

Patrons: Gary Ryan & Fabio Zanon

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Fabio Zanon Recital



Our last concert of the season was given by our long standing friend and patron of the Club Fabio Zanon. Fabio attracted a very large audience to the club – surprisingly many were non-guitarists – but everyone enjoyed Fabio's varied choice of pieces and admired his amazing technique. He first played for our club some 24 years ago while still studying at the Royal Academy of Music. Since then he has won many prestigious international guitar competitions, including the Francisco Tarrega Prize in Spain and the Guitar Foundation of America Prize in the USA. He has performed throughout the USA, South America and Europe so it is quite wonderful that he still returns to Bognor to play for us.

New Members

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

Shuna le Moine
Littlehampton

We hope you enjoy many happy evenings at the Club!

The programme began with the *Prelude, Fugue and Allegro* (BW998) by Bach. This was slowly and precisely executed and showed an amazing technique of movement while still retaining all of Bach's voicing. The

Allegro was played at an incredible speed, yet all the musicality was there. Fabio's fingers danced all over the fingerboard at lightning speed somewhat reminiscent of a four legged spider, but far more adept than a spider missing half of his limbs! The Bach was followed by three *Preludes* by his fellow countryman Villa Lobos. Fabio explained that Villa-Lobos had great respect for Bach and incorporated some Bach like passages in his pieces. The first half finished with the *Sonatina in A major* which Torroba wrote in 1923. Fabio explained that this truly depicts the brightness and exciting life of Spain and is a perfect composition, save for the necessity to retune after each movement.

The sale of Fabio's cds was very brisk during the interval, which resulted in a sell-out which meant that Fabio, who returned to Brazil the following day, would not have to take any discs home with him.

The second half of the concert featured nine pieces from throughout South America. Fabio explained that until the recent Olympic Games held in Rio, he had not really met or conversed with musicians from other South American countries. This is because in Brazil, Portuguese is

spoken while in nearly every other Latin country it is Spanish. We heard pieces by Lauro and Lopez (Venezuela), Casseus (Haiti), Caba (Bolivia), Montana (Colombia), Fabina (Uruguay), Ramirez and Barrios (Paraguay) and Bellinata (Brazil). It was quite clear that Fabio enjoyed playing these pieces and the infectious rhythms captivated both the performer and the audience as all swayed together. The majority of these pieces were quite new to the audience but most enjoyable.

The enthusiastic audience received two encores from Fabio – a piece from Argentina and

a love song from the USA by composer and guitarist Frederic Hand. Fabio played a guitar made by the Brazilian luthier Sergio Abreu. This looked quite a small guitar with Fabio, but I think that was an illusion because Fabio is quite tall with very large hands! Many thanks to Fabio for managing to fit in a concert for us during his very tight schedule over here. What an amazing way to finish our concert season. We still have our club evening and a summer party to look forward but must wait until the autumn for our next recital .

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Fabio and Sasha



Fabio meets Valdemar and his family



*The Carson Family with two promising young
Guitarists Sofia & Lucy*



Fabio with long standing friend Angela MacTavish

Eden Stell Concert



Mark Eden and Chris Stell are old friends of our club having first appeared on stage shortly after the club was formed in July 1993. They last came to our club in November 2017 along with friends Mark Ashford and Amanda Cook in the guise of the renowned Vida Guitar Quartet which they founded.

The concert began with Giuliani's *Grandi Variazioni Concertanti* – the introduction and theme with six variations. A good choice to start with in the true classical style. Mark explained that Giuliani admired Rossini and composed many pieces in his style. In fact one third of his 150 guitar works are in the form of a theme and variations. Mark said that Giuliani was also a cellist who played in an orchestra for the first performance of Beethoven's Seventh Symphony. We then went back in time to hear three Scarlatti *Sonatas* arranged by Chris. Although Italian, Domenico Scarlatti spent much of his life in the service of Spanish Royal families where he wrote over 500 sonatas for harpsichord. They suited the guitars very well with many enviable harpsichord-like open string trills. This was followed by *Five Armenian Folk Songs* by Komias which the duo arranged from the piano transcriptions by Sarajyan. It was explained that Armenian music does not have the usual major or minor scales but adopts tetrachords which give the music an air of mysticism. Although unfamiliar to our ears the pieces were very well received. The first half

finished with a *Piano Suite* by the French composer Poulenc which Chris had arranged for the duo. This was a very bright composition with harpsichord textures that was written in the 1920's.

The second half began with *Six Songs and Dances* composed by the Catalan composer Mompou. These were arranged for the duo by Mark. Mark explained that there were 15 Songs and Dances and that most were written for piano, but one was written for guitar. Two of the pieces – *El Lladre* and *El Noy del la Mare* were familiar to guitarists courtesy of Llobet, but Mompous' arrangements had quite unusual harmonies. The published concert finished with a *Theme and Variations* from a string Sextet composed by Brahms. This was arranged for two guitars by John Williams who recorded and played it with Julian Bream some years ago. Enthusiastic applause from the audience produced a gem of an encore by Rameau *Les Tendres Plaintes* where the wonderful snappy harpsichord trills featured again.

This was a very relaxed and enjoyable concert despite many of the pieces being unfamiliar to the audience. The duo are always totally together – the raising of an eyebrow being sufficient to trigger them into their 'as one' mode. Both play guitars made by Christopher Dean which enables them to sound as one. As always we look forward to their return to our club.

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The RSM Summer Festival

For a large number of years now the Regis School of Music (RSM) have held a Summer Festival lasting for some three weeks. The theme this year was Chopin and there was an interesting talk on the life of Chopin and two excellent and impressive piano recitals given by Imy Luc (a former pupil at the RSM) and by Luke Jones. There were also opportunities for members to play both in the Performers Platform and in an event where the children were required to draw a picture depicting the piece of music they were playing. The Performers Platform attracted over 50 entries (with sadly only six adults). A whole range of instruments were played with the guitar featuring quite

prominently. Other instruments included the piano, violin, cello, trombone and woodwind and there were classes for solo performances as well as ensembles. There was a wide span of performers' ages ranging from 5 to 73 and a wide range of abilities. The adjudicator was Alison Sutton who was very encouraging and suggested ways the performances could be improved. Many of the classes were non-competitive. It is very interesting to see performances from entrants other than guitarists and to hear a different repertoire. I feel the children gained a lot in being able to perform in public and hope they were suitably inspired to keep up their studies.

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Rebecca Allday



Some of the adult entries

The Spring Sale

Were you aware that every year the Friends of the Regis School of Music hold a Spring Sale for the benefit of the school? There are many plants for sale, cds, cakes, home made jams, refreshments, tombolas, raffles and many games for youngsters to play. In

addition there is a very enjoyable musical marathon, where young musicians play their pieces on stage. It all makes for a very enjoyable social occasion which benefits the school. Do try to get along next Spring.

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Visit from the DGS

We were very pleased to once again welcome our friends from the Dorset Guitar Society (DGS). They have a very long arduous journey to reach us and have to navigate the A27 which is always very busy around Chichester, but it reaches gridlock on a hot sunny day such as we experienced on their visit. We had a new audience of two enthusiasts who had read of our jamboree on the website. We sincerely hoped that Shuna from Littlehampton and Vic from Chester will visit us again. (In fact they have visited us a few times since and Shuna has now become a member – welcome aboard!)

The day began with refreshments which gave the chance for our nine visitors to unwind. This was followed by an ‘all can play’ orchestra where twelve of our members combined with the DGS contingent to make a large orchestra of some twenty people. Sasha conducted a piece he had arranged by Haydn. The very able sight readers amongst us were able to cover for those not so talented and some very fine results were obtained in no time at all. Being the bank holiday weekend, a number of players from both clubs were away, but everyone still produced some very fine music indeed.

Grant conducted some eight players from Dorset with a variety of music which came across very well, despite some performers having to play unfamiliar parts. It was then the turn of the Quintessential Quintet (Minus one). Debbie covered for two recorder parts in *The Green Leaves of Summer* and Jay Huff joined the Quintet for a totally unrehearsed version of *Sway*. Needless to

say his playing was perfect. Well done Jay! This was followed by a Trio of three guitarists from Dorset with Paul Thomas, Martin and a bass guitar player. We then heard from Linda Kelsall-Barnett’s WSGC orchestra who played some great pieces. A duo of Paul and John from the DGS then played, followed in turn by the soloists – David Clarke, Bethany Cooper, Jay Huff and Terry Woodgate. A final duo before lunch of Paul and Bethany set us in the right frame of mind for lunch.

We had a splendid leisurely lunch, after which Sasha showed us a video of Peter Nuttall conducting the combined orchestra last year for his composition *Bizarre Bazaar*. It was then the turn of the ‘New’ New Gala Guitar Quartet. The extra New comes about because John Mason was recovering from an illness and Jay Huff once again stepped into the breach without any rehearsal or safety net and performed spot on again. I particularly liked their soft shoe shuffle version of Leroy Anderson’s *Sandpaper Ballet* complete with sandpaper noises from scratching the bass strings. Well done Debbie for yet another winning arrangement. A few solos from James O’Neil, Robin Burgess and Paul Thomas and Linda and the day was over all too soon. We heard some great performances and it was a wonderful opportunity for both clubs to share their music. It was a shame the audience was not bigger but then I suppose it was the bank holiday weekend. They missed some very fine performances. We all look forward to doing it again and hope the DGS did not get too tied up with the ‘Beach Traffic’ on the way home.

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The Festival of Chichester



The Festival of Chichester is a four week jubilee of music, art and community events. It is pleasing to report that the classical guitar featured quite prominently.

We had the Choroes who are a quartet of accomplished musicians from the Royal College of Music led by Michael Hughes. They play guitars, a cavaquinho (Brazilian ukulele), clarinet and

Brazilian tambourine and percussion. The music played includes pieces by Villa Lobos, Pixinguinha, Jobim, Pernambuco, Barroso, Azevado, Abreu and Nazareth. A really exciting rhythmic, foot tapping concert which was well attended with quite a few of our club members there.

Members Mitch Callow, John Mason and

their lovely singer Anda gave us a number of opportunities to see them perform with their Guitars in the Garden sets – both at St Martin's Organic Coffee House in Chichester and at West Dean. We heard a whole range of music from Bach to Blues.

Members Linda Kelsall-Barnett and Zoe did a number of performances, the main one being the Spanish Guitar set at New Park in the heatwave! We heard Spanish pieces played on both historic (an 1820 Mirecourt Guitar and a Torres replica of 1864) and modern instruments (Stephen Hill and Stephen Eden). The early music played by Linda included pieces by Narvaez, Sanz, Ferrer, Tarrega and Llobet. The later music included some Turina. Zoe played pieces by de Falla and Torroba. Linda and Zoe finished off the concert with duets by Albeniz, Granados and Sor. A very professional and enjoyable concert all round. It is hard to believe that

Zoe had just completed her first year at the Royal College of Music. It seemed like only yesterday she was starting at the College. Zoe also played at the Midsummer Charity Concert organised by Chris Coote where we heard pieces by Villa Lobos and Dowland. At another event Linda played guitar while Michael Jayston read some Classic Sussex Poems.

Mark Jennings gave a performance of The Art of Guitar and played pieces by Tarrega, Albeniz, Rodrigo and Bach.

There is no doubt the classical guitar is a very popular instrument. Your club puts on many events throughout the year, but an event like the Festival of Chichester certainly provides another good showcase for this wonderful instrument.

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Editor' Piece

The summer party signified the end of our current season which as usual has been a busy one. We have had some superb concerts this season given by the Vida Guitar Quartet, Andre Fereira, The Eden & Stell Duo, Fabio Zanon and also recitals from some very talented up and coming youngsters with the Gala Recital by Royal College of Music students and a recital from students at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. We have put on two guitar festivals - one in November and one in February. The standard of performances increases year on year. We have had a most enjoyable visit from our friends at the Dorset Guitar Society where we exchanged many musical ideas. Our very popular 'end of term' summer party theme this year was *Journey into Space*. This was greatly enjoyed by everyone and again we

heard some very fine musical performances.

In no time at all it will be September again and our new season will start with a combined silver jubilee, club evening and AGM. It was 25 years ago when Sasha started the WSGC in July 1993, so this will be an opportunity to celebrate our Silver Jubilee. We will also hold our AGM which gives you a chance to have your say in what events you like/do not like and what events/artists you would like to see. However, sadly, our committee is down to just four members now and that is quite insufficient to run a busy club such as ours. Please consider joining the friendly committee. The role would not be that onerous and meetings are only held some 10 weeks apart.

Library News

The library has bought a cd recently released by Rossini Bartolotti-Hayward who you will remember came to play for us in June 2017. The cd is called *Pieces of Mind (Classical compositions and arrangements)*. All the compositions and arrangements are Rossini's own. If you would like your own copy, please visit the website at:

<https://www.rossinihayward.com/en/cd>

It is also available digitally on iTunes, Google Play, Amazon, Spotify...

Copies of the sheet music can be downloaded for free from:

<https://www.rossinihayward.com/en/noten>

The pieces are mostly for the advanced player, but some are suitable for an average player.



Journey Into Space

This was nothing to do with the 1950's radio programme that some of our older members may recall, but this was the theme of our summer party. Upon entering the Galaxy we earthlings were greeted by an array of planets and moons seemingly invisibly suspended in space by the force of gravity. There was black hole which we were warned not to go near in case we never returned. From a space vehicle one could travel at warp speed through many galaxies. There was the star sign of cancer the crab just behind the stage that signified the birth of our club in July 1993 some 25 years ago. There was an ethereal harp suspended by angel wings up in the clouds. There were Star Wars storm troopers employed as bouncers in order to reject any space aliens that may intrude on the earthlings celebrations. Fortunately they were not called upon because they certainly looked very menacing. They escorted the time travelling performers onto the stage and 'Held their guitar like a Tommy-Gun'.

There was a good selection of cosmic music played and as has been said before, the standard of musical performances is now extremely high. It was good to see long standing member of the club Sam Brown again (he joined at the age of just 13 years). Unfortunately there was only time for Sam to play one piece for us before he had to leave the party to catch his train to Bath.

After this we had an early break for food which as usual was truly scrumptious and abundant. Thanks to everyone who contributed to the very fine banquet.

After the food interval it was non-stop entertainment. We are truly fortunate in having such a large number of talented members. We heard from

Robin Burgess's Guitar Harmony and Linda's WSGC Orchestra who both gave very good account of themselves despite being somewhat depleted in numbers. (In fact David Wiseman of Harmony Guitars damaged his ankle the previous day and Beryl Robinson's daughter Juliette sat in for him with very little notice). Other ensembles included The New Gala Quartet, the Quintessential Quintet, the Aldwick Duo (Pam on uke with David Clarke) and the Linda/Zoe Duo. Solo performances were given by Linda, Zoe, Terry and Andre Pallet (a rare visitor!). However, the entertainment was not restricted to just guitar. Pam also played solo ukulele, new member Shuna le Moine read an amusing and apt poem she had written. To finish off Debbie gave a superb jazzy rendition of *Wish Upon A Star* on the piano. Other cosmic pieces played included *Moonshine Lullaby*, *Stars*, *Stardust*, *Swinging on a Star*, *Vincent (Starry Starry Night)*, *Here Comes the Sun* and David Bowie's *Starman Who Sold the World* (arranged by Richard Durrant).

Part way through the evening, there was a pause in the proceedings as a huge green asteroid approached the earth with flames billowing from it as it nearly burnt up in the atmosphere. The extra-terrestrial water melon shaped object was well received on such a hot evening and capable of more than feeding everyone present.

The party was a wonderful ending to yet another successful season for the club. Many thanks must go to Sasha, Nina, Debbie and Robin Burford and David Clarke who spent so much time decorating the hall. Thanks to everyone who played and above all thanks to all those who helped to tidy up and wash up afterwards. The many hands certainly made light work.

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Dates for your Diary

Sept 15th	Recital: Michael Matthews	Nov 4th	Sunday WSGC Festival Seniors
Sept 21st	Friday AGM & Club evening **	Nov 11th	Sunday Recital Maximo Diego Pujol
Oct 14th	Sunday Bach Day Stephen Gordon	Nov 24th	Club Evening **
Nov 3rd	Saturday WSGC Festival Juniors	Dec 15th	Christmas Party/club evening **

Unless stated otherwise, concerts take place on Saturdays at 7.30pm in the Regis School of Music, 46 Sudley Road, Bognor Regis PO21 1ER. ****NOTE that club evenings now begin at 7:00pm.**
For details phone 01243 866462. For concert tickets phone **01243 696762** or visit the **Ticket Hotline** at www.westsussexguitar.org

Please send contributions for the next edition of *Good Vibrations* by **1st December** to Terry Woodgate, 3, East Ave., Middleton on Sea, West Sussex PO22 6EG tel: 01243 583355 or e-mail to:terry_woodgate@btinternet.com

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