

Colorado Springs Guitar Society Newsletter

October 2010

In this issue:

- The next meeting: **Monday October 11th**
- Last month's CSGS meeting
- Last month's concert by classical guitarist Michael Anthony Nigro at ASUUC
- The Gothenburg Combo's New CD: "Sketches of the World" (by Jim Bosse)
- Other upcoming concerts
- CSGS Website status
- Music Quotes

Last Month's Meeting

Last month's CSGS meeting was held Monday, **September 13th**, at ASUUC. The performers and pieces played were:

- Group ensemble (dir. Jim Bosse): "Wind from the South" (Irish trad.), "Follow me up to Carlow" (Irish trad.), Minuet in G major (G. F. Handel), The Pavane of Welburn (Anon.) and "Brian Boru's March" (Irish trad.)
- Bert Bradford: Prelude and Allemande in D minor (Robert deVisee), and Etude in A major, Op. 15 (Matteo Carcassi)
- Rock Goldberg (guitar/soprano recorder) and Mike Richard (alto recorder/guitar): Minuets I and II (Henry Purcell)
- Mike Richard and Rock Goldberg (guitar duet): "Lesson for Two Lutes" (anon.)
- Rock Goldberg: Estudio #3, Andantino (Matteo Carcassi)
- Jim Bosse (guitar): "Simon and Garfunkle medley" (Paul Simon, arr. Jim Bosse) [Jim challenged the group to name all of the tunes upon completion of the medley, with the winner getting one of his CD's; Bert Bradford was the winner, naming all 5 tunes!]
- Tom Stringer: 3 Preludios: "Rockero", "Curda Tangueda", and "Candombe en mi" (Maximo Diego Pujol)

CSGS Officers:

- **Mike Zimmerman**, President
- **Jim Bosse**, Vice President
- **Bruce Downs**, Secretary
- **Greg Playle**, Webmaster
- **Tom Stringer**, Newsletter Editor
- **2010 Student Coordinator:**
 - **Ashley Lutton**

Contact information: <http://www.coloradospringsguitarsociety.org/>

The Next Meeting of the CSGS

Meetings are always the second Monday of each month, at All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church (ASUUC), 730 North Tejon, at 7:30 PM. The next meeting is **Monday October 11th**.

All guitarists that wish to may join in playing a set of easy to medium difficulty ensemble pieces, attached with the newsletter:

- "Follow me up to Carlow" (Irish trad.)
- Minuet in G major (G. F. Handel)
- "Wind from the South" (Irish trad.)
- Gavotte (G. F. Handel)
- The Pavane of Welburn (Anon.)

With the exception of the Handel Gavotte, these pieces were also played in September, and recall that some of the notes require higher positions on the fingerboard; but if you can read through and practice them before the meeting they should be manageable. This will be a group activity at the start of the meeting. If you are going to join in on these, please pick and practice the parts you would like to play, if possible please print and bring the sheet music, and please have your guitar tuned to standard pitch before the meeting begins.

Music Quotes

There's music in the sighing of a reed;
There's music in the gushing of a rill;
There's music in all things, if men had ears:
Their earth is but an echo of the spheres.

-Lord Byron

"I love the guitar for its harmony; it is my constant companion in all my travels." - **Nicolo Paganini**

"Nothing is more beautiful than a guitar, save perhaps two!"
- **Frederic Chopin**

"The late Renaissance provides a most fruitful and enjoyable source of music for the guitarist. The tunes were lively and straightforward; the forms uncomplicated; and most important of all, some of the best composers of the period were writing for plucked strings." - **Frederick Noad**

Classical guitarist Michael Anthony Nigro's concert

The Colorado Springs Guitar Society presented a concert by Michael Anthony Nigro on September 25th at All Souls Unitarian Church. He presented a dazzling, beautifully played program of virtuoso Latin American music, by Jose Luis Merlin, Jorge Cardoso, Eduardo Falú, and Máximo Diego Pujol. The program included a set of duets with Jim Bosse, and also a premier performance of two quartets by José Paredes, titled "Monte Arido" and "Cancion Serrana", written with the CSGS and for several other guitarists in mind. Michael and the quartet members are shown at ASUUC just prior to the concert in the photo below.



Michael Anthony Nigro, Classical Guitarist (center), pictured with the CSGS Quartet (r. to l., Jim Bosse, Mike Zimmerman, Bonnie Moffitt-Clark, and Tom Stringer).

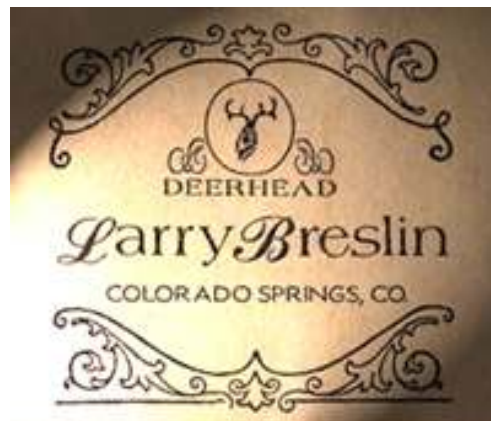
For more information on Michael Anthony Nigro, and his available CD's, see his web site at www.nigroclassicalguitar.com.

A video recording of the quartet performance of the pieces was sent to José Paredes in Argentina where he lives, and. The composer wrote back the following (translated by Jim from the Spanish): *"I have seen the videos and am delighted. Greetings and great, sincere congratulations to all the performers of the quartet. Thanks again for playing this music. It pleases me much."*

Upcoming Concerts

- Jim Bosse will be opening for the Cañon Rose Acoustic Society show in Cañon City, Colorado on Saturday night, October 9th, 7:00 pm, at the Four Mile Community Center just east of Sonny's Ace Hardware store. He will be performing 5 of his arrangements of popular rock songs for solo classical guitar. Admission charge is \$6 (kids are free).
- The "Take Two Acoustic Rock Duo" (Rudy Melena and Jim Bosse) will perform at Providence Tavern, 5280 West 25th Ave. in Edgewater, Colorado, 7 pm on Saturday, October 23. Jim's daughter, Krysty, will make a guest appearance. Admission is free (no cover charge).

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Musicians wanted for Sunday Services at ASUUC

ASUUC occasionally requests classical guitarists for their Sunday services. The agreement is that the CSGS is allowed use of the church facilities for the meetings in exchange for providing music during their services. Solos, duets, etc are welcome. Please contact Mike Zimmerman if you would like to perform occasionally at ASUUC services. *(Editor's note: if you play for a service, we will, if you wish, include a photo and a brief note about the pieces you played.---TAS).*



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The Gothenburg Combo's New CD: "Sketches of the World"

Reviewed by Jim Bosse

Editor's note: this duo has performed at a CSGS meeting, and their performance was stunningly beautiful and virtuosic. They are pictured below performing at ASUUC in 2009.



I felt compelled to make certain disclosures in the prelude of this CD review. First, I consider Thomas Hansy and David Hansson among my circle of guitar friends. The positive aspect of this is that I have heard them perform several times and am intimately familiar with their enormous talent and depth of musicianship. I bring to this review a familiarity with their youthful energy, profound commitment to their ensemble and their quirky Swedish personalities.

I must make this disclosure because I am completely biased. I believe the Gothenburg Combo to be one of the best guitar duos performing today. They asked me to write this review (disclosure number two) and before I received the CD, I knew it would be fantastic. They are incapable of releasing anything less. In my defense, I am certainly not alone in this prejudice. Every other guitarist that I know, who has heard them, expresses the same opinion, and the 2004 jury of the prestigious Concours Internationale de Guitare en Duo awarded the Gothenburg Combo first prize.

After listening to the CD I realized there should be other disclosures. This CD is rated X (for eXperimental). It is definitely not G and parental guidance is recommended. Well, maybe consult your neighborhood musicologist or, even better, read the CD booklet prior to listening.

One last disclosure, or better stated, a warning. Caution is advised when listening if you have a heart condition, if you have had surgery recently, if you are pregnant or if your taste in music is excessively and rigidly narrow. If contemporary music gives you headaches, if you believe a piece is innately worthless if the composer is still alive, if you leave concerts at intermission if any modern music is included on the second half of the program: then maybe this CD is not for you. Or, perhaps it should be especially for you?

Enough preliminary verbiage. So I get the CD as I am leaving for a two hour drive. With eager anticipation I decide to listen to it for the first time in my SUV (with knobby mud and snow tires). As the stereo display approaches 2:00 minutes I still hear nothing above the ambient tire noise, in spite of maxing the volume control. I am disappointed thinking that this CD must be defective. No, they have scammed me! Just like they did last year, when after they left my home after a short visit, my computer was set on Swedish. It took my wife three days to figure out how to reset it back to English! Then, all of a sudden, a bombardment of loud sounds, my truck swerves as I frantically grab to turn down the volume prior to speaker damage. Another warning, use caution if listening while driving!

After listening (with the volume properly adjusted) to the first three movements my impressions is that there is not much guitar present in these first three tracks. Thomas and David must be conducting an ensemble of 8 or so skilled percussionists performing on various kitchen utensils, power tools and a jack hammer (for track 3) that was borrowed from a road construction crew. All this sound must have been processed and enhanced via computer. There must have been something going on in the first two minutes of track one that I could not hear. So I do the sensible thing. I pull over; turn off the engine, and read the CD booklet, then start over, listening to track one.

I was quite surprised to read in the CD booklet that "...no electronics were used producing the sounds on this album. Everything is performed "live" on two acoustic guitars with no overdubbing." Now I am really going to listen carefully. I have doubts about this. I can't wait to see them perform this piece live, to witness how in the world they could possibly generate all this sound live on two acoustic guitars. As a composer of guitar music, I want to see the score. I can't even image how all these sounds were notated.

The first work on this CD, and the main event, is “The Seven Continents”, composed by the Gothenburg Combo to perform “at the ISCM World Music Day 2009, the world’s most important festival for contemporary classical music”. The first movement is “Antarctica” so, with the road noise now gone, I can appreciate the scant subtle sounds of the first few minutes as the piece slowly develops. Knowing the program I now can visualize the desolation and understand the landscape presented in this piece. The sounds bring me to scenes where the ice below me is cracking, I witness in the mind’s eye, glaciers marching forward and abruptly cracking and crashing into the sea as calving occurs. The 7:37 minutes passes quickly as I enjoy the musically guided fantasy journey to this remote continent.

I decide to treat myself to one more track prior to starting my engine and continuing my drive. Track two presents “South America”, a continent I have visited over a dozen times and where I first met the Gothenburg Combo. I have fond memories of spending a week with Thomas and David at a large guitar festival in Arequipa, Peru in 2007. I can now hear more guitar in this movement, and Latin rhythms appropriately pervade the sonic landscape presented.

Track 3 presents Asia. More use of prepared guitar expands the sonic palate further. This trend is continued as each of the remaining continents unfolds novel sounds and creates varied musical atmospheres. Asia evokes an exotic, mysterious oriental mood. Europe is tragically apocalyptic. North America presently a busy city with a techno minimalist flavor. Australia takes you to the outback where you experience a nightmare listening to all the frightening sounds of creatures roaming about. The piece concludes with Africa in which their guitars somehow generate Kalimba and other native African instrument sounds.

The final four tracks on this CD aptly demonstrate that the Gothenburg Combo can play their guitars normally, when they choose to. Hopping around the planet continues however. Track 8 presents their lovely guitar duo arrangement of a simple Chinese folk song, Zhi Zhou Diao (Melody of the Purple Bamboo). This guitar duo possesses impressive virtuosity, impeccable tight ensemble and rich musicality. All are displayed in the final tracks. Track 9 is an exciting version of “Sones y Flores” by Eduardo Martin and Walfrido Dominguez which the Gothenburg Combo learned from two Cuban guitarists. For track 10 they perform a stunning version of Astor Piazzolla’s “Milonga del Angel”. The CD concludes with another original composition by the Gothenburg Combo, “Al-Andalus”, inspired by the Arabic Moorish influence on Spanish Flamenco music. Their imaginations run wild a bit again here, as you hear rough Arabic lute sounds, excerpts from Rodrigo’s concerto Aranjuez, and flamenco guitars.

You can listen to several tracks from this CD on the Gothenburg Combos web page www.gbgcombo.com. The CD may be purchased from www.cdmarket.eu or www.NAXOSdirect.se.

Status of the New CSGS Website

Greg Playle continues to work on and update the CSGS website. He has placed several back issues of the CSGS newsletters on the site, as well as some recent photos of members, concerts, etc. If you have any ideas about what you would like to see added to the website, please contact him at Webmaster@ColoradoSpringsGuitarSociety.org or discuss them with him at the next meeting.