

Aquarelle Quartet

On one of those many persistent rainy days in Summer, thanks to the modern wonder of Sat-Nav, the Aquarelle Quartet managed to navigate themselves some 280 miles from Manchester to that hidden jewel of Bognor Regis – the WSGC. Rather than enjoying the sub-tropical climate of the Sun Capital of the UK, the ensemble must have taken away memories of a very wet and cold place. However, hopefully the warm memories of the very large and enthusiastic audience more than compensated for the miserable weather.

The Aquarelle Quartet – Michael Baker, Vasilis Bessas, James Jervis and Rory Russell were formed in 1999 and are all graduates of the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester. Although all very capable soloists in their own right, as an ensemble they really shine. Ever alert, they are always watching one another for hidden cues – a raised eyebrow perhaps, or a poised hand. The name Aquarelle refers to a style of painting in transparent



watercolours but rather than seeing through the layers of colour, we heard the different layers of colour overlaid

in their fine playing. The programme had a strong Brazilian and Italian influence. The evening started with a stirring *Overture* by Rossini. This was followed by the beautiful *Bachianas Brasileiras* by Villa Lobos and *Brincadeira* from his String Quartet no. 1. We heard *Uarekena* by Brazilian Sergio Assad (half of the Assad Brothers duo) and also a UK premiere of *Dancas Nativas* composed by his daughter Clarice. There was the six movement *Bresils Suite* written by Roland Dyens – one memorable movement *O Spirito do Joao* was written in a Bossa Nova style as a tribute to Joao Gilberto. We heard a *Furiosa* by Bellinati - dedicated to the ‘furious ones’ – the early virtuosic street bands of Brazil. The mood changed with a delicate harp piece *The Swan* written by Catriona McKay. Finally there was an exciting Italian style *Tarantella* written by a Chilean folk group. Rapturous applause produced a wonderful encore – *Made in France* by the gypsy jazz guitarist/composer Bireli Lagrene. A most beautiful lilting waltz which true to the gypsy style was very busy and never seemed to rest – possibly reflecting the way they speak – seemingly never pausing to draw breath!

Let us hope the Quartet will return soon and that the weather then will be less inclement.

New Members

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

Christian Nunnikhoven,

Bognor Regis

Michael Lawn, Felpham

Paul Rooney, Hayling Island

**We hope you enjoy
many happy evenings at
the Club!**

New Arrangers Cup

A new class is being introduced in our WSGC Festival in November. This is for an arrangement of music (any style popular, jazz, classical) for guitar (solo or ensemble). The John Duarte cup will be awarded for the best original arrangement which must be both played and written down (the hard bit) by competitors.

The South American Summer Party 2007



Nina & Larisa set up the food



Strange fruits growing on the uke tree



A tropical Tom Emery



Bognor's Tropical rain forest



David & Alison



Winners of the Juniors fancy dress



Winners of the Adults fancy dress



Karim Bedda



The Byron Duo



The Desperados

The Summer Party

Imagine the scene. A very hot summer's evening, palm trees and tropical plants and up in the trees—parrots, monkeys and huge butterflies. Some tropical trees were fruiting bananas and some even musical instruments! A backdrop of mountains, sea and sun. Exciting music. Where were we? In the Amazonian Rainforest – no, but nearly right. In fact we were at the summer party of the WSGC which this year had a South American theme. All the credit for the hard work in decorating the hall goes to Sasha, Nina and her sister Larisa. With a few seminal ideas and much enthusiasm, they set about creating a tropical rainforest that morning and achieved their goal by late afternoon. Well done, we all saved ourselves the substantial cost of the air fare to Rio! The Levtoy trio showed that they were masters of improvisation. The trunk of the palm tree was the cardboard centre of a roll of carpet, covered in hessian salvaged from some display boards. The leaves of the trees were cut green plastic rubbish bags draped over coat hanger wire. The mountains were parachute material draped over the piano and a music stand which was the mountain peak. Swaths of blue material covered the stage and represented the sea.

That sets the scene, but what of the music? Well, as you would expect, all the music was South American and we visited many of the 12 countries that comprise that continent. We had contributions from Matthew Farrant, Patrick Sowden, the Kelsall

Barnet family, Tom Jeffers and his daughter Kate Morris, the Byron Duo (Tom again with Margaret McDonald the flautist), Richard Prior with Vickie Walker, Chris Sweatman, Paul Thomas and Tom Emery. As always, the playing was of a very high standard, comprising familiar and not so familiar pieces.

We had a guitar quiz set by our treasurer Jez Rogers. This was won by Tom Emery who scored just 11/20 points. This does not reflect very well on the knowledge of the rest of us. One little conquistador was very lucky indeed with the raffle. Quite a number of members dressed for the occasion. The children's costume competition was won jointly by India Walker and Imogen Rogers. The adult's prize was shared between new member Malcolm Anderson and Sasha who both made very short work of the prize which at least saved carrying it home.

The food was the biggest selection ever seen at the club. There was even hot chilli con carne wrapped in tortillas, supplied by courtesy of the Bedda family. Many thanks to all who provided food for this South American supper, it does help keep down costs to the club.

The party was a great success and enjoyed by all. It was a fitting end to a most enjoyable and successful season. The club is going from strength to strength – next season will be just as enjoyable as you will see.

Congratulations

The WSGC is very fortunate in having a very enthusiastic young contingent who are rapidly gaining in confidence and are going from strength to strength and provide us all with some wonderful entertainment. The achievements of just a few of our younger members are given below.

Despite living some 60 miles away, Paul Thomas has been coming to the club for some 7 years now. In 2003 he gained his Performance Certificate from Trinity College. More recently he has been working towards his LTCL (Licentiate of Trinity College London) Recital Diploma which he passed this July with a well earned distinction. Paul has worked as a full time guitar teacher for the last few years and is going on to further his teaching qualifications.

Tom Emery began by playing electric guitar for 2 years, but has since been studying classical guitar for nearly 3 years. He keeps up both instruments but now leans more towards the classical style. Tom has chosen to study guitar at the Birmingham Conservatoire of Music under Mark Ashford and Mark Eden and starts this September. He passed his Grades V, VI and VII examinations within a year which is a very short time indeed.

Karim Bedda has been coming to the club for some years now. He gained his grade VIII in guitar in November 2006. Karim also plays piano, clarinet and violin. He has just been awarded a bursary from WSGC and the Regis School of Music (RSM) to attend the West Dean International Guitar Festival this August.

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Congratulations...

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Matthew Farrant has been a member of the WSGC for some time now. He obtained his grade V in guitar in March 2007. He was awarded a bursary from the WSGC and the RSM to attend the World Youth Guitar Festival in Winchester this

July.

We wish them all well for the future and are very proud that they are associated with our club. In future years it is hoped the club will be able to sponsor both a senior player to attend West Dean College and a junior player to attend Winchester.

Hotham Park Concert

After weeks of rain and weather that you could never trust, the gods shone down on Bognor for the appropriately named Sun-fest on Sunday 22nd July. The WSGC gave an hour recital at the bandstand in Hotham Park on that day, sponsored by Bognor Regis Town Council. A very large audience enjoyed the sun and the dulcet tones of the guitar in a wonderful alfresco setting. However, playing outdoors does have its drawbacks. For example, those in the sun found that their instruments quickly went out of tune. Gusts of wind played havoc with the music. If it was securely pinned down with clothes pegs then page turning was difficult. Noisy traffic, aeroplanes and Hotham House bell chimes can compete with the guitars for attention. However on such a pleasant sunny afternoon it would have been a shame to be confined within a concert hall. The guitars sounded wonderful thanks to the amplification system provided and operated by Bognor Regis Council's Town Force.

Sasha was our compere and he traced the history of the guitar from its origins in Spain - a cue for the Regis Guitar Ensemble to play the introductory piece *Spain*. Sasha then accompanied young Victor Smith who confidently played *Valse* by Daniel Fortea and *Divertimento* by Bartolomeo Calatayud - both Spanish composers of the 20th Century, who wrote in an early romantic style. We then enjoyed Tarrega's *Caprice Arabe* beautifully executed by Vickie Walker. This was followed by

the same composer's *Recuerdos de Alhambra* and Albeniz's *Mallorca*, both played with superb control by Paul Thomas. The guitar then continued its journey and followed Christopher Columbus to Cuba where the Regis Guitars played a *Habenera*. The guitar then made its way to South America where Vickie Walker and Richard Prior played two movements from a Maximo Diego Pujol's suite - *Tango de Abril* and *Milonga de Junio*. While in South America the Regis Guitars entertained us with an Argentine piece *Bailecito*. The influence of the guitar also spread to North America and Terry Woodgate regaled us with two light pieces from there - Errol Garner's *Misty* and Isham Jones's *It Had to be You*. Then Terry returned us to the Southern Continent once more for Jobim's *One Note Samba*. While still in Brazil, Paul Thomas played Villa Lobos's *Gavota-Choro* from the Suite Populaire Bresilienne. The afternoon finished still in Brazil with Regis Guitars playing *Marchinha de Carnaval* in celebration of the Rio carnival.

This must be the club's most successful concert to the general public. The large audience were very attentive and for once were not all guitar aficionados. It is to be hoped that we have wooed many of them over with our wonderful instrument. There was certainly a lot of interest judging by the large number of brochures taken after the concert. Will we inundated with new members next season? Watch this space.

Introducing Your Committee

We continue our series of introducing the committee to you.

Tony Poulett: I have been on the West Sussex Guitar Club Committee for a year now and serve as Fund Raising Officer. I hope to continue in this role.

I was born in Bognor Regis and my father owned a newspaper shop in Lyon Street between

1940 and 1960. I attended Chichester High School in 1954/56 studying A Level Maths Physics & Chemistry and went on to study Electronic Engineering at Brunel University in London. After leaving college I became an Electronics Engineer and remained in the profession until retiring in 2000.

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of my career I worked in the South of England.

I had a very creative career working in research and development responsible for small projects. I worked on Slow Motion Television Recording in Northern California from 1965 to 1970. For the rest

Some of the most interesting projects included: satellite digital control, fibre optic communications and more recently the Global Positioning System (GPS).

After retiring I decided to try to play the classical guitar and have been trying ever since. I have never played an instrument before nor read music, except for one term at evening classes in 1970. However, I get great pleasure from playing the classical guitar and trying to play a new piece is always a challenge. It is a great retirement activity.

Editor's Piece

And so another successful season draws to a close. We have had some wonderful lady performers – Margarita Escarpa, Irina Kulikova, Amanda Cook and Maud Laforest. The year has also been strongly influenced by South American Music. We were very privileged have had Jorge Cardoso from Argentina and Fabio Zanon and Carlos Barbosa-Lima both from Brazil. The Regis School of Music Summer Festival was also dedicated to South American music this year. There were two superb concerts. Brazilian pianist Clelia Iruzun has reached the dizzy heights that few concert pianists have achieved. She played the piano music of Brazil and guitarists in the audience listened enraptured to compositions of Villa Lobos they had not heard before. The guitar somehow seemed such a simple instrument to play after such a performance! The five piece band Caratinga played us choros and sambas from Brazil with 7 string guitar, violin, bandolim (S American 10 string mandolin), cavaquinho (S American steel strung ukulele) and percussion. The group accompanied the beautiful singer Leandra Varanda who really got the audience swinging. Even as a non dancer, it was difficult to sit down and listen to the music, you just have to move with it.

We must not forget the amateur performers in our successful Music Festivals – the WSGC Festival in Nov, The Chichester Festival in Feb and the Regis School Summer Festival in July. The adult performers are gaining in confidence year on year, but there are no words to describe the children other than truly awesome. We have witnessed superb performances on a range of instruments—guitar, piano, harp, violin, cello and woodwind. I wonder why we seemed to be blessed

with such talent in West Sussex. The answer must be the teachers who inspire the children to want to do so well. However, no matter what talent they are born with, there is still a lot of hard work required to perform so well.

The club has raised its profile and gone public twice this year when we performed at Hotham Park Bandstand in July and at the Selsey Festival in August.

This year the club has awarded bursaries for two students to study at the International Guitar Festival in West Dean and at the World Youth Guitar Festival in Winchester. It is hoped that finances permitting, we can continue this sponsorship in future years.

Many thanks are due to our treasurer Jez Rogers who has taken over running the club web site. This is a well thought out and very professional site which now publicises our club to the world. See p6.

And so our new season dawns and again we have another wonderful year in store for you with artists such as Gary Ryan, Craig Ogden and Xuefei Yang. Please support these concerts when ever you can — we have some superb artists for you. Richard Smith represents a new venture for the club. He is visiting us from America on 25th November and will be playing a dazzling programme of arrangements of popular light and classical pieces. Bring your friends and neighbours to that concert and be prepared to be amazed.

Can I please ask you to put pen to paper or finger to keyboard and write an article for our newsletter. I am sure there are many guitary things happening which we would like to hear about. Address on foot of p8.

When Was The Last Time You Visited The Club's Website?

Those of you with internet access probably know that the club has been online for some time at

<http://www.westsussexguitar.com>.

If you've not visited the site for a while, you might not have noticed that it had something of a revamp last year.

You'll find that all the pages have the same look and feel, and that information is easier to find because there is a search facility. The site is divided into various sections, including

Teachers – a list of all the teachers we know of. If you're a teacher and not listed let the committee know

Ticket Hotline – reserve tickets to professional recitals

Links – links to all thing guitar related. If you have any suggestions, let's have them!

Performers – Short biographies of all our performers, past and present

News & Reviews – any new or concert reviews that might not have made it in to the newsletter. If you have anything to offer, please forward them on

Events Diary – all our club nights, professional recitals and other events are listed here. Pages are updated with concert programmes and themes for club nights as they become available. Check here regularly for the latest updates

News Letters – We put our newsletters on line, so if you've missed a copy or can't lay your hands on an old copy, feel free to download and peruse at your leisure

Guitar Mart – if you've anything to sell, here's a free way of advertising it to the world

Mailing List – more on this below

The major reason for the change however was so that anyone can update the site from anywhere, assuming they are authorised. Previously your very busy Chairman, Richard Prior, was the only one able to update the site which wasn't always ideal.

The site is now using something called a Content Management Engine, which is simply a way of separating what you want to say on your page from the design, colours, graphics and paraphernalia that traditional web sites have used. It also means we can spend more time playing guitar than updating websites!

If there is anything you would like to see on the site, please let us know by emailing info@westsussexguitar.com

Mailing List

The club has recently set up a mailing list using the Yahoo! groups services. For those of you who don't know, Yahoo! groups is a free email list to which you can join and leave at any time. It is a moderated list, which means that one of the committee members has to approve all messages and memberships. This keeps your email addresses private within the group. The list is open to non members, and they are subject to the same moderation. Traffic on the list is quite low volume, currently 1 or 2 emails per month.

We are hoping that we can make better use of email within the club for keeping you all up to date with what's happening and any news and events, but we can only do that if you join the list. You don't need to use a Yahoo! email address or have an email account, your usual email address will do. All you need to do is visit

<http://www.westsussexguitar.com/maillinglist.html> or click the mailing list link on the menu, and enter your email address in the form. You'll be sent an email which you need to reply to in order to complete the process. That's it.

As an incentive to join, we're offering two complimentary pairs of tickets (one pair for club members, one for non members) to our forthcoming recital by Gary Ryan. The winner will be selected at random from all who subscribe before 30th September 2007. Why not sign up today?

Jez Rogers

Club Evenings Our usual format of club evenings - ensemble playing followed by our younger performers and then our adult players prove to be very popular. However, could you help out at one of these evenings? For example, if your expertise lies in medieval music, Latin American rhythms or whatever, you would be very welcome

to come and share your interest with us – maybe for just half an hour or so. Contact Sasha if you can help out. It is hoped to have a short talk on arranging music for classical guitar in the near future which may help entrants with the new Arrangers Class being introduced at our November Festival (see p1). Also if you have any ideas for a club evening, please let us know.



Aquarelle try Pablo Requena's guitars



A toast to Aquarelle after a very successful evening



Don & Helen Eldridge visit WSGC



The Apassionata Trio

WSGC at Hotham Park 22nd July 2007



Regis Guitars



Part of the Audience



Sasha accompanies Victor Smith



Vickie & Richard

Apassionata Concert

Although the last official concert in the WSGC season was given by the Aquarelle Guitar Quartet in June, there was a very welcome bonus concert given by the guitar trio Apassionata as part of the Bognor Town Council's Sunfest music and arts celebrations. Sunfest also sponsored the WSGC to play at Hotham Park. As such the club was honoured to have the mayor of Bognor Regis, Councillor Don Eldridge and his wife Helen in the audience. We even had visitors all the way from Leipzig, in the audience.



The Apassionata Trio – Rebecca Baulch, Hayley Savage and Amanda Cook were formed in 2003. They have given concerts across the UK and in Italy and the US. The concert was a very accessible eclectic mix of music – something for everyone, if not everything for everyone! The music ranged from Vivaldi, Haydn and Bocherini up to the present day with pieces by Bellinati, Gary Ryan and Hayley Savage. Hayley's composition *Arabah Ca'ar* required some guitars to be retuned resulting in this haunting Middle Eastern piece sounding very

authentic as if not played on guitars at all. It was lovely to listen to the fine music of jazz guitarist Django Reinhardt (arranged by Rebecca) and the ever popular Henry Mancini's *Moon River* (an encore piece) played in a classical setting. There was also Mark Houghton's *Beyond Horizons* (dedicated to Apassionata) which was written in the style of jazz guitarist George Benson. These pieces clearly demonstrated that there should be no boundaries and no segregation in music.

The trio are all very accomplished musicians in their own right and it was appropriate that each should play a solo. Amanda played *Valsa Sem Nom* by Baden Powell and *Gallo Ciego* by Bardi. Hayley played her own composition *Passing Through* which was based on an American folk tune. Rebecca played *Out of Clonmel* - an Irish tune written by Gary Ryan for Rebecca with an unusual open Cmaj chord tuning.

A most enjoyable evening and a fitting final end to the WSGC season of concerts. We all eagerly await the girls return.

Dates for your Diary

Sept 8th	Club Evening with Paul Thomas	Nov 16th	Gary Ryan Concert (Note a Friday)
Sept 22nd	Xuefei Yang Concert	Nov 17/18	WSGC Senior Section
Oct 6th	AGM & Club Evening	Nov 25th	Richard Smith Concert (Note a Sunday)
Oct 20th	Craig Ogden & Paul Tanner Concert	Dec 1st	Club Evening
Nov 3rd	Club Evening	Dec 15th	Christmas party
Nov 10/11	WSGC Festival Junior Section	Jan 19th	Morgan Symanski Concert

Most events take place on Saturdays at 7.30pm in the Regis School of Music, 46 Sudley Road, Bognor Regis. For details phone 01243 866462. For concert tickets phone 01243 841083 or visit the **Ticket Hotline** at www.westsussexguitar.com

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



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

