

Guitar Gala Night Brilliance!



The Eden-Stell and Amadeus duos play to a rapt audience

From the moment the performers launched into the rousing *Fanfare* from Rodrigo's *Concerto Madrigal* for two guitars, arranged for four, the capacity audience was treated to a varied and highly entertaining programme by the Eden-Stell and Amadeus duos on 12th April.

The *Fanfare*, a surprise, as Bach's *Brandenburg Concerto no.3* was expected as the opening item, was given great rhythmic drive and energetic rasgueados. Jocular and relaxed on stage, the two duos - Mark Eden and

Christopher Stell, and Dale Kavanagh and Thomas Kirchoff - combined highly effectively and achieved an excellent balance, with each player bringing their own individual element to the performance.

When the Bach was offered - the third movement - it was highly articulate, carefully phrased and played with the same energy as the Rodrigo. A

little more contrast of volume and tone would have given more impact, but it was played with plenty of enthusiastic velocity.

The Eden Stell duo then left the stage, and Bach's *Chaconne*, in an interesting transcription of a piano arrangement by Busoni - who treated it with a touch of the Romantic - was presented next, by the Amadeus duo. A

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Guitar Festival Success

On 10th May several of our club members took part in the Redhill & Reigate Music Festival. This year this very well organised event attracted students from at least five teachers.

Everyone who took part seemed to enjoy performing and undoubtedly gained much from the expert advice of Gary Ryan. Gary's adjudication was made special not only by his love and understanding of the instrument, but also by his gift as a teacher. One of his metaphors is definitely worth repeating: he compared

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New Members

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members:

Mr & Mrs Graeme Hepworth & family, Storrington

We hope you enjoy many happy evenings with us.

Guitar Gala Night...

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demanding item, it was played with poise and given a sense of grandeur, the players complementing each other with a natural sensitivity throughout its virtuosic demands.

Guiliani's *Variazioni Concertante op.31* followed, its complete contrast of style brightening the mood after the sombre tone of the Bach, enjoyed by audience and performers alike. Taking turns to play the leading role, this piece enabled the players to demonstrate further their exciting technical abilities, combined with tasteful phrasing and dynamic contrasts.

The first half closed with two substantial solo items from Dale Kavanagh: Three Dances from *Terpsichore*, by Praetorius, consisting of *Courante*, *Ballet*, *La Volta* and a return to the opening *Courante*; and finally Rodrigo's atmospheric *Invocation and Dance*. Kavanagh has a vibrant approach and brought out the character of

each of these works successfully, overriding the occasional hitch. There were some very well graded dynamics and the tremolo section in the Rodrigo was particularly mesmerising.

It is inevitable in a concert such as this that the performers are up for comparison, and while the first half was musically absorbing the second half was a breath of fresh air as the Eden Stell duo gave pure entertainment. Memorable for the on-stage banter as well as the music, they opened with *Les Tendres Plaintes* and *Les Cyclopes* from *Pieces de Clavecin* by Rameau demonstrating excellent precision and changes of tone colour.

More Rodrigo followed - his guitar duo *Tonadilla*, in three movements, had dramatic rasgueados in the opening *Allegro*, contrasting delicacy in the *Minueto*, and exciting rhythm and timbre in the final movement.

Jongo by Bellinati is a well-known solo guitar favourite, aired

at several recent West Sussex Guitar Club concerts. Here, in duo format, the separation of the parts accentuated the different voicings and the percussion section was particularly entertaining, visually and aurally. After these fireworks the Amadeus duo rejoined those onstage and another Brandenburg movement - the third from the *Sixth Brandenburg Concerto*, closed the programme with the same enthusiasm and dexterity as the previous works, with excellent communication between players.

With the audience responding warmly, the Eden Stell treated us to their party-piece – the wittily phrased *Vals Premier Amour* by the Brazilian composer Silva, with two players on one guitar. The novelty and amusement factor increased when the Amadeus duo joined in the fun to complete a concert well worthy of being titled Guitar Gala Night.

Linda Kelsall-Barnett

Regis School of Music Summer Festival 8-23 June

This year the Festival reflects a Mediterranean theme with an array of delicious recitals featuring music and musicians from the sunny south. On Sunday 16th brilliant English pianist, Mark Bebbington, will include a rarely heard work by Castelnuovo-Tedesco, while on Saturday 22nd the Israel Piano Trio will give a tour-de-force performance

prior to their appearance at the Wigmore Hall. For sheer entertainment value it will be hard to beat the violin and accordion duo, Mazaika, who return to the School on Friday 14th June.

In addition, this year the festival features junior competitive classes on the 8th and 9th, including classes for 10 and under, 12 and under, 15 and under and 18

and under. On the 15th and 16th there will be non-competitive classes for adults, families and ensembles. Guitarists will be more than welcome at both weekends.

For further details and booking, please ring Sasha on 01243 866462 or visit the Festival's web page at www.chichesterweb.co.uk/rsmfestival.

WSGC Summer Party—13th July

Invitations to the Club's ninth Summer Party will soon be landing on your doorstep! We shall be following a Jubilee theme with a nostalgic tinge, as we think back to days of innocence. If you would like to contribute to the proceedings by reciting poetry

from your childhood or singing a nostalgic song we shall be more than pleased to hear from you. Please contact Helena on 01903 204321, who will also be coordinating contributions to the buffet table.

Warmth And Joy From Hayley Savage

If ever an artiste's surname was a misnomer it was Hayley Savage's last Saturday night who, far from acting anything like her surname, exuded a great warmth on stage.

The Mertz and Schubert were both played with great confidence and delicacy clearly stemming from long experience of both pieces. The balance of strength and certainty in the chords and a lightness of touch when needed interplayed light and dark rather nicely.

The less familiar, to me, Haug was a sensitive portrayal and the *Amazonia* by McGuire was a surprise at that point in the programme, an aural evocation of a rain forest, a motif that was to re-appear later. A richness of tone and dizzying discords proved a sensual assault, an evocation of time and place.

The well known *Sonatina* by Jorge Morel showed a fluent left hand and was played with



Hayley Savage—a musical moment

confidence and an obvious joy that ended the first half well.

The Sor *Marlborough Variations* that opened part two was equally well played, strong and melodic and clearly well understood. The Morreno-Torroba pieces are always difficult, technically so and also they are well known and the benchmark standards set for them by some of the great guitar players are very high. While not all worked perfectly their

rich Spanish heritage shone through, *Torija* was lush as a chocolate dessert. Equally pleasurable, Albeniz' *Cordoba* was a fine evocation of a city once the most enlightened in Europe.

The Rodrigo *Fandango* was a curates egg, good in parts but showing signs of tiredness with a marked lack of dexterity in some passages and a rather trailed off ending, both perhaps signs of a programme a tad too

long for the artistes comfort. The less tough medley of South American pieces proved a better and more pleasing ending, technically a little less demanding but played seemingly with more pleasure for a stronger effect, and the encore was a delight although, for an original piece, I was strongly reminded of Crosby Stills and Nash circa 1967 (listen to *Guinevere* on their first album). Nevertheless, as an encore it was a little guitar gem and beautifully played.

In a delightful and very full programme, tending towards 19th and 20th century pieces, some of which at times seemed a little under-rehearsed, there were moments of great pleasure for both artiste and audience when all went well and just the occasional frown when a section did not quite come off, but at the end it was justifiably all smiles in both directions.

Graham Bengte

Guitar Festival Success ...

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the idea of good timing with the trellis, which provides regular support to a plant...which is free to climb. How profound!

Among many memorable moments were solos and duets from Kenny Tanner and Felix Kellaway, who ended one of their duets by flicking both guitars up in the air! This superb visual accent was greatly appreciated by both the audience and the adjudicator, who gave the duo first prize. Alex

Iles again made excellent use of his repertoire, this time delighting everyone with the deep sound of his beautiful new guitar. Gary chose him as winner of both the Senior Recital and the Open class.

There were also very good performances from Peter Russell, Steve Gartshore and Andrei Schultz. Linda Kelsall-Barnett played the Walton *Bagatelles* beautifully.

It's over an hour's drive from Bognor but very well worth it. The

venue is superb with excellent acoustics; the proceedings are enhanced by a beautiful flower arrangement and the secretary and stewards are helpful and friendly. This year as an additional prize every performer in the junior solo classes was given a set of guitar strings. How generous!

I would unreservedly recommend this well organised, friendly event to teachers and players alike.

Sasha Levto

Mark Ashford Recital & Workshop - 29th and 30th June

Mark Ashford is acknowledged to be at the very forefront of UK guitarists, so it's a great pleasure to welcome him back to WSGC for a recital on Saturday 29th and an all day workshop on Sunday 30th June.

Julian Bream once said of himself that he was not a guitarist but a musician who happened to play the guitar. Much the same could be said of Mark, as the lasting impression of his playing is its sheer musicality and depth of musical understanding. His formidable technique is always at the service of the music.

On the Saturday his programme will include works by Bach, Sor, Tarrega, Berkley and Roland Dyens. It is certain to be a fitting end to what has been one of our most successful concert seasons. Tickets are available from Jonathan on 01243 528573 or can be reserved via the Ticket Hotline on our web site—
www.westsussexguitar.com.

On the Sunday there will be ample opportunity to benefit from



Mark's gift as a teacher as we play in ensemble and observe him coaching the brave amongst us in open session. The day will start at 10.00 am and finish at around 5.00 pm. The fee will be £20 to include a buffet lunch. We expect this workshop to be very popular so strongly advise returning the booking form as soon as possible.

Club Evening - 8th June with Mitch and Linda

Our next Club Evening is on Saturday 8th June at 7.30 pm. Mitch Callow will be in charge of proceedings, and those who remember his previous evenings will not be surprised to learn that he has one or two novel ideas up his sleeve. What are they? - well you'll just have to come and find out!

It will also be a great pleasure to listen to a recital by Linda Kelsall-Barnett. Linda will be playing music by Gaspar Sanz, Francisco Tarrega, William Walton and Astor Piazzolla. Linda needs little introduction as one of our most enthusiastic teachers and gifted performers. All this for only £3 a head - make sure you don't miss it!

Dates for your Diary

June	8	Club Evening & recital by Linda Kelsall-Barnett	June	30	Workshop with Mark Ashford
	29	Recital by Mark Ashford	July	13	Summer Party

All events (except those in italics) take place on Saturdays at 7.30pm in the Regis School of Music, 46 Sudley Road, Bognor Regis. For details phone 01243 866462.

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