

Eden and Stell dazzle again!

In July we once again had a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the art of Mark Eden and Christopher Stell.

Last year's performance left most of us with many exciting memories, so it was with great anticipation that we awaited this year's recital. We were not to be disappointed! The magic of this ensemble lies in their ability to blend two very different sounds into something as rich, sensitive, and beautiful as that which we heard on this occasion.

One of the distinctive features of this duo is their gift of being able to generate energy even when the music pauses or enters a slow episode. Both musicians become fully absorbed in their own parts, yet are totally at one with composer's original image. Their clarity of interpretation and deep involvement with the music makes even unfamiliar modern pieces hypnotically attractive.

Their palette is rich and innovative, their technique effortless and their manner open and warm.

Please borrow the recording which Mark and Chris kindly allowed us to make during



Mark Eden and Christopher Stell

this outstanding recital and relive the experience for yourself.

After the concert, the Committee had the privilege of hosting a little party for our artists. By midnight some of the "trade secrets" as well as some exciting plans for the future were carefully revealed. It was particu-

larly interesting to hear how valuable has been the input and inspiration of the Assad brothers in Eden and Stell's development.

We must make every effort to invite these marvelous musicians again next season and mark their progress!

Sasha Levrov

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..Music is a moral law.

It gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, a charm to sadness, gaiety and life to everything.

It is the essence of order and leads to all that is good, just and beautiful, of which it is the invisible, but nevertheless dazzling, passionate and eternal form.

Plato

WSGC Welcomes Young Professionals

Last season we were able to offer our stage to more young professional guitarists than ever before.

The AGM in September was followed by the first professional appearance at the club of Amanda Cook (reviewed in Club News Vol. 2 No. 1). It was particularly pleasing that it should have been Amanda who was the first guitarist to play at the Club's new venue, since many of us have followed her progress for the last fifteen years. Twice after this performance Amanda played in Chichester and we all wish her great success in her final year at the Royal College of Music!

The extraordinarily gifted Luiz Carlos Mantovani evoked through his playing the warmth and intensity of the Brazilian sun. The story of his appearance began with a phone call from Fabio Zanon, who asked if one of the participants in his Masterclasses in Sao Paulo could play for us. The guitarist was on his way to Germany - the trip given to him as the reward for winning a prestigious competition in Brazil. We were planning the May club evening at the time and were only too pleased to accept Fabio's suggestion. As a result we experienced an astonishing performance. An hour long programme consisted of five works, yet displayed a bouquet of styles from romantic Barrios to dramatic



Luiz Carlos Mantovani

Koshkin, and in between two works of extreme opposites: beautiful, flashy Rigondi and tragic, sincere Krieger. Mantovani's sound is rich, sensitive and intense, and his playing projects subtle phrasing and delicate nuance with supreme confidence. This immediately communicates with the audience and greatly enhances one's enjoyment of the music.



Michael Partington

Michael Partington concluded our series of recitals by young professionals. His programme was the classic example of concert architecture of high demand, promise and fulfillment. First came the splendid Sonata Classica by Ponce, full of beautiful melodies which recalled for us the colorful world of Sor's music.

Then came a very noble reading of Benjamin Britten's Nocturnal, without doubt one of the greatest pieces written

for the guitar this century. A concentrated and descriptive introduction to the piece was a most welcome gesture by the performer and highlighted some splendid elements of this mysterious work.

The Sonatina by Torroba is a very popular programme choice amongst concert guitarists and deservedly so. In fact, this was the fourth time it had been performed on our platform this season. This was a beautiful reading of the work and superbly held our concentration throughout. Finally, that most vivid evocation of Edgar Allan Poe's macabre story - the Usher Waltz by Nikita Koshkin, displaying great credit to the performer's intelligence, precision and control. Perhaps the control was a little too rigid - in this piece the dark forces, which Michael so vividly described in his introduction, must be given rein in the performance.

Michael Partington possesses a most refined manner in everything that he does with the guitar: his technique is polished and effortless, his phrasing is clear and logical, his tone is most appealing, clean and powerful.

What a privilege - to play host to musicians of such talent, spirit and dedication. The unanimous reaction of our audience must be to wish each of them a brilliant career and to hope that happy memories of their time with us will bring them back to our stage!

Thanks to all who helped to make our guest artists so comfortable, and all who helped with the publicity, programmes and the preparations of the club evenings so we all could enjoy the art of such talented musicians!

A letter from Luiz..

13 July 1997

Dear [WSGC],

I just arrived from my trip [to Germany] last week, and remembering all the pleasant moments of my first day in England. I would like to thank you for the marvelous reception I had in Bognor Regis. It was my first and unforgettable concert in Europe, and I really hope that one day I can play again in the West Sussex Guitar Club.

With affection,
Luiz Carlos Mantovani

*Southampton
Classical
Guitar Society*

**Thursday
6th Nov
1997**

**MARK
ASHFORD**

**will be playing at
Hursley House
near Winchester**

**Tickets are available
in advance only
from Wayne Lines
tel: 01329 310792.**

Music-making in Majorca

From 1st to 14th August this summer Tim Smithen was in Majorca taking part in the Pro Musica summer school being held at the Conservatoire in Mahone. Tim won enrolment in the summer school when he came first in the Arun Young Musician of the Year competition in 1996.

There were some 30-40 young people at the school, mostly from England, America and Spain, including seven other guitarists.

Every day started at 11.00am with a lecture series on the symphonies of Beethoven, followed at 12.00 by an hour's solo tuition with the Spanish guitar

teacher David Sanz, during which attention was focused on Tim's right-hand technique.

Afternoons were free, but there were a number of evening concerts including a piano recital by Kiev Portella, a brass ensemble, and a choral evening in the church at Mahone.

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Invitation to the Dance

There was a rumour in the air - that this year's Summer Party would feature dancing. Would it be Ballroom dancing, Latin American ...Morris? It turned out to be something called Circle dancing, which sounded like a dance which might be performed around Stonehenge at dawn!

The evening began with five spirited dances played by the Regis and Felice guitar ensembles, followed by an entertaining collection of pieces performed by the Gala Quartet.

We were then introduced to Marjorie and John Wyatt who were to lead us in 'The Circle'. As might be expected with a musically inclined group, our sense of rhythm helped us to pick up the steps quite quickly and we were soon enjoying the experience.

The first dance was a gentle introduction, set to Pachelbel's 'Canon'. This was followed by Pinechi Chorovod (Russian), Wedding Dance (Israeli), Mykonos (Greek), Le Roi (French) and the Snail Creep (Cornish), during which we astonished the neighbourhood by Snail Creeping around the outside of the building. As an encore, Marjorie led us in a Yugoslavian dance which included the 'grapevine', a step which is found, with variations, in many circle dances.

As we discovered, circle dancing is a very sociable form of community dancing found in many countries at local celebrations. The origins of the traditional dances are often lost in the past, while new dances add to their number - provided they pass the test of time.

Following this energetic activity we were able to relax while Tim Smithen and Alex Iles and others entertained us with some excellent solos. Tim and Sasha played an exciting duet, which nearly sent us back to the dance floor with its powerful rhythms.

The evening continued with an appetizing buffet provided by members and coordinated by Helena, who brought a delicious iced cake to celebrate the Club's fourth birthday. While members chatted and enjoyed the cake, the party ended with several spontaneous guitar solos.

We are very grateful to Marjorie and John for introducing us to the art of circle dancing, and hope that we may see them again at future club evenings. Our thanks go, as always, to Nina and Sasha who did so much work beforehand to prepare for the occasion, as well as creating the welcoming atmosphere which greets one at the Regis School of Music.

Pam Davis

WSGC Gift Voucher

For that special birthday
or Christmas present, why
not give a year's
subscription to the West
Sussex Guitar Club?

Available in an
attractive presentation
folder.

For details phone Richard
Prior on 01903 521676

New blood!

We extend a very warm welcome to the following members who have joined us since Easter:

Trevor Delooze, Stan Finkle, Mrs E Gray, Roger Haines and Gary Knight.

It is good to have you on board and we hope you will enjoy good music and good company in the coming season!

Memories of Majorca

(Continued from page 3)

Most memorable for Tim was the student's concert on the last night, when he was selected to perform Villa-Lobos Prelude No. 1.

Altogether, the school has left Tim with happy memories and good friends made from among the other students.



1997/8 Programme



September	20	AGM and Member's Recital
	27	Francisco Antonio (Flamenco) - Concert
October	11/12	Arun Young Musician's Festival
	18	Club Evening
November	15	Worthing Festival
	22	Eleftheria Kotzia - Concert
December	13	Christmas Party
January	17	Club Evening
	31	Concert - tba
February	7/8	Chichester Festival
	28	Club Evening
March	14	Gilbert Biberian - Concert
	15	Brighton Festival
April	4	Emmanuel Segre - Concert
	25	Club Evening
May	16	Nicola Hall - Concert
	17	Nicola Hall - Workshop
June	6	Club Evening
	20	Fabio Zanon - tbc
July	11	Summer Party

All events (except festivals and the workshop) are on Saturdays at 7.30pm at the Regis School of Music. For details phone 01243 866162.

Russian magic

On August 30th a capacity audience at the Regis School of Music listened spellbound to the magic of a young Russian guitarist in a recital arranged at short notice.

Irina Kulikova had played only a week before at West Dean during the Seventh Classical Guitar Festival of Great Britain, and such was the response to her dazzling performance that Sasha organised a further recital for Club members and friends only hours before she was due to return to Russia. Irina displays an astonishing combin-

ation of technical virtuosity and musical authority in someone only fifteen years of age.

She opened with a beautifully poised account of Sor's *Variations on a Theme of Mozart*, dazzled us with a Sonata by Paganini and wooed us with a wonderfully romantic performance of *La Catedral* by Barrios. Her performance of *El Colibri* (the Hummingbird) by Sagreras was simply breathtaking.

With such talent, dedication and natural charm there is no doubt that she has a brilliant career ahead of her.

In the second half, we were entertained by

Guitar-making Class

Richard Slack will be giving a talk about guitar-making at 7.30pm on Monday 15th September at the Regis School of Music.

All are welcome, but especially anyone seriously interested in joining a class to make their own instrument.

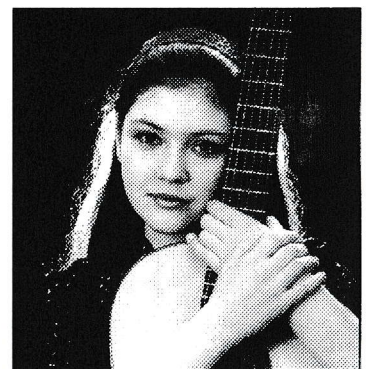
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for further details
contact
Greg Leach

01273 696083



Irina Kulikova

a number of highly original and charming works composed and performed by Irina's teacher, Victor Kozlov. He and Irina demonstrated a remarkable, and happy, rapport in one of Kozlov's own compositions - *Dance of the Northern Hunters*.

Irina's encore was the magical *Carillon* by Terzi.

Richard Prior