now he is more interested in history than the guitar.

Are you still studying?

I have completed my Guitar Diploma course now, but I would like to do harmony studies maybe next year. This is a two year course where you learn about the writing style of the great masters like Bach and Mozart.

In which countries have you given concerts?

I have been giving concerts for 3 years now. I have played in America, Thailand and all over Europe – Czech Republic, Romania, Slovakia, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Greece, Austria, Germany and of course France. In fact last year I gave more concerts in Romania than in France.

Do you have a preferred type of guitar music like Baroque, Romantic or Contemporary?

I like all styles of music equally and for the present I would not like to specialise in one type of music.

Do you play in ensembles at all, maybe with other instruments?

No, I am a solo performer. Maybe in the future who knows?

You are so young to have mastered the guitar so completely.

Many people say that. However, I do not want to be remembered for being a young performer – I am already 21 years old now. I want to be remembered for the quality of my playing.

I see you play a Greg Smallman guitar.

Yes, I actually went to Australia 3 years ago and met Greg at his home when I bought the guitar. I am very interested in lute music and would like to buy an 8 string guitar so that I can play music written for the archiluth. There are so many things that I want to do, I think I need more than one life to fit them all in!

When are your next concerts?

On Tuesday I fly to New York for a concert then on Friday I fly to Budapest for another concert.

Three concerts in 3 countries thousands of miles apart all within a week sounds quite exhausting.

When does your GFA tour commence?

At present I have 52 concerts lined up which run from 13th September until 20th April. (with a break for Christmas). Most are in the USA, but I have 8 concerts in Canada, 7 in Columbia and some in Brazil.

What are your long term ambitions

I am very aware that the classical guitar seems to be isolated from other instruments. The guitar community does not seem mix with other classical musicians and the music is still not widely accepted by general classical audiences. We have guitar festivals where only guitarists attend, but I would like to see the guitar given more exposure and being more widely accepted as a classical instrument – playing with other instruments for example. Maybe I can help to make the guitar more acceptable to a wider classical audience.

TW

Editor's Piece

And so another successful season comes to a close. The concerts have had a strong international flavour since we have had artists performing from France (Jeremy Jouve, Gabriel Bianco and the Versailles Guitar Quartet), from Italy (the Bonfanti Duo) and from the US (Richard Smith with Julie Adams on cello). In addition we had home grown performances from Graham Devine, Paul Gregory with Yoko Ono and the Hago charity concert. We had well attended festivals adjudicated by Graham Devine and Helen Sanderson and a very successful workshop given by Gary Ryan. WSGC members play at the Alexandra Theatre BR at 11:30am on 23rd August for the Nyodema Brikama Charity and at the Selsey Festival (The Selsey Centre) at 7:30pm on 28th August. There is certainly a lot going on on your doorsteps, please support as many of these events as you can.

Next season is now finalised, again with an International flavour with concerts to be given by

the Gothenburg Combo (from Sweden), Judicael Perroy (from France) and Irina Kulikova (from Russia). We also have performances from our own British players – Amanda Cook, Graham Devine, Gary Ryan and as a special summer treat the Mandolinquents. The concerts are expensive to put on so please do try to attend as many as you can and try to coerce (by whatever means) your neighbours and friends to come along. As always, there will be the West Sussex Guitar Festival in November and the Chichester Festival in February, so start practicing your pieces now.

Our AGM is on 12th September, so please come along to that. We are sad to lose Jez Rogers and Tony Poulett from the committee, but are very grateful for all they have done for us. The AGM will be combined with a musical club evening, but this is your chance to have your say about your club – any suggestions, dislikes or (hopefully) likes. Have a good break and we look forward to seeing you then. Keep on twanging!

Bognor's Got Talent

The theme for the Regis School of Music Summer Festival was the musical culture of England and Russia. Over the three week festival, there were some fine piano, cello and woodwind concerts given by English and Russian artists. There was a Festival lecture and a Young Artists Gallery and also a Performer's Platform. Some classes were competitive and some non-competitive. All ages and abilities were catered for. A whole range of instruments were played including piano, woodwind, violin, cello, voice and, of course, guitar which was very well represented. We were very fortunate to have Helen Sanderson as adjudicator for some of the classes.

At these events you realise how talented some of our youngsters are. We usually see them just playing guitar, but this is only the tip of the iceberg. In fact, they have many more strings to their bow (or guitar)! Tamzin Barnett is a very capable pianist and singer. Her sister Zoe also sings, plays flute and piano. Karim Bedda plays violin and piano in addition to the guitar (all at grade 8!). The girls and Karim also entered in the Young Artists Gallery. Karim won the award as the person who had contributed most to the festival having entered the

violin, piano and guitar classes in addition to the Artists Gallery. Karim starts at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama in September studying guitar under John Mills. We all wish him well and will miss him at our club evenings, but hope he will still be able to come to the club during his vacations.

As always, Helen had sound advice to give while always being encouraging. It is important not to rush into a piece, but to settle down and get comfortable before commencing playing. Singing a piece will help determine where the tune's melody line is – uncluttered from the accompaniment but singing also tells you when to pause and breathe. For duets, it is advisable to choose pieces of a much lower standard than you would play as a solo. This is because there is so much more going on in a duet. You must listen to your partner and not be distracted by their part, you must watch for visual cues, you must listen for when you have the tune or the accompaniment and adjust your volume accordingly. This is all very difficult to do if you are concentrating on a fairly demanding piece. Try to conjure up a picture in your mind when playing

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Bognor's Got Talent ...

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or consider how an orchestra would play the piece with different voices and try to emulate this on the guitar. Helen commented that she remembers past performances and that there is no doubt that the standard of performances improves year on year and that is certainly something that I think we have all witnessed.

Sasha, as always, did a sterling job as compère, still and movie photographer, guitar tuner, furniture remover and also piano mover whenever the instrument was required (watch that back - a grand Yamaha is a heavy beast to move!) Anyone attending these performances would be under no illusion that Bognor Has Talent. The results of the competitive classes are given below.

TW

	First	Second
Violin (under 18)	Karim Bedda	
Guitar (under 8)	Louis Jenkin	
Duet (under 12)	Jolley Brothers	
Guitar (under 12)	Nick Hagan	James Li-Kam-Tin/Morgane Willer
Guitar (under 15)	Patrick Sowden	
Piano (under 18)	Karim Bedda	
Guitar (under 18)	Sam Brown	Karim Bedda

The Summer Party

The conclusion of a very successful season culminated in a very enjoyable summer party. Fun as it was, it was tinged with some sadness since this was the last event attended by our hugely popular treasurer Jez Rogers prior to his emigration to New Zealand. Sasha had even composed a mini operetta in appreciation of Jez which required some audience participation. As a small token of the club's appreciation, Sasha presented Jez with an engraved tankard (together with a little something to put in it) and to Jez's wife Diane a bouquet of flowers. Bouquets were also presented to Nina who does so much work for the club behind the scenes and to the hard working ladies of the committee – Alison, Irina and Moyria.

Sasha has the difficult job of organising the event so that things run smoothly. This is not easy when not all members RSVP to the party invitation regarding numbers coming and musical and food contributions. Nevertheless, as always, the evening (and the drink) all flowed very well. In fact there was a considerable amount of food left at the end of the evening despite everyone's best attempts to clear the tables. Over 50 people came to the party.

The theme of the Summer Party followed on from that of the Summer Music Festival ie Mu-

sical culture of England and Russia. The evening started with contributions from Linda, Tamzin and Zoe Barnett. Terry Woodgate then played some well known Russian folk tunes ably accompanied by Sasha. We also had music from a few other countries – Patrick Sowden played some Spanish Flamenco and Karim Bedda played *Tango en Skai*. It was good to see Sally Paice back on stage again singing and playing after a long absence. Debbie Burford swapped her guitar for the piano and played some evergreen English songs - *The White Cliffs of Dover*, *a Nightingale sang in Berkley Square* and *There'll Always be an England* while the audience sang along. A quartet of Tamzin and Zoe Barnett and Alice and Patrick Sowden gave a rendition of that traditional folk song *There's a Hole in my Bucket*. The evening finished with a rousing finale from Sam Brown playing a very exciting gypsy piece and as an encore the *Harry Lime Theme* (well a zither can sound like a sophisticated balalaika) – both pieces were ably accompanied by Sasha.

After the party there was a considerable amount of tidying and washing up required and thanks to all those who stayed behind to help out. Many hands really do make light work – it was all greatly appreciated.

TW



Class 8 and under



Franklin and Chester Jolley Duo



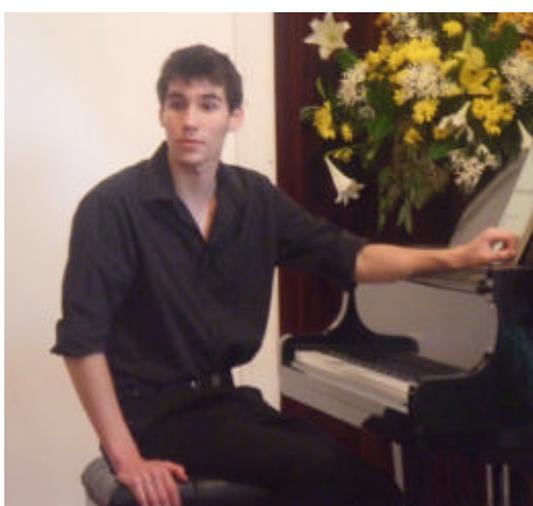
Patrick Sowden & Dad



Jez and Sasha



Regis Guitars warm up



Karim plays Shostakovitch



Tigerlily, the youngest to take to take the stage

The Summer Music Festival 4/5th July

Ohhh Yes, We will miss you Jez!

So went the words of Sasha's Summer Party Operetta especially composed to extol the virtues of our Treasurer Jez Rogers. Yes, we will all miss you and many thanks for all that you have done for the club over the past three years. Jez and family are emigrating to New Zealand in September and we all wish them the very best.

Jez is a well respected member of the committee being responsible for so many innovations. Members will all know him as the man who relieves you of your money at the door – in itself a dedicated undertaking some 12 times a year. In addition of course he is Treasurer and responsible for keeping a tight but fair reign on the finances such that the club is now doing quite well. He is also the membership secretary issuing your membership cards and reminding those who have not paid their subs. In addition, he set up the most excellent WSGC website (westsussexguitar.com) which many people the world over regularly access. He has kindly offered to continue as the club webmaster from New Zealand – something for which we are all extremely grateful. He also set up the club's library database and our librarians David and Alison have only recently completed the inventory of all items. This is a great



innovation for the club. I wonder what other club has the facility for searching for a piece of music, recordings or publications from the comfort of your own home via the Internet. Jez is always there to help out at our numerous music festivals and will be greatly missed. We are also very grateful to his long suffering wife Diane who tolerates all the time and energy Jez has given the club.

As a small token of appreciation, Sasha presented Jez with an engraved tankard (and a little something to put in it) and Diane with a bouquet of flowers. Good luck to you both and your family at the Antipodes. Maybe you could set up a twinning guitar club down under and we could have exchange visits. It has also been suggested that maybe with the use of a webcam, Jez could still enter our festivals but on the screen although it would mean him getting up in the middle of the night.

Jez will be a hard act to follow, but having gained charity status for the club last year, Patrick Butcher has kindly offered to take over as Treasurer, Membership Secretary and even Sponsorship Officer upon the retirement of Tony Poulett at the end of the season. Patrick will of course need to be voted into these posts at the AGM on 12th September. TW

Dates for your Diary

Aug	23rd	WSGC at Alexandra Theatre 11:30am	Oct	3rd	Club Evening
Aug	28th	WSGC plays at Selsey Festival	Oct	17th	Gothenburg Combo
Sept	12th	AGM & Club Evening	Nov	7th	Club Evening
Sept	26th	Amanda Cook Concert	Nov	13th	Gary Ryan Festival Concert

Most events take place on Saturdays at 7.30pm in the Regis School of Music, 46 Sudley Road, Bognor Regis PO21 1ER. For details phone 01243 866462. For concert tickets phone 01243 866462 or visit the **Ticket Hotline** at www.westsussexguitar.com

Please send contributions for the next edition of *Good Vibrations* by **20th October** to Terry Woodgate, 3, East Ave., Middleton on Sea, West Sussex PO22 6EG tel: 01243 583355 or e-mail to: terry_woodgate@btinternet.com

The West Sussex Guitar Club is grateful for the continued support of:

