

The Classical Guitar Society of Washington, D.C.

copyright 1992

Editor - Steven Seidenman

December 1992
No. 3

SOCIETY OFFICERS

The Classical Guitar Society of Washington, DC:

President : Morey Rothberg (301)495-2703
Vice-Pres: Steven Seidenman
Secretary : Peg Dawson
Treasurer : Mark Lewonowski

Articles and announcements of events related to the classical guitar are welcome and should be sent to Editor, Classical Guitar Society of Washington DC 8411 Flower Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912

SOCIETY EVENTS

The Classical Guitar Society of Washington, DC Series (all performances are at the Silver Spring Library, 8901 Colesville Rd, one-half block north of Spring Street at 2:00 pm):

December 5 - Richard Miller

There will be post-recital open participation guitar playing. Please bring your guitar.

AREA EVENTS

The D'Addario Foundation has announced its 1992-3 concert series. The Washington, DC series will be held at the Annunciation Church, 3810 Massachusetts Ave, NW at 8:00 pm. Remaining series performers will be:

Jan 15 - Jad Azkoul whose performance will include works by Barrios, Silvestre, Piazzola, and Albeniz.

Feb 12 - Guitar Trek (quartet)

Mar 26 - David Russell

Tickets are available at the concerts for \$15.00

per person. Contact Connie McKenna at (202) 296-7992 or (202) 296-3509 for information.

Make checks payable to The D'Addario Foundation and send along with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to:

c/o Connie McKenna
Suite 406, 1330 New Hampshire Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20036

Dec 13 - Steven Seidenman at 2:00 pm
Borders Bookshop
11500 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD

Dec 17 - Flutar Duo (see article on page 2)
German Embassy and at the Classical Guitar Society of Washington DC this Spring.

The Baltimore Classical Guitar Society Concert Series 1992-93 at the Walters Art Gallery, 600 N. Charles St:

Feb 7 DAVID LEISNER at 3:00 pm.

Apr 24 PACO DE MALAGA & ANA MARTINEZ (Flamenco Guitarist and Dancer) at 8:00 pm.

Individual tickets will be on sale one month before each concert: \$12 - general public, \$10 - BCGS, ASTA, Walters members, students & seniors or subscribe to the series at an average cost of \$9 per concert. Make checks payable to The Baltimore Classical Guitar Society and mail to:

4607 Maple Ave
Baltimore, MD 21227

For more information call (410) 242-2744.

December's Performer

Classical Guitar Society of Washington DC

Richard Miller received a Bachelor of Music degree in Performance and Theory from the University of Tennessee, where he studied guitar with Mario Abril. He earned his Master of Music degree in Performance from the Manhattan School of Music. His teachers there included Sharon Isbin and Nicholas Goluses. He is currently working towards a Ph.D. in Music Theory on full scholarship, with a minor in Latin American music, and studies guitar with Carlos Barbosa-Lima.

Miller has performed widely throughout the Washington metropolitan area, including a recital at the Brazilian-American Cultural Institute. He has also performed in his native country, Brazil. Miller's program will be devoted to Brazilian music, and will include works by Nazareth, Pernambuco, Anibal Augusto Sardinha "Garoto", Cequinha Abreu, and Villa-Lobos.

degree from the Catholic University of America and graduated cum laude from the Glassboro State College in New Jersey with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Performance. She is the chairman of the A.S.T.A. MD/DC Guitar Division, and coordinates its guitar-related activities. She also directs the Guitar Program at both The Catholic University of America and Georgetown University.

She has been a recipient of the Montpelier Recital Series Competition Award, and has also performed as an international competition winner in Santiago de Compostella, Spain. Her many Washington performances have included recitals at the State Department, the Lyceum, the Organization of American States, the National Gallery of Art, and the Italian Embassy.

In addition to her classical guitar activities, she has an interest in preserving the best of the traditional folk ballads, enhancing them with the benefit of her classical training.

AREA ARTISTS

Joseph Cunliffe is a graduate of The Catholic University of America. He served as president of the Flute Society of Washington, DC and is currently Associate Band Director at the Landon School. He is also Director of Instrumental Music at the National Cathedral School and St. Alban's School.

He is active both as a concert performer and recording artist and has appeared on stage with such jazz greats and Stanley Clark and George Drake as a member of the DC All-Stars. Joseph was featured in a Library of Congress sponsored documentary film, "Poets' Songs," in which he joined forces with poet Jere Carroll for a unique synthesis of poetry and music. He also performs with the "Celtic Consort" at its seasonal concerts at the Dumbarton Church.

Giorgia Cavallaro received a Master of Music

El Salvador Revisited

by Steven Seidenman

Occasionally one encounters a musical presentation which manages to synthesize diverse stylistic elements into a fresh artistic idea of genuine sincerity and conviction. This is certainly the case with the duo Flutar's just-released premier CD, "Dreams of Suchitlan."

The album reflects their highly successful tours of Central America, particularly in El Salvador, and is dedicated to the peace that has ultimately prevailed over the civil wars that were taking place during the duo's first tour to the country. The title derives from the name of the lake to the north of the country's capital.

Flutar consists of two outstanding Washington-based artists: flutist Joseph Cunliffe and guitarist Giorgia Cavallaro, each of whom

has for years been successfully active as a performer and educator (see Area Artists). They have been performing as a duo for twelve years, and have consistently received high critical praise, both in the U.S. and abroad.

Judging from this first recording, theirs is a very refined sort of duo playing, full of originality and conviction. It is obvious that these musicians have studied their music carefully, and that both of them listen to what the other is doing in a way that allows for very precise, yet spontaneous interpretations.

The all-too-few solo renditions they have included give an opportunity to focus on their high merits as soloists. Mr. Cunliffe contributes two original compositions, one of which is a memorable meditative essay for solo flute. Ms. Cavallaro gives stylistically fresh, sensitive readings of two pieces from the traditional guitar repertoire.

"Dreams of Suchitlan" represents a novel approach in its judicious combination of beloved folk melodies and classical guitar (there are a few surprises along the way). It allows us to enjoy music seldom heard within the context of classical music, as rendered in exemplary guitar-flute duo playing. As such, it is a welcome addition to the discography for this medium.



This painting was commissioned from Shanay, the town of Suchitoto's celebrated artist. It reflects the idyllic panorama from which the title of the album is derived.

"Dreams of Suchitlan" is available on CD or tape from Joseph Cunliffe at ETERNA Records, 3607 Longfellow Street, Apt. #3, Hyattsville, MD 20782, (301) 927-1661.

Buying a Classical Guitar: The Basics

by Morey Rothberg

Whether you are a novice guitar player, an advanced student, or a professional, buying a classical guitar requires that you think carefully about your personal needs, preferences and abilities in relation to the wide range of guitars on the market. According to Gus Wanner of The Guitar Shop on Connecticut Avenue, there are five essential elements to consider when choosing a classical guitar:

- 1) Getting the best instrument within a given price range. This means choosing a guitar based upon the sound that you get from it and not on the brand name or the country in which it was made.
- 2) Does the guitar play in tune all the way up the neck?
- 3) Is the guitar easy to finger?
- 4) Is the guitar well made? In particular, the top surface of the guitar should be firmly attached, and there should be no loose braces inside the body. Apart from appearance, dents on the guitar do not matter, but cracks do.
- 5) Does the guitar complement your playing style? A flamenco guitarist, for example, will have specific requirements that other guitarists may not.

In future issues, we will focus on the different ways in which guitars are made, and how these differences affect their sound and cost. For further information, Gus Wanner can be contacted at (202)331-7333.

Ensemble Playing

by Cathy Fleming

There are many benefits to be derived from playing in an ensemble. I am not saying this just because I am new to the Capitol area and eager to find playing partners! When I lived in Detroit, I was fortunate to have a guitar teacher, Michael Stockdale, from Great Britain. He had trained in the conservatories there and had a solid background in performance and pedagogy. He was brave enough to take four of his students and form a guitar ensemble.

In a little less than a calendar year we were ready to "take our act on the road." We performed in the music school recitals, at churches and in nursing homes. Using our music as the vehicle, we had lots of fun and brought enjoyment to all kinds of people. We were able to demonstrate the beauty and versatility of our chosen instrument in a way that we might never have been able to do had we waited until each of us was, individually, an accomplished solo performer.

For the past five years I have spent the last week in July at the University of Cincinnati Classical Guitar Workshop. Clare Callahan at the College Conservatory of Music shares freely all that she knows of music and of life. It's a joy, and I have collected many musical "hope chest" items that are just waiting to be played. The music from the workshop and my personal library covers a variety of periods and styles, instrumentation, and wide levels of musical abilities. If you are interested in getting together to read through some of this material, please call Cathy Fleming at (202) 546-8364.

Included our previous issue in the article "Master of the Ten-String Guitar" (by Steven Siedenman) which discussed Narciso Yepes was a discography of records (LP's). Much from these recordings has been re-released by Deutsche Grammophon in Compact Disk (CD) format along with some

additional, newer performances.

* Guitarra Espanola - 5 CD set DG 435 841-2
(individual CD's as follows)

DG 435 842-2 -- Sanz, Mudarra, Narvaez, Soler, and 10 Sor studies

DG 435 843-2 -- Albeniz, Granados, Tarrega, Falla, Turina, Bacarisse, and Yepes

DG 435 844-2 -- Tarrega, Turina, Llobet, Rodrigo, and Ruiz-Pipo

DG 435 845-2 -- Rodrigo (Concierto de Aranjuez), Bacarisse (Concerto in a minor), Ruiz-Pipo (Tablas)

DG 435 846-2 -- Rodrigo (Fantasia para un gentilhombre), Ohana (Concerto: Tres graficos), Rodrigo (Concierto madrigal)

* Rodrigo - Concierto de Aranjuez and Fantasia para un gentilhombre DG 415 349-2

* Canciones Espanolas - with Teresa Berganza (2 CDs) DG 435 848-2

* Boccherini - Quintets DG 429 512-2

* Vivaldi - Concerti for Lute & Mandolin with Takashi & Silvia Ochi DG 429 528-2

* Scarlatti - Sonatas DG 413 783-2

* Villa-Lobos - Concerto, 12 etudes, and 5 preludes DG 423 700-2

* Tarrega - including Recuerdos de la Alhambra, Lagrima DG 410 655-2

* Romance D'Amour - Sabio, Albeniz, Maza, Moreno, Albeniz, Pujol, Sor, Falla, Granados, and Ruiz-Pipo DG 423-699-2

* Guitar Duos with Godelieve Monden - Ford, Carulli, Gurdjieff, Castelnuovo-Tedesco, Petit, and Rodrigo RCA 09026-60764-2