

# Colorado Springs Guitar Society Newsletter

September 2006

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## The Next Meeting of the CSGS:

The next meeting will be on **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> of September**, at All Souls Unitarian Church, starting at 7:30 PM. Please bring your guitar and play, or just come to listen and/or network with other attendees. And as always, please feel free to bring guests to listen or play.

## Music Quotes

".....I look first at the technical difficulty of the piece and I play through it quite a lot. And then I get the musical shape of it and then I will look at the music in a more analytical way and see how best I can bring out the form of the music. Then I work on the fingering, which is very important, because that gives you the phrasing and the tone color. So after working on the analytical part, which is stage three..... Stage four is trying to reveal the beauty of the music and the form of the music. For this you need to carefully finger each note, so that it says what you wanted to say."

--*Julian Bream, classical guitarist and lutenist* (on being asked how he prepares a new piece of music for performance)

"I'm not saying that one cannot play fast, I'm simply saying that it is not the objective. Actually I think speed comes as a result of control. Many students try to play faster by putting more effort in it and it never works, it never works! It's completely counter productive for them. I know because I went through this too. I felt very empty when I was doing this, I felt so empty that I didn't want to go on any more. At some point I just threw the metronome out of the window, literally, I just opened the window and threw it out, and started playing. I think I was reborn as a musician at that moment."

*Eduardo Fernandez, classical guitarist*, (on playing with speed on the guitar)

## Last Month's Meeting

Last month's CSGS meeting was held Monday 14<sup>th</sup> of August at ASUC. The performers and the pieces they played were as follows:

- CSGS Ensemble (Mike Zimmerman, director, with Bill Davis, Ken Stewart, and Lincoln Thomas.)
  - "Scarborough Fair" (traditional, arr. Mike Zimmerman) and "The Old Castle" (M. Mussorgsky)
- Gregory Carlson
  - Variations on "Guardame las Vacas" (L. Narvaez)
  - Three Renaissance lute pieces (Anon.)
- Ken Stewart
  - Prelude to Cello Suite #1 (J. S. Bach)
  - "Julio Florida" (A. Barrios)
  - Zamba (Jose Merlin)
- Bruce Downs
  - Melancholy Galliard (John Dowland)
  - Prelude no. 1 (Heitor Villa-Lobos)
  - "Romance of the Pines" (F. Moreno-Torroba)
- Jim Bosse:
  - 4<sup>th</sup> mvt. from the "Temple Canyon Suite" (Jim Bosse)
  - Lullaby for Alexa "Good Night, My Angel" (Billy Joel, arr. Jim Bosse)
- Tom Stringer:
  - Siciliana from Violin Sonata no. 1 and Courante from Cello Suite no. 6 (J. S. Bach)
- Jim Smith
  - Evocacion (Jose Merlin)
  - Romanza (anon. arr. Jack Marshall)

## Musicians wanted for Sunday Services at All Souls Unitarian Church:

All Souls Unitarian Church (ASUC) requests classical guitar performers for their Sunday services. The agreement with ASUC is that the CSGS is allowed use of the church facilities for the monthly meetings in exchange for the CSGS providing music during their services. Solos, duets, or other musical combinations are welcome. Please contact Mike Zimmerman if you would like to volunteer to perform occasionally at ASUC services throughout the year.

## **A few tidbits of interest to guitarists:**

*Tom Stringer, CSGS Editor*

I rather suspect that in this day and age of Google, Youtube, Yahoo, etc, a lot of you guitarists out there are like me and like to occasionally search and surf the web for interesting tidbits about classical guitar, as well as about music in general. There is, of course, a seemingly infinite amount of material out there. I would like to invite you newsletter readers to e mail me with any guitar related news or information that you have found that you think would be of general interest to other readers. If this is something that catches on with the CSGS newsletter readers, then this column may become a regular feature of the newsletter.

I'll start it off by tossing out a few items that I have found that I found very interesting, and I hope you will too. Of course, this assumes that you have internet access; but after all, if you do not, you are not likely to be reading this.

- There is a daily classical guitar news site, published by Gunnar Eisel of the Bangkok Guitar Society, at [www.worldguitarist.com](http://www.worldguitarist.com); the site is titled "World Guitarist: Daily News Coverage for the World Classical Guitar Community". Interviews with many world class guitarists are accessible from the site, along with a host of other news, and dates of upcoming festivals, concerts, and workshops all over the world.
- One of the things that I think is the most exciting about the contemporary classical guitar scene is the way the instrument is inspiring compositions based on traditions outside of the European "classical music" styles. Some of this music requires special tunings of the guitar, and sometimes even using quarter tone tuning to be able to duplicate the scales of, for example, traditional Middle Eastern plucked string instruments. Classical guitarist Lily Afshar, head of the guitar department at Memphis U. and originally from Iran, can be heard talking about and playing some of the Persian music that has been written for her in an NPR "All Things Considered" interview at <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=5581544>. She points out the music often requires string bending "just like blues". Listen to some of the sound tracks on the site, and you will probably want to get the music and play the pieces; at least that was my reaction.
- Legendary classical guitar phenomena Kazuhito Yamashita can be watched on the "Youtube" site playing---believe it or not---Mussorgsky's "Pictures at an Exhibition", transcribed for solo guitar. The opening "Promenade" and several other opening movements can be found at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gMHQ2a9VTyo>. This was a 1984 performance, apparently filmed for and shown on a Uruguay TV program (unfortunately, the visual and the sound quality is not up to modern standards, but it still comes across). If you find this segment, you will see links appear that will lead you to other segments that will span the entire work. I suggest you try it, and I can virtually guarantee that you will hardly believe your eyes and ears. Classical guitarists, from Segovia on, have of course performed the "Old

Castle" movement, but who would have ever believed that the complete set of pieces could be made to work so effectively? I cannot confirm this, but I am told that Yamashita has stopped playing, and is now a practicing lawyer in Japan. And by the way, while you are on the Youtube web site, you might try searching for other well known guitarist and guitar pieces; there are apparently hundreds of short performance video that can be found. For example, there are many of Segovia, Williams, Bream, and David Russell, just to name a few. Warning: while this can almost be as good as a Master Class, the site can be very addictive.

- Have you ever wondered, as I have, why the opening scale passage in the 7<sup>th</sup> Etude of Villa Lobos is almost always played as a very rapid detached scale (i-m), even though it is marked legato, and it would seem the composer wanted the run to be slurred with the left hand. Well, virtuoso guitarist Tilman Hoppstock shows how it can be played either way, and that both can highly effective. He prefers the slurred method, and I for one am inclined to agree, after listening to him play it both ways. With some amusement, he confesses that he has recorded it with a mix of the two techniques, partly to show that he can do the rapid detached scale (and boy, can he!). The site is at [http://www.lacg.net/artistpage\\_hoppstock.htm](http://www.lacg.net/artistpage_hoppstock.htm), and features an interview with one of the "Los Angeles Classical Guitars:" web site editors.

### **Foothills Guitar Studio**

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### **Upcoming Concerts**

The Colorado Springs Guitar Society presents classical guitarist L. Martin Candelaria in Concert, All Souls Unitarian Church, Tejon and Dale, Thursday November 17<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 PM 2006, 7:30 pm.



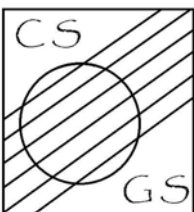
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### Dos Américas CD still available

Dos Américas "Music of Argentina"---Jim Bosse teams up with Argentine virtuoso guitarist Alejandro Dávila for this collection of beautiful guitar duets. This album contains music by Astor Piazzola, Walter Heinze, and Jose Paredes. CDs



### *The Colorado Springs Guitar Society*

*146 Buckeye Dr.  
Colorado Springs, CO 80919*

\$15+\$2 for postage/packaging. Send checks to; Jim Bosse, 29 Eagle Crest Dr, Cañon City, CO, 81212.

### See the CSGS Web page:

Bruce Downs, webmaster for the CSGS website, is in the process of placing on this website a variety of articles and information that will be of interest to CSGS members and other guitar enthusiasts. Check out this website as it evolves and develops, at the web address at the bottom of each page of this newsletter.



### CSGS Officers:

- *Mike Zimmerman*, President
- *Bruce Downs*, Webmaster
- *Tom Stringer*, Newsletter Editor

See the website for contact information