

Tomas Jimenez Concert

Knowing my passion for all things guitar my wife, whose passions lie in other areas, lovingly arranged a trip to Granada in Andalucia for our 30th anniversary. And, did I learn about Flamenco!

We saw the 60 year old, with a lifetime's experience, play non-stop for two and a half hours in a theatre, with his troupe of dancers and singers. They were good, very very good. The guitar player was just superb, and knew all sorts of tunes, and could play anything the main dancer called for. The canto singer sang sparingly, but sounded angry and enraged sometimes and in despair at others. The main female dancer had that super-proud "chin-in-the-air" look down pat, and her body talked to all the men, enticing them and then laughing at them! The crowd were really noisy, most un-English, and called "Olé" anytime they appreciated the playing, singing or dancing. And there were smiles from the performers every time in response.

We saw the young teenage boy with a very

battered cheapo guitar playing with his younger sister dancing in a cafe at night. They were endearing because they were trying so hard. The boy managed quite well, but the girl could only keep up the serious look for short periods. When the diners called "Olé" or

clapped she broke into a wide beaming smile and her happiness was very infectious.

We saw ordinary people just partying late at night in the streets. Someone would play the guitar and others would dance. I learned that Flamenco is about

having a good time, having a party.

Then the other week I saw Tomas Jimenez and his dancers in Bognor Regis. I enjoyed the flamenco, particularly since I thought Tomas, the guitar player, looked like a real Mexican bandit from one of the old Western movies. In contrast the dancers looked fresh and very feminine, so it made a great visual contrast. When added to the other contrasts (castanets or stamping feet against guitar, and whirling movement against stillness) it made an aural and visual feast.

And, of course I enjoyed his playing. It was a fascinating mixture of tunes and percussion! And I liked to see his little daughter taking part too. Music should be a family affair.

It was a special evening, BUT, how cold and quiet those English were! No spontaneity, no "Olés" calling out their admiration. Just a polite clap occasionally. How tough for the Flamenco troupe!

I was ashamed of the ignorance of my countrymen and women.

Roger

On a very hot evening, the stamina of Tomas's rasgueados was amazing. He said afterwards that playing never tired him, but that he found touring very tiring – he had just given some concerts in Scotland. It was nice to see daughter Emma join mum Maria Jose Garcia and friend Nuria with the dancing. Tomas played a Pablo Requena guitar. New member Pablo from Lewes, had a display of his guitars on show for members to try.

New Members

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

Philip Malyon, Fareham

Christopher and Max Childs, Felpham

Pablo Requena, Plampton Green

We hope you enjoy many happy evenings at the Club!



Gala Quartet Afloat



Children's Venetian Masks



Just One Cornetto



Vicky and Sasha

Una Bella Notte 8th July 2006



Tatiana Hazanova and Sasha



Strike up the Band

Hotham Park Concert 29th July 2006

Thank You All

Thank you all for making my tenure as Treasurer for the last eleven years not only easier but a pleasure. It is a role which demands that you smile and make small talk whilst at the same time you're also saying "give us your money!" - I'm sure that given time it could lead to the need for counselling which is why I am handing over the reins.



The Club owes its gratitude to a lot of people; not only for its survival but also for its great success. For we are now a genuine beacon for culture and the arts; a real jewel on the South Coast; we are being noticed; the professional performers are queuing up at our door and we are an integral part of our local neighbourhood. On behalf of the Club and for making my job remotely possible I would like to thank:

1. The Councils who have supported us through grant aid; West Sussex County Council and especially their Arts Officer Lorna Brown; Arun District Council and Bognor Town Council; also the Arts Council for their support in the past when they were South East Arts
2. Charitable support from the Marsh Christian Trust and their Chairman Brian Marsh as well as the Bassil Shippam and Alford Trust
3. Commercial sponsorship from Takbro Ltd (courtesy of Ian Barnett) who rescued us when we were on our uppers; Williamson Moore; Mike's Music Warehouse and Duende Flamenco Store (Graham and Helena Bengé have been our staunchest supporters)
4. Support in kind from the Regis School of Music; ChichesterWeb (superb concert brochures courtesy of Ian Burt); Ackerman Music and Town Flowers (stunning floral arrangements at every concert thanks to Barry Smithen)
5. Amanda Cook for all those fundraising appearances where her time, talent and public appeal were given freely and so readily
6. All committee members past and present for their time and dedication
7. All the teachers, parents, stewards, not forgetting Sasha and Richard, whose help and hard work make our Festivals such a success
8. Yourself, the members. For your subscriptions willingly produced and your support at all our events. Additionally to those members who take

part in fundraising concerts whether it be with hago; on the Bognor Bandstands or at the Birdman Rally; at the Selsey Festival or the Chichester Festivities

To you all may I say once again a very big **Thank You**. I will leave you now as Treasurer with one very final nag; if there is one thing you can all do to

make the new Treasurer's job easier then please, please, please pay your membership subscriptions by the end of September.

Wishing you all; the new committee and the Club a very successful future.

Jonathan Parrott (Treasurer 1995-2006)

PS. A few treasured memories I would like to share

Eleven years ago I was told by a previous Chairman, a trustworthy and upright individual (or so I thought), that the job of Treasurer would take just one hour a month of my time. He was charming and personable and I was naive

Themed Club events and parties, whether it be South American, Italian, Pirates or Cowboys (too many to mention them all). All seemingly impossible and impractical to organise but somehow, with a little Russian magic, they turn into the most memorable magical evenings

Amanda Cook – from her early beginnings to her first performance at the Wigmore Hall, Appassionata and beyond. It is simply wonderful to be so privileged to be able to watch someone succeed at their chosen profession

Festivals – the look of joy (or relief) on the faces of players (and their teachers) when they finish their performance in front of the adjudicator

Concerts – how many times will I get to say "that's the best one yet"? We are so lucky to be able to attract performers of the calibre that play for us and to have formed such close ties with the likes of Fabio Zanon, Mark Eden and Christopher Stell, John Mills, Gary Ryan and more. Lets hope that our charm offensive will have worked with Pavel Steidl and that he returns to visit us soon. As to which concert I think the most of I shall give the clichéd response of the next one on the calendar because it might just be "the best one yet"

Eleven o'clock on a Wednesday night one month before the Summer Party. Total silence, the

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Thanks to Jonathan and Pam

After many years on the committee, Jonathan Parrott and Pam Davis are standing down. Jonathan was our treasurer for 11 years and Pam Davis our librarian, photographer and archivist for nearly 12 years. Both have done sterling work for the club and both have been proactive in undertaking extra activities on our behalf.

In addition to taking our subscriptions, taking money at the door, approaching arts councils for grants, getting sponsors for the club and keeping accounts of all this, Jonathan also promotes the club via articles and photographs in the local press and has also provided some delicious food at our events. Jonathan will continue as our Press Liaison Officer.

In addition to running our library of guitar music, vinyls, cds, dvds and videos, Pam is also

our archivist and photographer. There are many excellent albums of photographs of our performers, club evenings and events over the years. There are signed programmes by the performers and advertising posters. It all makes fascinating reading to see both how our club has grown over the years and to see how our young members have also matured with time. Pam is stopping on as librarian for the time being

The success of the club over the past years owes much to Jonathan and Pam for which we will be forever indebted. Fortunately they will still be coming along to the club and so we will not be losing them completely. They will both be hard acts to follow and we would all like to say a big THANKYOU with our best wishes for the future.

Editor's Piece

I think you will agree that we have some marvellous performers over the past year with the likes of Graham Devine, the Katona Twins, Marcos Diaz, the Appassionata Trio, Pavel Steidl, John Mills and Tomas Jimenez. This coming season will prove to be just as entertaining and will include the ladies Margarita Escarpa, Amanda Cook, Irina Kulikova, the outstanding composer/guitarist 'professor Jorge Cardoso, Fabio Zanon and Duo del Fuego.

The summer which is usually a quiet time for the club has been a busy time as we have gone

a roving around the area in order to promote the club.

The new season will see a number of new faces on the committee as some long standing members are standing down. Many thanks for all their sterling work and also to the new committee members who have kindly volunteered to ensure the continued success of our club. If any members can help – possibly taking money at the door, or helping at our Festivals, please let us know since many hands do make light work and it can be fun.

Una Bella Notte

This year, the Regis School of Music Summer Festival was dedicated to the music and culture of Italy. For the music we had the Revolutionary String Quartet, Mazaika and young musicians performing in the Carnival of Venice. For the culture we had John Julius Norwich giving a riveting talk on Venice and there was a Venetian mask workshop given for our young craftsmen. The theme was continued for the WSGC Summer Party when we had Una Bella Notte – a beautiful night. The fun commenced with this song from Disney's Lady and the Tramp being shown on a big screen. The DVD was a prize for the best made child's mask which was won by Alice Sowden.

Sasha – our host for the evening was dressed as a gondolier and the performances were conducted from his gondola which Pam Davis had skilfully constructed. We had some beautiful Italian music and also some music loosely associated with Italy. In the break, an Italian ice cream man came round and presented everyone with just one Cornetto. As always, the refreshments were superb and this night the food and wine had an Italian theme.

It was yet another highly successful Summer party and a fitting conclusion to another wonderful season. Many thanks to all those who worked so hard behind the scenes and also to all those who played for us.

Thank You All...

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committee all deep in thought, and not a clue as to what to have as a theme for the party (suggestions will always be very, very gratefully received).

The Roving WSGC

This summer, the WSGC went a'Roving to a number of venues which served the multiple purposes of promoting the Club, giving our members an opportunity to perform in public while at the same time bringing in a little extra revenue for the club. These days it is becoming more difficult to obtain arts grants and sponsors, so the extra revenue helps us keep costs down. Many thanks are therefore due to our members who so gallantly supported the club at these events. Thanks are also due to Sasha the master 'Master of Ceremonies' and to Nina who have both been so encouraging in these events both as performers and for their tireless work behind the scenes. The club has performed at St Paul's church as part of the Chichester Festival, Hotham Park for the Bognor Festival of Music and at Selsey Town Hall for the Selsey Festival.

St Paul's Church Chichester 15th July:

The West Sussex Guitar Club concert *A Celebration of the Classical Guitar* was full of unexpected pleasures for the audience – a box of musical delights which the club's founder and artistic director Sasha opened for the enjoyment of the Festival audience.

The variety of ages of those participating in the club ensemble was initially striking – from the tiniest participants clutching guitars almost their own size through teenagers to more mature participants. The opening performance of *Spain* set the tone for a vibrant programme in which every player of the 24-strong orchestra was obviously regarded as a valued club member.

The first solo items came from the youngest and explored the opening theme further: Zoe Barnett's rendition of *My White Horse* and the playing of James Branchflower and Patrick Sowden - all under the caring guidance of tutors - were well received. Tamsin Barnett then sang *Santa Lucia* in a clear treble before playing a movement of

Christmas carols by candlelight. It's when my Christmas starts; surrounded by friends, singing songs that remind me of my childhood, absent friends and those less fortunate than myself – it's all that Christmas should be about

Vivaldi concerto very competently on her guitar.

The Club's broad appeal was demonstrated by more than fifteen performers of different ages and abilities who took the stage one after another, playing a splendid variety of guitar music - solos and ensembles including duets, trios, guitar with recorder and harpsichord.

Young Elias Sibley demonstrated his versatility on fretted instruments by playing guitar, ukulele and banjo. The set was accomplished with great aplomb, clearly demonstrating that these lesser instruments can be just as entertaining when played solo if in the hands of a virtuoso.

The guest artiste was Amanda Cook, one of the most charismatic of English guitarists - a life member of the West Sussex Guitar Club, which was her first concert platform. Amanda has now achieved international recognition, and drew the repertoire for this special evening from different countries including music by Villa Lobos and Baden Powell, and an Italian composition dedicated to her. The audience responded with tremendous enthusiasm and was rewarded by Erik Satie's *Gymnopedie* as an encore.

It was indeed a summer evening of unabated pleasure for both the warmly appreciative audience and members of the West Sussex Guitar Club.

Angela MacTavish & Sasha

Hotham Park July 29th:

A very warm and sunny afternoon in the Park was enhanced by the music of the WSGC played from the bandstand. There were performances from the Guitar Orchestra, our younger performers Zoe Barnett who also sang, Patrick Sowden, Mathew Farrant, Ross Barnes and from Francesca Gerard, Vickie Walker, Mitch Callow and Linda Kelsall Barnett. The guitar also accompanied other instruments. Ellen Burford on recorder was accompanied by mum Debbie in an

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The Roving WSGC ...

(Continued from page 5)

evocative rendition of the 1940's tune *Nightingale*. A virtuoso Russian violinist Tatiana Hazanova was accompanied by Sasha with some beautiful soulful and spirited music from their homeland. Wonderful stuff and much appreciated by the audience. Unfortunately in an alfresco setting, the voice of the guitar is quickly lost and it is essential to have amplification. This is always an added complication. The equipment gave excellent reproduction, but unfortunately the microphones were sometimes intermittent. Nevertheless, the problems were overcome with great professionalism.

Selsey Town Hall 25th August:

The covert Town Hall at Selsey was the venue for this event. The hall has superb acoustics, but the stage was somewhat narrow for the performers there just being enough room for a chair. There was a superb buffet at break time and it felt like a real home from home – just like our club evenings. It was good to see a packed audience and very few were members of

the WSGC. Because of holidays a scratch orchestra was formed who performed very well indeed. The audience gave great encouragement to two adult beginners Chris Childs and Philip Malyon who made their concert debuts. Both did very well and showed no signs of nervousness on their maiden voyages. Well done. We enjoyed performances from Patrick Sowden with dad, Francesca Gerard, Jez Rogers, June Nicholas, Vicky Walker, Paul Thomas, Tom Emery (what incredible volume he produces from his guitar). Lydia Hepworth who is now studying part time with Mark Ashford in Birmingham gave a stunning performance of Gary Ryan's *Rondo Rodeo*. Many thanks to Sally Paice who was responsible for setting up the event and inviting the Club along. Sally also accompanied June Nicholas's singing and later sang Lennon/McCartney's *Blackbird* (how does Sally play something so difficult and yet sing at the same time?) and closed the proceedings with *Guantanamera*. I am sure we were able to demonstrate to the public what our club was about – a love for the guitar from members of all ages and abilities.



Chris Childs debut



Philip Malyon debut



Sally and June



Patrick and Phil Sowden

Selsey Festival
25th August 2006



Kate and Rebecca Morris



Pam Davis and John Mason

Patrick Cashman Celebration 3rd June 2006



Nina and Karim



Amanda Cook



James Branchflower

St. Paul's Guitar Concert 15th July 2006



Jimenez family with luthier & new member Pablo Requena

Tomas Jimenez Flamenco Evening 17th June 2006

A Celebration for the Life of Patrick Cashman

Patrick Cashman who was a member of the Club for a number of years and a friend to many, sadly passed away on 10th March. A Club evening was dedicated to his memory and a very enjoyable evening it proved to be. It was very noticeable that many of Patrick's friends came along, but many did not know one another.



The Minor Guitar duo – Janet Fitzpatrick and Sue Hull, Richard Prior, Paul Thomas, Tony Poulett, Terry Woodgate, Tom Jeffers and daughter Kate Morris and Kate's daughter Rebecca. Pam Davis and John Mason played some mandolin/guitar duets which Patrick had played and they were fittingly played on Patrick's instruments. Edwina Mlynowska sang in German accompanied by

Patrick had a number of varied interests but the different communities had never met before.

We learnt from member Mitch that Patrick taught the guitar to many players—he had even taught him to play. We learnt from friend Maurice that years ago he had an interest in early music and his quartet turned up at a gig minus the cellist whom Patrick had forgotten to collect. The violinist and pianist then had to entertain the audience while Patrick returned to collect the waiting cellist.

We had guitar music from Patrick Sowden,

Nina on piano. During the interval we had some brilliant piano playing – Fats Waller/Errol Gardner - from Arthur. An evening of superb and varied music and we also got a greater insight into the varied and interesting life of Patrick.

At the end of the evening Patrick's sister Mary Scotford presented the WSGC with the Cashman cup to be awarded at the WSGC Festival this November for the category 'Guitar and any other Instrument'. £75 was raised during the evening for St Wilfred's Hospice.

Dates for your Diary

Sept 23rd Club Evening

Oct 7th Margarita Escarpa Concert

Oct 21st Club Evening

Nov 10th Jorge Cardoso Concert **NOTE a FRIDAY**

Nov 11/12 WSGC Festival—Juniors

Nov 18/19 WSGC Festival—Seniors

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 528573 or visit the **Ticket Hotline** at www.westsussexguitar.com

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

Please send your contributions for the next edition of *Good Vibrations* by **15th 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

