



Colorado Springs Guitar Society Newsletter

June 2011

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CSGS Officers:

- **Mike Zimmerman**, President
- **Jim Bosse**, Vice President
- **Bruce Downs**, Secretary
- **Greg Playle**, Webmaster
- **Tom Stringer**, Newsletter Editor
- **Mark Mathews**, Member at Large (see page 2)

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, and are *free and open to the public*. The next meeting is **Monday June 13th**.

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

- Gavotte and Bouree (Handel)
- Pavane of Welburn (arr. Forest)
- Mermaid (arr. D. Hasted)
- "Sakura" (Japanese trad.)
- Andante (J. Haydn)
- Folk Song from Chile (arr Thorlaksson)
- "Follow Me up to Carlow" (Irish trad.)

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 also please have your guitar tuned to standard pitch before the meeting begins.

Colorado Springs Guitar Society Concert Series In Collaboration with Colorado College Summer Arts Festival Presents Jonathan Leathwood in Concert



The concert will be at **2:00pm on Sunday, July 10, 2011 in Packard Hall**. General admission is \$15; \$10 for seniors, CSGS members and CC faculty and employees; and \$5 for students. (note the afternoon concert start time).

Jonathan Leathwood is one of the few guitarists to perform on six-string guitars and ten string guitars, mixing modern and traditional works in his innovative programs. Some of his recent recitals include appearances at the Festival di Cervo in Italy, the International Festival of the Classical Guitar at West Dean in the UK, the Nurtigen Festival in Germany, the D. Marin Festival in Turkey, London's Wigmore Hall (with flautist William Bennett), the Almeida Festival, the Cheltenham Festival and the Aldeburgh Festival. He has performed in Germany, France, Belgium, Holland, Italy and the United States.

(continued next page)

Jonathan is equally known as a collaborator with both performers and composers. He has recorded two albums with the legendary flautist William Bennett, and plays regularly with flutist Christina Jennings. He has also recorded and broadcast with elite cellists Rohan de Saram and Steven Isserlis. His commissions from young composers such as Param Vir, Stephen Goss, Robert Keeley and Chris Malloy have pushed the boundaries of both six- and ten-string guitars; his recordings of Goss and Malloy are now available on the Cadenza label. His exploration of the works of English composer Stephen Dodgson led in 2006 to the release of an album in which Jonathan has made premiere recordings of a number of his solo and chamber works (also on the Cadenza label). His forthcoming recordings will feature music by Britten, Maw, Rodrigo, Mompou, Falla, Keeley and Iznabela.

Last year, Jonathan was approached by the legendary guitarist Julian Bream to join him in a project to commission new solo guitar works by major composers, beginning with a substantial work by Sir Harrison Birtwistle. Jonathan will launch this initiative with a solo concert at London's Wigmore Hall in November 2011.

This concert marks the 25th year for the Colorado Springs Guitar Society – the longest continually active guitar society in the state of Colorado. To celebrate this event a guitar ensemble comprised of CSGS presidents will open the concert. This ensemble contains all performing past and present presidents of CSGS; founding member and first president, Jim Bosse, past president, Elwood Colahan, and current president, Mike Zimmerman. All will perform on their guitars built by Luthier Randy Reynolds, who is also a CSGS past president.

Last Month's Meeting

Last month's CSGS meeting was held Monday, May 9th, at ASUUC. The performers and pieces played were:

- Group pieces : Minuet and Bouree (G. F. Handel), Allemandes 1 and 2 (Tielman Susato), "Sakura" (Japanese trad. melody), Andante (Joseph Haydn), and Pavane of Welburn (Anon.)
- Mike Richard: Allegro in A minor (F. Carulli)
- Mike Richard and Rock Goldberg: "Fuga Autentica in Arie Francese" (Adriano Banchieri) and Fughetta (Johann Pachelbel)
- Bert Bradford: Study no. 17 (M. Carcassi) and Minuet II in D minor (Robert DeVisee)
- Rock Goldberg (guitar): Waltz and Andante (F. Carulli)
- Bob Camley: "Windy and Warm" (John D. Loudermilk)
- Tom Stringer: 1st movement (Allegro) from "Sonata Clasica" (Manuel Ponce)
- Jim Bosse: 3 Minuets (Johann Sebastian Bach)
- Jeff Copeland: Sonata, Homage to Scriabin (Leo Brouwer)

Upcoming Concerts

Classical guitar recital by guitar virtuoso Jonathan Leathwood

Sponsored by the CSGS. The concert is 10 July 2011, **2 PM**, at Packard Hall, Colorado College. General admission is \$15; \$10 for seniors, CSGS members and CC faculty and employees; and \$5 for students. (note the afternoon concert start time).

Classical Guitarist Mir Ali in Concert

Sponsored by the Colorado Springs Conservatory. **3 p.m., Saturday, June 11, Packard Hall**, 5 W. Cache La Poudre St., \$15, \$5 for students, or \$10 with a CC ID; tickets at the door. Since winning his first competition at the age of 13, Pakistani-born guitar virtuoso and composer Mir Ali has been described by Acoustic Guitar Magazine as "an exceptional nylon-string guitarist," as "mesmerizing and hypnotic" by NPR, and as "innovative and eclectic" by Soundboard magazine. His recent tours include performances and master classes in India, Romania, Spain, Italy, and Canada. The concert will feature selections from Ali's newest CD, "Amistad," comprised of works by Latin American, Brazilian, and classical composers, including several original works of Ali.

Stargazers Theater*, at 10 S. Parkside Dr., Colorado Springs www.stargazerstheatre.com brings in a number of music concerts potentially of great interest to CSGS newsletter readers. See the web site above for a list of their concerts and other events.

*Stargazers Theatre and Event Center is a multi use indoor facility with a seating capacity of 500 people concert style and 220 people banquet style. They feature concert events ranging from rock, country, blues, jazz, classic rock, folk, Celtic, bluegrass, comedy and more.

Welcome Mark Mathews as CSGS Member-at-Large

In a weak moment of compassion, CSGS meeting regular Mark Mathews has offered to help out the CSGS with miscellaneous tasks that arise, as well as contribute material to the newsletter. As a faux jazz guitarist, he sees the need for other guitar styles to be represented and has offered to write a semi-regular column about jazz, acoustic, and classical topics. Be careful what you say to him at the meetings as your name and opinions just may end up in print.

(see Mark's column, "GUITAR MUSE", on the next page)

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Puzzle

What does the following sequence of numbers represent?
{13, 11, 8, 12, 10, 14, 12}
(answer is given on page 3)

GUITAR MUSE

by Mark Mathews

Paul McCartney said in an interview that he and George Harrison as teenagers would go to parties with their guitars and play Bach's E minor Bouree to impress the girls. It later became the inspiration for the Beatle's song, "Blackbird", from their White Album. David Brooks in his latest book, "The Social Animal" introduces us to the Greek word "thumos" which describes the innate desire of mankind to be recognized. And he goes on to make the case of how man has a desperate need to belong to a culture. It's convenient that we have our world of guitar to wow the masses and be recognized. It doesn't matter if the guitar is played in the classical "interpretive" style, or the jazz "improvisational" style; it provides a great opportunity to satisfy our own thumos. And as a guitar listener, you can satisfy the need to immerse oneself in the guitar culture, a guitar "humanitas".

The recent Sam Cogburn concert here in Colorado Springs revealed a fellow in a quest to vitalize his own thumos. He presented a program of Nin-Culmell, Sor, Rodrigo, Takemitsu, and Turina. He tempered his selections with deference to his spiritual influences by encoring with a couple of nice hymns. Kudos, Sam. The sparse audience was willing to support him in his quest, and thus reinforce their own humanitas. You should have been there. Please attend live guitar music when you can. There is a surprising

variety of acoustic and jazz guitar performances around this town, as well as Denver, and Pueblo. This will enhance the performing guitarists' thumos, and your own humanitas. Of course, the internet is now providing a way to get some exposure to many music cultures, although I don't think watching the screen for hours is quite the same immersion as attending live performances.

Here are two sites that can bring you closer to the world of guitar. The first has videos of classical performances, and the second has biographies of many jazz guitarists:

www.guitarist.com/blog/
www.classicjazzguitar.com

... and there is always YouTube. Please contribute your own favorite guitar web sites to the webmaster for inclusion on the CSGS web page to share with others.

Until next time,
Mark Mathews



Quotes and Anecdotes

by Mark Mathews

"You can't think and play. If you think about what you're playing the playing becomes stilted. You have to just focus on the music I feel, concentrate on the music, focus on what you're playing and let the playing come out. Once you start thinking about doing this or doing that, it's not good. What you are doing is like a language. You have a whole collection of musical ideas and thoughts that you've accumulated through your musical history plus all the musical history of the whole world and it's all in your subconscious and you draw upon it when you play"
- *Joe Pass*

"What is jazz? A loaded question, often asked, and never fully answered. My own favorite response is the late critic and writer Whitney Balliett's: the sound of surprise."
- *Ron Davis*

"Both optimists and pessimists contribute to our society. The optimist invents the airplane and the pessimist the parachute."
- *G. B. Stern*

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).*

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.

Answer to Puzzle on page 2

The days of the month for the rest of 2011 for the CSGS meetings.



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Master luthier Randy Reynolds (see his ad above) has a blog with a number of great, informative articles that will of interest to guitarists. You can read all of these articles at <http://www.reynoldsguitars.com/blog.shtml>. Articles that can be read on his site deal with, to give a couple of examples, evaluating the tone and dynamic range of a new guitar, and the pros and cons of choosing a luthier-built guitar.