

The Classical Guitar Society of Washington, D.C.

Editor - Steven Seidenman

No. 1

July Meeting

The Classical Guitar Society of Washington, D.C. held a general meeting in July to approve by-laws and elect officers. The following members were elected:

President : Morey Rothberg
Vice-President & Editor: Steven Seidenman
Treasurer : Mark Lewonowski
Secretary : Peg Dawson

The Classical Guitar Society of Washington, DC was organized to provide a forum for all those interested in the classical guitar. Meetings are free and open to the public and will allow guitarists and guitar enthusiasts to exchange ideas, information, and to perform for each other. The Society encourages non-guitarists to attend as well. Meetings are currently scheduled for the first Saturday of each month from 2:00 until 4:00 pm at the Silver Spring Public Library, 8901 Colesville Road (one-half block north of Spring Street). Meetings will be intended to provide a relaxed workshop setting in which guitarists of all levels can perform for and with each other.

The Society will sponsor guitar performances by local artists. Last season's meetings included performances by the John Rodgers Guitar Quartet, Lee Becky and the George Washington University Guitar Ensemble, Jim Thompson, and John Marlow, who gave a tremendously informative seminar on music analysis followed by a group performance of the work analyzed. This season's performances will again include the John Rogers Guitar Quartet, as well as Steven Seidenman and Kevin and Barbara Vigil (guitar/flute duet).

The Society will occasionally sponsor field trips and social gatherings and will publish a monthly newsletter to keep members informed about local

events, performances, recordings of interest, etc. Articles and announcements related to the classical guitar are welcomed and should be sent to the Editor, The Classical Guitar Society of Washington DC, 1748 Featherwood St., Silver Spring, MD 20904.

Everyone is invited to become a member. Membership is \$12 per year for an individual and \$18 for a family. Questions may be directed to the President, Morey Rothberg (301) 495-2703.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Classical Guitar Society of Washington, DC Series (all performances are at the Silver Spring Library at 2:00 pm):

October 3 - Steven Seidenman

November 7 - Kevin and Barbara Vigil,
guitar and flute

December 5 - John Rodgers Guitar Quartet

AREA EVENTS

*October 9 - Michael Cedric-Smith, Master Class 7:30 pm. College of Notre Dame, LeClerc Hall, 4701 N. Charles Street, Baltimore, MD

*October 10 - Michael Cedric-Smith, Recital 7:00 pm. College of Notre Dame, Baltimore, MD

*contact Ernest Ragogini at (410) 532-5386 for info & tickets

October's Performance

STEVEN SEIDENMAN studied overseas with Jan Filip, and locally with Larry Snitzler and with Myrna Sislen at The George Washington University where he performed as a member of the university's guitar ensemble. Steven holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Maryland. He has performed in master classes with Guitarist Frederick Hand and composer Guido Santorsola and was a winner of the Montpelier Recital Series Competition. Steven has also performed, both as soloist and in duets with flute and clarinet, for the Montgomery County Recreation Department, the Martin Luther King Memorial Library, the University of Maryland's Atrium Showcase Series, and the Strathmore Hall Arts Center, among others. Steven teaches guitar at Dale Music Co., Silver Spring and Montgomery College, Rockville, MD.

The program will include music by Milan, Bach, Sor, Mertz, Schumann, Poulenc, Falla, and Lauro.

Area Artists' Profiles

Editor's Note: The following article is based upon a conversation with John Marlow just three days before his untimely death. A memorial statement appears elsewhere in this newsletter.

The WASHINGTON GUITAR QUINTET will be touring in Vancouver, Canada, from September 14th through the 21st and will appear at the Maryland Inn Hotel in Annapolis on November 22nd. They recently recorded their first album, which should be available by October, on the Concord Concerto label.

The Quintet consists of Washington area guitarists Charlie Byrd, John Marlow, Jeffery Meyerriecks, Myrna Sislen, and Larry Snitzler. In recent years, the Quintet has been assisted by Carlos Barbosa-Lima, who has apparently become a virtual "sixth member." The Quintet's repertoire now includes many of his arrangements. Each member has established a successful career as a soloist and educator and each has made his or her own unique contribution to the guitar world. Some of these artists have also been performing in other

ensembles. Jeffery Meyerriecks performs with flutist Katherine Hay as well as with other more contemporary-oriented combos.

John Marlow has been devoted to chamber music with guitar. To date he has made over three hundred arrangements for the various chamber combinations in which he has performed, including guitar and string quartet, and the "Licha Trio" which he formed in 1978. The Licha consisted of guitar along with combinations of flute, violin, viola, and cello, as appropriate.

Mr. Marlow arranged music from the Middle Ages through the Twentieth Century. His original compositions have been performed by the Sunrise Quartet, the Camerata Cuatro, and the Washington Guitar Quintet, among others.

Gordon Kreplin, one of Mr. Marlow's former students, has been selected artist-in-residence at the Conservatorio Regional da Horta, in Fial, Portugal, where he will initiate its guitar program this fall. Mr. Kreplin received his Bachelor of Arts degree from American University and subsequently studied with Jose Tomas. Last spring he completed a successful six-week tour of South America and will soon embark upon a tour of the U.S. Mid-Atlantic region.

He is about to release his second recording, "Journeys", featuring "Mass for Solo Guitar" newly written for him by Robert Powell, Director of Music at the Christ Episcopal Church in Greenville, North Carolina. This recording will also include works by Albeniz, Ascencio, Barrios, and Villa-Lobos and will be released on the Asencion label, P.O. Box 44459, Ft. Washington, Maryland 20744, (301) 292-0572.

Mr. Kreplin will return periodically to perform in the U.S. The Society wishes him the best on his new position and on his performing career.

Recordings of Interest

Lawrence Johnson has just released his seventh cassette in the series on the music of Fernando Sor. CRG Records, Box 11132, Rochester, NY 14611 (\$11.95 per cassette).

Pepe Romero - Bach and Sanz. Delos CD 1005.

Manuel Barrueco - Albeniz and Turina. Angel 54382.

Christine Heurtefeux (guitar) and Reine Flachot (cello) - includes Gnattali: Sonata for Guitar and Cello. CIRCE 87121.

Alexander Logoya - Bach. ERATO 229245692.

Trio Concentus - Rossini, L'Hoyer, Diabelli. Nuova Era Records 7110.

Marcel Kayath - Guitar Classics from Latin America, Volume 2. Includes works by Ponce and Barrios-Mangore. IMP Classics PCD 999.

Raphaella Smits - The Romantic Guitar. Includes works by Mertz and Giuliani. Accent-2 ACC 8863.

Virtuoso Guitar Music (chamber). Includes works by Boccherini, Tansman, and Gragnani. KOCH Treasure 3-1612-2.

Christopher Parkening - A Tribute to Segovia. EMI Classics 49404

REVIEW

Christopher Parkening - A Tribute to Segovia by Steven Seidenman

Parkening's latest recording is everything one might expect from this artist. As is well known, Parkening was for many years a Segovia protegee. For those who have attended a Parkening recital, Segovia's influence is readily apparent. Not that one would want to call his interpretations blind imitations of the Master's; rather, a tasteful reflection of so much of what his style and artistry was about.

At the very least, that is precisely what this recording conveys, both through the choice of repertoire, as well as his approach. Naturally enough, it all derives from the great Spanish traditions spanning from the 16th century vihuelists (ed., Spanish lute) such as Sanz and Murcia, through to the 20th century master Moreno-Torroba. In between there are selections by Sor, Granados, Albeniz, and even a couple of pieces by Segovia himself.

Most of this music is very tastefully interpreted and technically flawless. Particularly delightful are the Granados, Segovia, and the Segovia/Llobet arrangements of a few Catalonian Folk Songs, and selections from Moreno-Torroba's "Castles of Spain." On the latter, it is interesting to compare one of the pieces of the set, the "Romance de los Pinos", with the recording he made of it over twenty years ago on his first album, "In The Spanish Style." While his first recording is very adept and technically perfect, the latest one comes across as a bit more spontaneous, while displaying a greater clarity of tone, yet in just as relaxed a manner as one could ask for. Improvements in recording technologies over the years may of course be a factor. In any case, clearly this is a seasoned artist, as reflected in his albums of the last few years.

Some of the Sanz and particularly the Sor "Mozart Variations" were not as stylistically on the mark as one might like (this was often true of Segovia's renditions as well). Overall this album reflects very technically impressive and subtly expressive playing (which, incidentally, takes place on a 1967 Ramirez formerly owned by Segovia). In most respects it lives up to its rather lofty attempt at a Segovia tribute; a worthy "following suite" on Julian Bream's version of six years ago.

Above everything else, though, Parkening's playing has an unmistakably fresh and artistic stamp all its own, as is abundantly evident in this latest recording.

In Memoriam John Marlow (1939 - 1992)

The guitar world was dealt a devastating blow by the sudden and untimely death of John Marlow, the result of a heart attack on August 31, 1992. John Marlow's name and reputation as Washington's foremost guitar pedagogue have long since been so widely acknowledged within the guitar community, that there is hardly anything anyone can say which would not already be known.

Having headed the Guitar and Lute department at The American University for over twenty years, where he studied with his predecessor, Sophocles Papas, Mr. Marlow had become the uncontested Dean of guitar education in the Washington area and brought an uncommon wealth of musical knowledge and sophistication to his teaching. He would always find time for intense discussions about music with anyone expressing a sincere interest. In addition to being one of the finest performers around, this former Segovia student was also highly respected as a composer. For years he was devoted to chamber music performance, having formed his "Licha Trio" in 1978. He wanted to be thought of as a "champion of the cause for chamber music with guitar."

Considering Mr. Marlow's influence within the music community, the caliber of artistry found among his students, and the outstanding contributions he made to the guitar repertoire, teaching and scholarship, as well as the friendship and guidance he gave to so many, it is with great sadness that we received the painful news of his passing. We at the Guitar Society will miss him very much and extend our deepest condolences to his wife and family. How fortunate we were to have had the genuine artistic benefit which John Marlow bestowed upon our community.