

# Washington Guitar Society



No. 21

Volume 3 Issue 5

June/July 1995

## RICHARD STRASSER PERFORMS for WGS in June

Richard Strasser began playing the guitar at the age of 12 and after two years won a full scholarship to attend the Canberra School of Music to study with the Australian guitarist Timothy Kain. It was at the Canberra school of music that he was awarded a Bachelor of Music degree with honors in performance and a post graduate diploma.

After receiving the Queen Elizabeth II Silver jubilee award and the Australian council scholarship, Richard began studies with Carlos Barbosa-Lima at the Manhattan School of Music. In 1992 he completed his Master of Music degree, receiving the Andres Segovia Award for excellence in performance. Richard is currently completing a Doctor of Musical Arts degree at the Manhattan School of Music. He is currently completing his dissertation on recent guitar concerti of Joseph Schwantner, John Corigliano, Michael Torke and John Anthony Lennon, under the supervision of David Starobin.

Richard has been a recipient of several awards including a winner at the Australian Guitar Competition, the National Eisteddfod and a finalist at the Manhattan School of Music concerto competition. He has performed throughout Australia, America and in Italy. Richard has also an interest in chamber music and has been a founding member of several innovative ensembles including the Manhattan Guitar Trio and Guitar Trek. He has also recorded a CD for the Australian ABC label.

Richard plays a guitar made by Greg Smallman. He is playing June 10, at 2 pm at the Bethesda Public Library 7400 Arlington Rd. Bethesda, MD. See the Calendar of Events for more information.

## IVAN RIJOS REVIEW

A standing ovation and two encores was the way Ivan Rijos finished his performance for the Washington Guitar Society on Sunday May 21 at the Reid Foundation Building in Washington, DC.

Maestro Rijos is the winner of so many international competitions and awards I dare not use up the space of this publication. After his performance, everyone in attendance can certainly understand why.

Competitions have developed the stereotype of presenting their

awards to the technically developed and musically lacking. Ivan is certainly technically developed, but his musicality is far from lacking.

His reserved mannerism might lead one to think that his playing would be shy and timid, but it's not! Ivan's goal is to move his listener with emotions of every range. He does this with a big beautiful sound when needed and with a small sound when the music demands it. His conviction in the music he plays is undoubtable. He held the ears of the audience literally in his hands.

His program consisted of a *Pavanne* and *Les Barricades Miserieuses* by Couperin, *Suite in D minor* by de Murcia, *Adagio and Polonesa* by Aguado, *Drei Tentos* by Henze, *Canticum* by Brouwer, *Four Pieces: Mallorca, Cadiz, Tango and Cordoba* by Albeniz, *Etudes 7 and 12* by Villa-Lobos and *Fandango* by Rodrigo. His first encore was one of his own compositions "*Lagrimas de Jesus*" (The Tears of Jesus) and his second was a Puerto Rican Spiritual, "*Praised Be His Name*".

Ivan plays on a guitar made by luthier Pablo Quintana Soto (Miami) who gave Rijos the instrument after hearing him at a competition in 1982. At the time, Ivan did not have a concert instrument. Mr. Soto, your gift was not in vain. Ivan produces one of the richest sounds I've heard from a guitar in recent years. It almost sounds like a piano.

Ivan is probably in Mexico performing the Rodrigo's Aranjuez as I write this. From there, he will go to Spain on a Fulbright Scholarship to research ancient music and perform music by living composers. Also in his schedule are performances in Greece, Puerto Rico and in about a year, he will be in Washington again performing at the Smithsonian. I'll be there!

Kevin Vigil

### In this month's WGS Newsletter Issue:

New Music...

President's Message...

Performance Reviews...

Concert Announcements...

Sessions You Can Participate In...

