

Berkshire Guitar Society

www.berkshireguitarsociety.org.uk

www.myspace.com/berkshireguitarsociety

Newsletter No 180

April 2009

NEXT MEETING:

FLAMENCO EVENING:

**ROBERTO MARTINEZ +
CARMEN**

@ SHP

10 MAY 2009, 7:30PM

AS FOR EVERY MEETING, VISITORS ARE
WELCOME - £5

UPCOMING EVENTS:

SPANISH CIRCLE READING

19 JUNE 2009

7.00 PM CAVERSHAM

PERFORMERS ARE INVITED TO
REGISTER THEIR PIECES WITH GARY BY
THE MAY MEETING

INFORMAL CONCERT & SOCIAL

(GUEST + MEMBERS)

SUNDAY JULY 12TH

PERFORMERS ARE INVITED TO
REGISTER THEIR PIECES WITH GAVIN
BY THE JUNE MEETING



BGS Meeting News

Last Meeting - April

Our April meeting began with our ensemble preparation for the Spanish Circle. Gary had prepared 3 pieces by Derek Hasted for our performance:

- *El Kidd*
- *Penultimate Waltz* - which moves on seamlessly(!) to
- *Brazil Nut*

Given that these were our first rehearsals of these pieces, they seemed to go very well. With a bit of practice in between and some more group rehearsal, we hope to be able to put on a confident performance that can be enjoyed by both us and the audience.

We were also pleased to welcome yet another new player this month – Brian Skidmore. We hope to see him again. It appears our presence in cyber-space is beginning to be noticed, and the Society is looking into various ways of raising our internet profile even further.

The second part of the evening involved members' performances. It was great to see almost everyone at the meeting "step up to the plate" so to speak, and play for the group. I believe this performance aspect of the Society is one of its great attractions and one which really makes a difference to players and listeners alike.

Martin began with *Rumores de la Caleta* by Albeniz. Albeniz published this work in Madrid in 1887. It is the sixth of seven pieces in a suite entitled *Recuerdos de Viaje*, or "Travel Impressions." The title of this piece roughly translates to "Murmurs of the Inlet." This piece is subtitled "malaguena". (More information is available at <http://www.esflamenco.com/palos/enmalaguena.html>). This was an interesting and challenging piece and very enjoyable to listen to. In fact,

there is even a web page to help players resolve the technical difficulties ... <http://www.rumoresdelacaleta.com/>. Or you could just ask Martin.

Steve Tucker then entranced us with *Danza Espanola No 5* by Granados. The twelve Spanish Dances, Op.37, were composed in 1890, and initially published in four sets of three dances each. These early works, inspired by the Spanish national school of Felipe Pedrell, were one of Granados' first successes as a composer, and have become one of his most popular piano works, second only to the masterly Goyescas. The famous 5th dance, Andaluza (sometimes named Playera), is one of the most popular Spanish classical pieces.

Kath Standen followed with *Garrotin* from *Hommage à Tarrega* by Turina. Currently this is a Grade 8 List C piece for ABRSM new syllabus and deservedly a firm favourite in the performance programme. Once again Kath played us a challenging piece with style.

Brian Skidmore showed his mettle by offering to perform on his very first appearance at the society, and played an exercise from Sor's collection.

Gavin Smith played us *Sigüenza* from *Castles of Spain* by F. Moreno-Torroba. It was subtitled *La Infanta Duerme* (The Sleeping Child) and portrayed a reflective tone suitable to the title. This is one of a series of compositions based on castles around Spain.

Then we heard a short piece from Mike Hickey called *Moderato* by Johann Kaspar Mertz. This was a selection from a recently published instructional book by Jens Franke, a teacher at Wellington College and Reading University. Mertz was a great guitar composer of the Romantic era, born in 1806 to poor parents in Pressburg, Hungary. He moved to Vienna in 1840 and quickly became recognized as a great guitar virtuoso. His composition was marked by character pieces and lyrical style and was very representative of the Romantic era in which he lived and worked.

Richard Butters then played for us, *A Day in May* by Mikis Theodorakis with his usual attention to detail. The composer is known internationally for his scores in the films, *Zorba the Greek* (1964), *Z* (1969), and *Serpico* (1973).

Next we had the opportunity to hear some flamenco from George Macdonald – this time, a Siguiriyas from Juan Martín. As will probably be covered at our

next meeting when we hear about flamenco in detail, a Siguiriyas is a form of [flamenco](#) music belonging to the [cante jondo](#) category. Its deep, expressive style is among the most important in flamenco. The siguiriyas are normally played in the key of A Phrygian, with each measure (or compás) consisting of 12 counts with emphasis on the 1st, 3rd, 5th, 8th and 11th beats

Sue Antell played us *Shadow of the Moon*, by Lindsay Clarke a local composer who also makes it onto the ABRSM grade lists. This piece left us in a reflective mood, appropriate to the title.

Congratulations to the many people who played so well. It was a genuinely enjoyable night.

Next Meeting - Flamenco Evening

- Roberto Martínez (guitar) and Carmen Pacheco (dance)

The evening will provide a journey into the history and rhythms of flamenco with live and recorded illustrations, some traditional and modern guitars to compare and audience participation.

Rob was taught by Michael Leigh, a disciple of Pepe Martínez. He went on to join Tani Morena's company "Ballet Espanol" taking the place of a very youthful Paco Pena. This company performed a programme of regional, classical and flamenco works at theatres, music clubs and festivals throughout Europe. Many young musicians played for the company at the start of their careers including the cellist Steven Isserlis and the classical guitarist David Russell.

In 1990 Rob joined Carmen Pacheco's company "Los Ritmos Flamencos" which she had formed in 1984. Los Ritmos Flamencos performed at small theatres, arts clubs, cabaret venues and television in the South East. Before this, Carmen had toured Europe and the Middle East as principal dancer in a Spanish ballet company. In between these tours she performed with the "Trio Andaluz" on Arts Council supported tours of principal UK theatres (including prime time appearances an all

major TV networks) in the top London cabaret venues. Carmen is now a respected teacher and choreographer with a studio in Surrey.

There will be some audience participation during the Flamenco evening, probably Palmas (clapping) but it was suggested we bring our guitars just in case.



Upcoming Meetings

- Sunday May 10th - Flamenco evening: Roberto Martinez + Carmen
- Sunday June 14th - Members evening + ensemble Spanish Circle
- Sunday July 12th - Informal concert (Guest + members) and social
 - Orsolya Pataki from the Rosewood Trio will be putting on a performance of about 40 minutes. Members of the society will be requested to put together a set of performances for another 30 minutes. We will then finish up with about 40 minutes of socialising over wine and snacks, before breaking for the Summer Recess in August.
 - Members wishing to play should register their pieces with Gary by next meeting (May) to enable him to construct the programme for the evening.

Upcoming Events

- JUNE 19 - Spanish Circle Reading 7.00 pm Caversham
- JUNE 21 - Student concert 3.00 pm SHP