

Charles Ramirez Concert

This summer, the WSGC were very pleased to welcome Charles Ramirez back to the stage again. The first time he played was in 1993 when he played to an audience of some two dozen people at a hired hall when the club had only just started. This time it was very different as Charles played to a packed audience at our wonderful Recital Hall. Charles has been professor of guitar at the Royal College of Music for the past 30 years and teaches at the college's Junior Department for talented children of school age. He was guitar adjudicator at this year's Chichester Festival of Music in February. Thus this concert has been eagerly anticipated for some time by club members.

From the very first note on his Romanillos guitar - the Dowland opening *Galliard* - we knew we were in for a treat as the maestro took control of his instrument. After the Dowland we heard two



evocative Sonatas by Scarlatti transcribed by Charles. This was followed by two homages to Debussy. The first tribute was written for Charles by Jeremy Dale Roberts, recently retired Professor of Composition at the RCM. This was played convincingly by Charles, but in lesser hands could have left the audience wondering what it was all about. The Manuel de Falla version is the much better known tribute and is all the more enjoyable once it has been heard a few times. We then heard *Serenata para Guitarra* again dedicated to Charles, but this time written by Jesus Eduardo Alvarez, a Venezuelan who now lives in Italy. He was one of Charles's first students. It was a joy to hear Torroba's *Serenata Burlesca* on the concert platform - a piece quite neglected now.

Many of the pieces played were in the amateur guitarist's repertoire but it was an education for guitarists to hear definitive versions of how the Villa Lobos *Preludes* and *Etudes*, Sor's *Magic Flute*, and the Dowland and Scarlatti should be played. Charles played his own arrangement of Albeniz's *Asturias* as it has never been heard before with an echo effect. Apparently this was accomplished by playing 3 notes where there are usually 2 notes and 4 notes where there are normally 3 notes.

It was interesting to actually watch how Charles plays which is exactly as he advised at this year's Chichester Festival of Music. Charles plays with the 12th fret in line with the centre of his body. The guitar is at quite a steep angle with his eyes level with the 1st fret. In this way he has total control over the guitar. The fingerboard is not stuck out to one side of him which would necessitate long and tiring stretches of the left arm

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New Members

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

Pam & Bill Dickson from
Chichester

Ray Reddick from
Shoreham

We hope you enjoy
many happy evenings at
the Club!

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Charles meets the Caruanas



Charles meets Matthew Farrant

Charles Ramirez Meets Club Members



Charlie Phillips



Sami Brown

Alfresco Selsey 15th June 2008

Charles Ramirez...

(Continued from page 1)

to reach the lower frets. His body is totally still with no energy being expended on unnecessary movements, just as he advised in the festival. All of his energy is focussed on the playing. We could all do well to follow this example because the end result was an extremely polished and accurate recital.

As a reward for the enthusiastic applause, Charles played a beautiful lilting Irish piece – *Blind Mary* written by the Irish harpist Turlough O' Carolan some 300 years ago. We all look forward to the return of this maestro to our stage in the future.

TW

The WSGC at Selsey

For some years now the WSGC has been privileged to be associated with the Selsey Festival, courtesy of club member Sally Paice. This summer the Club was invited to play at two events, the Doorstep Green Event on Sunday afternoon the 15th June and at the Selsey Festival on Friday evening 22nd August.

The Doorstep Green Event was a new event held in the park at the rear of the Selsey Centre. The Club commandeered a section of the Park away from the noise of the main events. Some eight club members came to play together with their families and we had a relaxed, informal gig in the sun. Thanks are due to our performers Sally Paice, Sasha, Jez Rogers, Patrick Butcher, Terry Woodgate, Sami Brown, Simon Keet and Charlie Phillips. Amplification is necessary when playing outdoors, because the guitar sound seems to fade and escape into the ether at a very short distance. Many thanks to Sally for providing some of the amplification and the very welcome refreshments. Hopefully this event will be held next year and will be even better supported.

The Guitar contribution to the three week long Selsey Festival was held in the Selsey Centre. At this time of the year, many members are away on holiday and some had just finished a week course that afternoon at the West Dean International Guitar Festival. This is a mixed blessing. They may be suffering from guitar overload and want to return home to relax with their loved ones. On the other hand their guitar abilities will have been finely honed to a peak and there is no better opportunity to demonstrate these to an eager public. Fortunately the latter possibility happened and the Club gave a very good account of itself in advertising what we are all about. A group of enthusiastic guitar aficionados of all ages and abilities willing to share their interest and skills with others. Many thanks to all who took part and in particular to Fred, Joyce, and Anne - Sally Paice's dad, mum and sister who helped out on the door, serving drinks etc and to David and Alison Stonestreet who also helped at the door.

TW

Young guitarists raise money for charity

On the 28th July three of our young club members together with the Barn Choir gave a charity performance at St Joseph's Convent in Littlehampton. The Chapel was packed to capacity. The guitar performances of popular pieces were enthusiastically received by the audience. First of all Sam Brown played *Cavatina* and *Tico-Tico* (accompanied by Sasha). Karim Bedda later played *Sevilla* and *Last Django in Paris*. Tom Emery completed the guitar performances with a Bach *Saraband and Gavotte*.

A voluntary collection at the end of the

concert raised in excess of £1066 for the disadvantaged peoples of Peru.

The WSGC participated in another Charity event held at The Regis Centre on 24th August for the Snowdrop Trust and Nyodema (to help children in Gambia). Many thanks to Sam Brown, Victor Smith, Patrick Sowden, Jez Rogers and Sasha.

Well done boys and well done Sasha for your very valuable contribution to the events. How proud you must all feel knowing that you have helped towards such worthy causes.

TW

The Club Summer Party

The summer party was a fitting end to a most successful season. The greatest ever number of members and friends, some 70 in all, came to this triple celebration. The party not only celebrated our end of term but it also marked the Club's new found status as a charity. Furthermore, it was 15 years ago (bar one week) that a small group of like minded friends got together in a hired hall to see Charles Ramirez give a concert. The WSGC was formed shortly afterwards. As befitting such an occasion, the food tables were full to the gunwales – thanks to everyone who contributed to this magnificent feast. It does help to defray club costs. A champagne toast was proposed by Sasha for not only the previous successful 15 years, but also to the future of the club.

The theme for the party was based on Schubert's *From Distant Lands and People*. We travelled the world – not by plane nor boat nor train, but by imagination, thereby avoiding all the hassle normally associated with travel to foreign climes.

The Regis Guitar Orchestra began the evening with a gypsy caravan ride – *Balval*, the caravan then took us on to *Spain*. The Gala Quartet took us to Ketelbey's *Persian Market* (a Debbie arrangement) where we heard all the sounds and commotion of the market place. Sasha had procured a magic 'sun umbrella' and whoever played underneath it gave a perfect performance. I would like to know where

such items can be bought. Zoe Barnett, dressed as a hula-hula girl, sang an Hawaiian song to the accompaniment by mum and Tamzin. We then visited South America. David Roe, Paul Thomas and Sasha took us to Venezuela courtesy of Lauro. Sami Brown and Sasha took us to Brazil with the very exciting duet *Tico Tico* by Zequinha de Abreu. Patrick Sowden and Sasha dueted with another exciting South American piece. Matthew Farrant played a *Prelude* by the Brazilian composer Villa-Lobos. Debbie and Ellen Burford then regaled us with their recorders for *El Condor Pasa* while Sasha provided the guitar accompaniment.

We saw a welcome return of Tom Emery who has just completed his first year at the Birmingham Conservatoire of Music under Mark Ashford. Tom played a very difficult Barrios Waltz. Tamzin went electric and gave us Henry Mancini's *Pink Panther Theme* and Mum Linda played a catchy movement from Mompou's *Suite Compestelana*. Karim Bedda took us to France with a piece reminiscent of that wonderful gypsy jazz guitarist – Django Rheinhardt – the *Last Django in Paris*. The evening concluded with Nina playing two charming piano pieces by the Mexican composer Ponce. *The Serenata Mexicana* is also well known as a guitar piece.

TW

Thanks to all our Sponsors

To put on some eight concerts each year and typically another eight club evenings together with music festivals and workshops, is a costly affair. It is very rare indeed, for a concert to make a profit. We are therefore deeply indebted to our sponsors and always grateful for any new ones especially as the credit crunch begins to bite. Bognor Town Council, West Sussex County Council and the Marsh Christian Trust have again kindly sponsored us this year. West Dean College kindly sponsor a winning student to attend the International Guitar course each year. We are also indebted to our own local sponsors such as luthier Pablo Requena, Ackerman Music and Town

Flowers. Town Flowers in Bognor Regis town centre and at North Bersted always brighten our stage with their magnificent floral displays (see examples on page 8). These never go unnoticed and apart from members commenting on how wonderful they look, many of our performers have also remarked on them as well. They truly complement our wonderful recital hall with its beautiful antique chandeliers and long red drapes.

Whenever possible, just as our sponsors support the club, can you please try to support our sponsors in return.

TW



Patrick Butcher & Sasha



Jez Rogers with Smoke Rising from his guitar



Summer Time with Sally Paice



The Performers



Simon Keet & Sasha



Sasha plays solo

Alfresco Selsey 15th June 2008



The Regis Guitar Orchestra begin our travels to Distant Lands



Tamzin plays a Pink Panther



David Roe gives a rare performance



Zoe, Linda & Tamzin take us to Hawaii



Sasha presents the lucky dip



Tom Emery makes a welcome return

The Summer Party 12th July 2008



The toast with party poppers



Kate Morris Underneath the magic umbrella



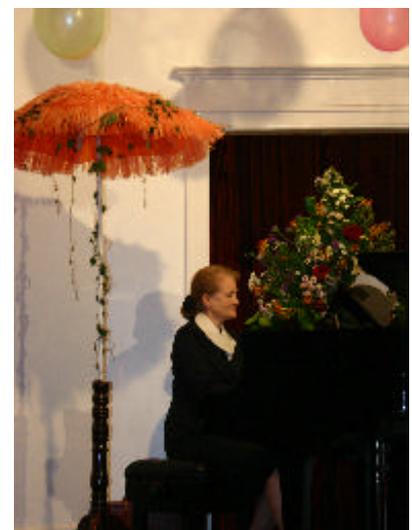
Patrick Sowden & Sasha



Debbie, Ellen & Sasha



The Gala Quartet visit a Persian Market



Nina plays Ponce



Some of Town Flowers wonderful Floral Displays



Victor Smith at the Summer Festival



Gary congratulates the under 18 guitarists

West Dean 2008



Playing in one of the most prestigious Guitar Festivals in the world is probably the least expected holiday pastime. And yet, with the aid of both

the WSGC and the RSM, that is what I did. While I only managed to endure the 14-hour days with the use of pins and caffeine, I cannot describe how much I enjoyed it. A combination of superb, if slightly eccentric, teachers, incredible recitals and several dozen other people wanting to play better, meant that it was impossible *not* to learn something. As far as I can remember, there was absolutely nothing negative about the week.

I played for (and subsequently was criticised by) Gary Ryan, Julian Byzantine, Hayley

Savage, Pavel Steidl and Marcin Dylla (who advised morbid obesity to hold the guitar better); I had my posture examined by a passing chiropractor and almost wrecked my guitar falling over the stage. My entire repertoire was taken out, critically examined and given a thorough polish at the hands of teachers, students and the general public before being returned to my guitar, and as a result I was torn between crying with gratitude and laughing with absurd mirth at these upgrades.

I am eternally grateful to the generous grants given to me by the Regis School of Music and the West Sussex Guitar Club; without these I know I would have missed out on this amazing opportunity. I would advise anybody with a spare £500 to attend next year; if you don't have £500, sell your spare furniture and elderly relatives to raise it, because you would be missing out. Thanks, WSGC!
Sami Brown



Sally Paice & Terry Woodgate meet Patrick Moore at the launch of the Selsey Festival



Alison Stonestreet & Patrick Butcher



The young WSGC quartet at West Dean. They also played at Selsey. Simon Keet, Sami Brown, Ross Barnes and Karim Bedda

Summer Festival...

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time to play but one instrument and fit everything in. And yet some performers have somehow managed to find time to play many instruments. We are used to seeing club members play their guitars, but one soon realises that this is but the tip of the iceberg. Zoe Barnett played guitar, flute, piano and sang. Tamzin Barnett played guitar, piano and sang. Karim Bedda played guitar, piano and violin and Peter Hopkins played guitar, piano and sang. Gary is very encouraging for guitarists to play other instruments since it greatly helps in their

general musicianship.

There was some superb music played during the weekend. Where else could you be so wonderfully entertained for so long for just £1 as a spectator? Many thanks are due to Sasha and Nina for their multitasking over the weekend and for cultivating this special oasis of culture we have in Bognor. Many thanks are also due to Gary for his musical guidance and comments during the weekend. We all eagerly await Gary's next visit to our club.

TW

Editor's Piece

The last few months have been a busy time because the Club has just obtained Charity Status. Many thanks are due to committee member Patrick Butcher who has been beavering away for the past 9 months to obtain this for us. We now enter into a new era for the Club. You will see our logo with the charity number on the front page of the magazine. Our new found status will greatly assist in the finance of the club and will enhance our status with regard to obtaining sponsorship. In turn this will enable us to further help in the promotion and education of the classical guitar.

In the June editorial, I thanked the committee for their sterling work over the past season. Regretfully, I omitted some very important people. These were of course Sasha & Nina, without whom there would be no club and my better half, Moyria who is the club photographer and archivist and now acting secretary and acting press officer. Humblest apologies for these omissions.

Our past season has been very successful with 8 professional concerts given by artists from all around the world, all different and all very inspiring. Some of our club evenings varied from the norm with a talk on arranging music for the classical guitar and a talk by Pablo Requena on guitar making with musical demonstrations by Paul Gregory. We had two guitar festivals, a summer music festival and a very successful guitar workshop given by Gary Ryan. The club has also partially sponsored four young club members towards attending the recent West Dean Guitar Festival.

The club's success also manifests itself in our members whose performances improve year on year. Congratulations to all those who have recently obtained their music degrees. Congratulations are also due to the many (both young and old) who have recently passed their music grade examinations. Although many of us play the guitar as a hobby or for relaxation, taking an exam focuses the mind and gives a goal to aim for. It can also be used as a yardstick to assess how well you are improving. Well done everyone.

We are always on the look out for helpers whether at a festival or organising an event or in clearing up after an evening's entertainment. Many thanks to those of you who helped after the Summer party. Please see any committee member if you can help. Don't feel it is a life sentence, just offer help whenever you can.

And so a new season starts with our AGM on 6th September, followed by our first professional concert by French guitarist Jeremy Jouve on 20th September. This is quickly followed by a new event - a Sunday afternoon concert at 2:30pm on Sunday 28th September at the Oxmarket in Chichester. See our brochure and the back page of the newsletter for our new events. We have some wonderful concerts coming up this season and with your support, I am sure we can make this season as good as, or if it is possible, even better than last season.

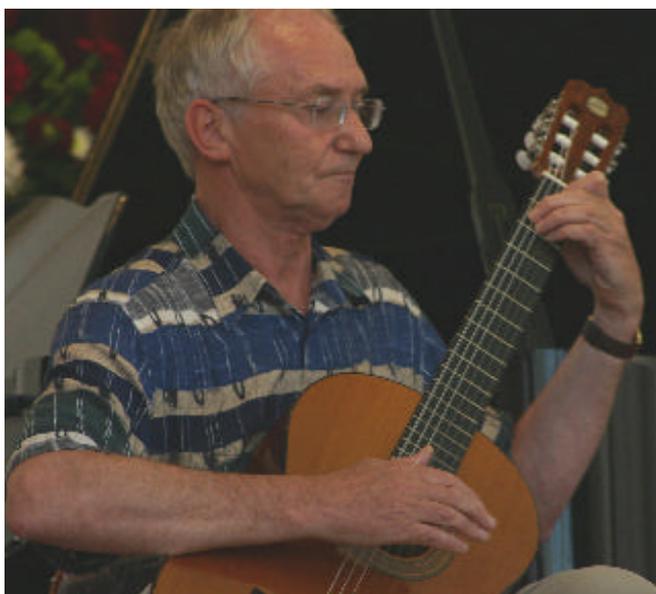
Please send in any articles for publication – whether a review of a concert or anything guitarly. Either e-mail or snail mail will do - my address is on page 12.



Gary congratulates the novices Irina, Michela & Joanna



Ian Moorey



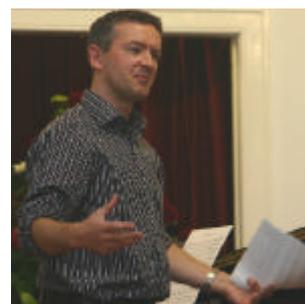
Julian Bobak



Roy Barron



Gary with the advanced class



The Summer Music Festival 29th June 2008

The Regis School of Music Summer Festival

This Festival was started 11 years ago and now spans a two week period with concerts, competitions, a dance workshop and a young artist's gallery. The professional concerts were given by the Erato Piano Trio (piano, cello and violin) and, with four hands on one piano, the Kesh Piano Duo. Much as I enjoy the guitar, it is quite a refreshing change to listen to a range of other instruments.

The competitions for juniors and adults were held over one full weekend with Gary Ryan as adjudicator. Gary is professor of guitar at the Royal College of Music and was adjudicator at this season's WSGF and more recently gave a very informative guitar workshop. Gary has already proved himself to be a brilliant guitarist, composer, sight reader, teacher and amusing raconteur. In addition to all these, on this occasion he ably demonstrated his piano abilities. In a simple and amusing way, he is able to convey how the music can be improved with his before and after demonstrations. Such examples are never forgotten.



There were classes for all ages, abilities and instruments. We heard pieces played on piano, guitar, harp, cello, violin, flute, saxophone, recorder, clarinet and voice. We heard from duos, trios, quartets, a guitar orchestra and family groups. It was also interesting to hear pieces more normally associated with the guitar played on other instruments. A truly wonderful weekend with everyone playing so well and it was greatly enhanced by Gary's contribution.

As always, the juniors gave superb performances. Never mind giving a good performance for a child, any adult would have been proud to play as they did. In part this must be due to improved teaching methods and techniques, but so much is due to the talent and dedication of the children. Do not give up! We also heard some wonderful piano accompaniment from Nina, much of it sight read at very short notice.

I always thought that there were just 24 hours in a day and I find that it is a struggle to find the

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Dates for your Diary

Sept	6th	AGM & Club Evening	Oct	18th	Concert TBC
Sept	20th	Jeremy Jouve Concert	Nov	15-16	WSGC Festival Juniors
Sept	28th	Club Concert 2:30pm Chi (Sun)	Nov	21st	Graham Devine Concert (Fri)
Oct	4th	Club Evening	Nov	22-23	WSGC Festival Seniors

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 822965 or visit the

Ticket Hotline at www.westsussexguitar.com

Please send contributions for the next edition of *Good Vibrations* by **24th November** 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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