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Newsletter No 187

January 2010

NEXT MEETING:

SUNDAY JAN 10TH

MIKE WILL BE GIVING A TALK ON ABEL
CARLEVARO, TOGETHER WITH SOME
AUDIO-VISUALS

REMINDER TO THOSE WHO ORDERED -
BRING MONEY FOR JAZZ CHORD BOOKS

UPCOMING EVENTS:

**THE NEW CALENDAR OF
EVENTS WILL BE PUBLISHED
SOON**



BGS Meeting News

Last Meeting - December 13

At our last meeting, we held the Christmas concert followed by some snacks and a talk. The Concert was very well attended – in fact we had to find additional chairs – by members, spouses, and friends of the Society, including the composer, some from far afield. It was encouraging to see so much genuine interest.

The evening began with a little warm up and public rehearsal, before we launched into the ensemble pieces both composed by Ivan Andrews:

- *The China Doll*
- *The Toy Train*

Given that we had only 2 rehearsals as well as competition from Christmas for our spare time, the performance went well enough. There is of course always scope to aspire for better ensemble performances, if we can schedule in enough rehearsal time.

Ivan managed to record proceedings and all being well these will be available shortly on the society website - details to follow.

Following the ensemble performance, St Nic's Guitar Ensemble took the stage and played a set of seasonal pieces:

- *Trio of Kings* by J. Whitworth (arr)
- *Triangular Dance* by D. Hasted

Ensemble pieces are always difficult without a conductor and it was good to see Cheryl spontaneously take on the role to keep the performance on track.

Next we had Gavin Smith playing 2 pieces by Hector Ayala, which were quite interesting and new to most of us. These were a Prelude and a milonga named *Querencia*. (A milonga is a forerunner of the South American tango form).

Next came, Michael Hickey playing a full *Partita in Em* by Giuseppe Brescianello, composed of 4 movements - *entree, menuett, siciliana*, and *gigue*. It was good to hear the audience listening so intently to a longish piece.

After a period away overseas, Alan Randle marked his return with a rendition of Dowland's *Can She Excuse*. It is always good to hear a period piece from this great English composer.

Martin Heath followed up with a nice presentation of pieces he was re-visiting from a few years ago.

- *Almain* by Robert Johnson.
- *Andantino* by Ferrer
- *Study No 11* by Garcia

In particular, I found the ornaments on the *Almain* very evocative of the period and played very convincingly.

Finally, we had Gary Jordan to close the concert in fine form with 2 pieces inspired by emotions at Christmas – anxiety (in relation to shopping) and peace (in relation to men – and women - of goodwill).

- *La fille aux cheveux de lin* by C. Debussy (Arr. Bream)
- *Grande Overture* (abridged) by M. Guliani

With the performance part of the show over, it was time to tuck into some interesting conversation and some Christmas snacks as well. It is always good to catch up with people and there is always a lot to talk about.

All in all, it was a rather successful evening and a good way to wind up for Christmas.

Music on the BGS Website

A recording of at least some of the Christmas concert should soon be available on the BGS web site at

<http://www.berkshireguitarsociety.org.uk/music.htm>.

Eager music lovers could go there now and listen to Berkshire Suite by Ivan

Andrews, performed at BGS Nov 2006 meeting, to get them in the mood...

<http://www.berkshireguitarsociety.org.uk/music/Big%20House%20in%20Windsor.wm>

<http://www.berkshireguitarsociety.org.uk/music/On%20the%20River.wma>

<http://www.berkshireguitarsociety.org.uk/music/South%20Hill%20Park.wma>

Diary 2010

At the AGM in February, in addition to normal AGM business we would like to consider whether we want to continue to sponsor concerts by visiting guitarists. So have your thoughts ready by then.

We are also planning to arrange a visit by Dan Jones, a lecturer from Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. The exact topic of his visit is yet to be agreed, but might include, how to read and play Jazz chords, or playing mixed ability ensemble pieces, some of which he has written.

Upcoming Meetings

- JANUARY 10
 - Presentation on Abel Carlevaro
 - Followed by members presentations in the second half
- February 14 - AGM
- March 14 -
 - Members evening including works by Carlevaro;
 - Spanish Circle ensemble work
- APRIL / MAY - Spanish Circle - rehearsal

Upcoming Events

- MAY OR JUNE - Spanish Circle - start thinking about your pieces