



BCGS newsletter



Volume 17, No. 2, Dec. 2009/February 2010

Coming Events

Friday, January 8, 7:30 p.m.

Frank Wallace, solo guitar. Recital Hall at Concord Community Music School.

Saturday, January 16, 3:00 p.m.

Gerry Johnston, guitar. Saturday Sounds Special Concert Series at the Hingham Library.

Saturday, January 30, 7:30 p.m.

Rebecca Grimes and Dave McLellan, voice and guitar concert.

BCGS Artist Series: Quarteto Vivace Brasil, Sunday, January 31, 3:00 p.m.

Gordon Chapel at the Old South Church, Boston.

Sunday, February 7, 3:00 p.m.

Duo LiveOak. Loring-Greenough House, 12 South St., Jamaica Plain, MA,

Saturday, February 20, 3:00 p.m.

Dan Acsadi, guitar. Saturday Sounds Special Concert Series at the Hingham Library.

See Calendar Section for more information

Contents

Letter to Members	3
No Nocturnal?!	4
Calendar	5
In the News	6
Lezcano Commissioned	6
Classifieds	7

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BCGS Artist Series, January 31, 2010

3:00 p.m., Gordon Chapel
at the Old South Church, Boston

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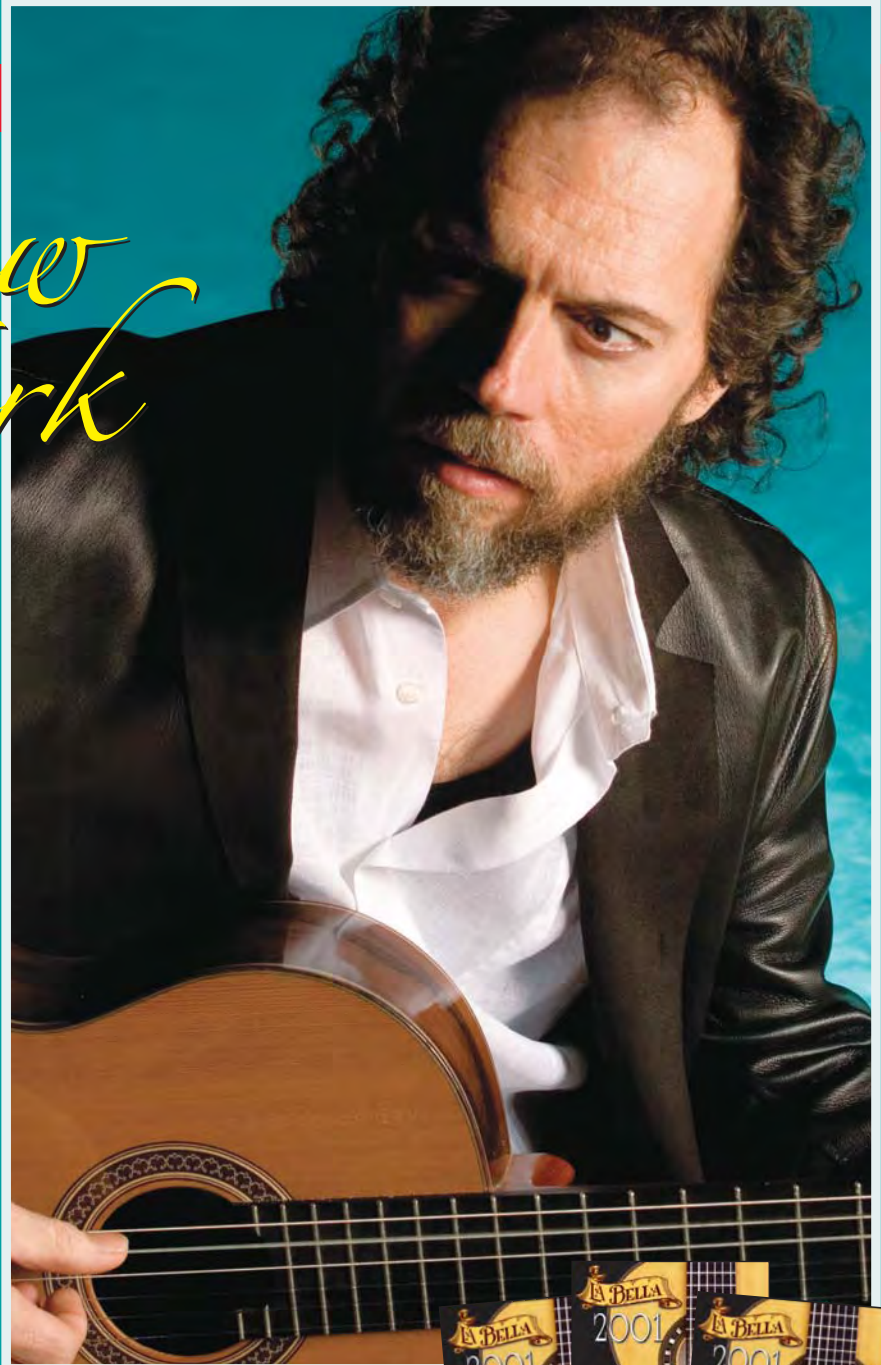
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Letter to Members

Dear Members,



As we approach the halfway point of the 2009-10 BCGS season, we can look back on spectacular concerts by Gabriel Bianco and the Cavatina Duo. In a program anchored by two

Bach violin sonatas, Gabriel exhibited a consistently warm and alluring tone, exquisitely balanced voices and a keen sense of phrasing that captivated the audience. In October, the Cavatina Duo presented a passionate case for contemporary pieces and the joy of listening to guitar in a chamber music setting. Eugenia Moliner's flute was mesmerizing while Denis Azabagic matched her with energetic and technically brilliant guitar playing.

The BCGS will kick-off 2010 with the exciting new ensemble Quarteto Vivace Brasil. Their program will have music to please every taste, incorporating Spanish classics such as Falla and Albeniz, popular tunes from Bizet, Saint-Saens and Scott Joplin, and, of course, irresistible Brazilian melodies and rhythms from Pixinguinha and Villa-Lobos.

On March 7th, Eliot Fisk will lead the 2010 BCGS Benefit Concert, and in April, Festival 21 will present an extravaganza of exciting new music for our instrument, featuring Gyan Riley, the Chroma Duo, Jose Lezcano, and Andrew McKenna Lee. Look further in this issue to find out about a special ticket package that entitles you to a free CD!

The energy keeps building at our performance parties. Thanks go out to Jerald Harscher and Scott Borg for giving their expertise, to the amazing hosts, and the expert coordination of Oscar Azaret. 2010 will also bring an excellent way for members to play guitar and participate: the BCGS guitar orchestra. More details will follow online and in upcoming newsletters.

I would like to thank all of you who responded to our fall membership drive. Your support allows the BCGS to present such a diverse program of guitarists. If it is within your means, please consider making a tax-deductible end of year gift to the BCGS, online or via mail.

Finally, on behalf of the BCGS Board and Volunteers, I would like to wish all of you a very happy Holiday season and a healthy, successful, and guitar-filled New Year!

Warm regards,

Dan Acsadi, Director

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No Nocturnal?!

by Frank Wallace

New Music in Mexico City

On October 1 this year I gave a concert for the V Festival Internacional de Compositores a la Guitarra Pa' lo Escrito. Organized by Guillermo Soriano, a student at UNAM, the five-day festival is a feast of new music for guitar. I was the second North American representative, last year West Coast composer/guitarist Philip Rosheger performed.

Each night featured a guest artist (called an in invitado) preceded by local performers, as many as six, playing their own works. Three-hour-long concerts were a bit much even for this advocate of new music, but there were inspired, dreadful, amusing and entertaining moments. There were the usual computer assisted compositions, the funky/folksy ones, the new-agey ones, and the totally dissonant, interminable contributions. But the weirdest, and perhaps most wondrous moment, was when a young man emerged from the green room with an array of PVC pipe and a low garden stool. Sitting cross-legged, he arranged the white tubes by attaching one end to his left foot. The other end was carefully twisted and aligned with the neck of the guitar. A capo! Foot-controlled!! Movable, like a traditional blues slide, but not occupying the left hand. The result: a very twangy sound, but with fabulous harmonic possibilities, this was not blues guitar! The gentleman played with great accomplishment, his leg constantly and accurately placing this movable capo wherever his bold imagination led him.

New Music in Boston

So what is our own new music festival like - why Festival 21? We present 21st century music and those who make it, play it and promote it, in any style from "pop arrangements" to "avante-garde." Here's why.

Recently I received a call from famed Greek guitarist Eleftheria Kotzia. We discussed the possibility of her coming to Boston for a concert and I told her about Festival 21. I asked if she does much contemporary music. Would a full program of new works be of interest to her? Her response, "Well it depends on what you call 'contemporary'?" I explained that I am interested in presenting performers who are actively commissioning works or writing their own music such as Dusan Bogdanovic, Atanas Ourkouzounov, Ernesto García de León, Gyan Riley and Andrew McKenna Lee. She said Stephen Dodgson, Carlo Domeniconi and others have written pieces for her, but she is mostly used to presenters telling her, "Please don't play the Nocturnal!" [by Benjamin Britten]

I nearly fainted. Now I know we live in an extraordinarily conservative age and we rarely see the Nocturnal programmed. I have heard younger players gasp when I say that I think it is

one of the most important and wonderful pieces ever written for guitar. But how can a presenter tell a great performer not to play an unquestioned masterpiece. Please don't show the Mona Lisa. Please don't play the Rite of Spring. What kind of absurd self-censorship is this? What kind of intellectual vacuum is being created and supported by guitar sponsors? This is sacrilege!

Ellie went on to say how most presenters ask for popular pieces. Have you noticed the resurgence of Capricho Arabe and Asturias, the Sonatina by Tárroba, Sor's Mozart Variations, etc? At least four important concerts in Boston have included the Sor in the past year alone. No offense to the great artists who played it (I enjoyed the performances), but given the intense creativity from many contemporary composers/ guitarists, we shouldn't have to hear these warhorses as often.

But wait! Oh my God! I recently agreed to do a concert of - YES - standard Segovia repertoire, a concert on a 1931 Hauser to celebrate the 100th birthday of still-living legend Blanche Moyses of Brattleboro VT who studied with Segovia in the 30's. I'm having a ball with, ehem, Capricho Arabe, Asturias, Hómaga a Tárrega, and Villa-Lobos.

So that is why Festival 21 exists - not to discredit the old but to provide a haven for the new, the fresh, the experimental or risky. A place where, whether you love the old standards or not, you will be safe from the familiar. I am the gate keeper, trust me, they will not enter the doors of Festival 21. The Festival's pioneering work in the music of Today is supported by grants from Augustine Foundation and D'Addario Music Foundation, and, we hope, you!

Festival 21 is seeking volunteer performers for the Members' Concert at 2pm on April 10, 2010. American compositions of the 21st century are given preference - no stylistic limitations! Submit proposals to Frank Wallace at wallacecomposer@gmail.com.

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PROGRAM

Gordon Chapel

- 10-11 a.m. - Rehearsal of ensemble piece
 11-12 a.m. - Andrew McKenna Lee lecture/demo on his new piece "Refractions" on Bach's D minor Prelude
 1-2 p.m. - Gyan Riley class on improvisation
 2-3 p.m. - Members' Concert
 3-4 p.m. - Jose Lezcano Trio - new music with winds
 4-5 p.m. - ChromaDuo

The First Lutheran Church of Boston

- 7:30 p.m. - Prelude - The BCGS Ensemble
 8:00 p.m. - Gyan Riley concert

Festival Pass - \$65 general admission / \$55 BCGS & Church members, seniors / special student price \$35 / Group rates available



Calendar

Friday, January 8, 7:30 p.m.

Frank Wallace, solo guitar. Recital Hall at Concord Community Music School, Wall St. in Concord NH music of Villa-Lobos, Tárrega, Albeniz and Wallace.

Saturday, January 16, 3:00 p.m.

Gerry Johnston, guitar. Saturday Sounds Special Concert Series at the Hingham Library, 66 Leavitt St., Hingham, MA 02043 781-741-1405

Saturday, January 30, 7:30 p.m.

Rebecca Grimes and Dave McLellan, voice and guitar concert. Memorial Congregational Church, Sudbury, MA 01776 Visit for details.

BCGS Artist Series: Quarteto Vivace Brasil, Sunday, January 31, 3:00 p.m. Gordon Chapel at the Old South Church, 645 Boylston St. Boston, MA 02116

Sunday, February 7, 3:00 p.m.

Duo LiveOak. Loring-Greenough House, 12 South St., Jamaica Plain, MA, 02130, (617) 524-3158 – 1760 or email. Nancy Knowles and Frank Wallace perform original solos and songs on ten-string guitar. The series recreates the atmosphere of 18th and 19th century "musical afternoons" in the 1760s. Tickets are available at the door: donation \$17 (\$12 seniors, students and JPTC and BCGS members) which includes a "preservation fee" to support preservation projects at the landmark property. Afternoon tea follows the program.

Saturday, February 20, 3:00 p.m.

Dan Acsadi, guitar. Saturday Sounds Special Concert Series at the Hingham Library, 66 Leavitt St. Hingham, MA 02043 781-741-1405

Saturday, March 6, 7:30 p.m.

North Meadow House Concert Series
 North Meadow Farm, 158 E. Old Route 6 Hampton, CT 06247
 Duo LiveOak, Frank Wallace, guitar/composer and Nancy Knowles, mezzo soprano; music from Spain, Mexico and original songs. Tickets \$15.00. Reservations required.

Sunday, March 7, 3:00 p.m.

BCGS Artist Series:
 BCGS Benefit Concert featuring Eliot Fisk. Gordon Chapel at the Old South Church, 645 Boylston St. Boston, MA 02116
 Performers include Eliot Fisk, Zaira Meneses, Dan Acsadi, and more.

In the News

Gyan Riley will give a master class at the Longy School of Music for students of David Patterson on April 11, 12:00 – 3:00pm, FREE and open to the public. Co-sponsored by the Longy String Department and Festival 21 with aid from the D'Addario Music Foundation. Riley will also give a performance at the Concord Community Music School in Concord NH on April 9, details on our calendar.

Scott Borg will begin a BCGS Orchestra, details in the works. Jose Lezcano has been commissioned by Festival 21 to write a piece for guitar orchestra which will be rehearsed and performed as part of the festival on April 10. See article below for more details.

Mark and Beverly Davis have started a new series called North Meadow House Concerts at their lovely home in Hampton CT, see online calendar for details.

New blog! Read updates and get more in depth information about our artists and events at www.festival21.tumblr.com – subscribe to the RS feed.

Please submit your news to Frank Wallace, wallacecomposer@gmail.com. Remember that you can place your own events on our online calendar.

Jose Lezcano commissioned by Festival 21



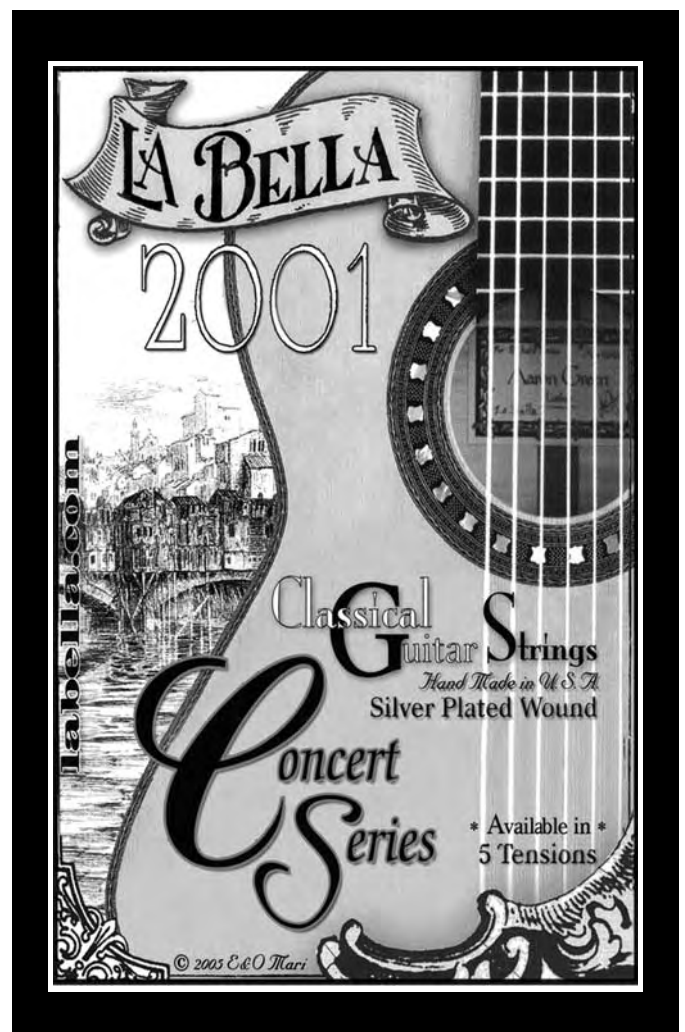
Dr. Jose Lezcano of Keene State College has been commissioned by Festival 21 to write a piece for guitar orchestra. Dr. Lezcano describes: “The working title of the piece is ‘Homage to Victor Jara.’ Jara was an immensely gifted folk-singer and songwriter, and martyr of the Pinochet-led coup d’etat in Chile during the early 1970s that led to a military “reign of terror” and human rights abuses in that country.

The work will incorporate aspects of South American folk-song, quotations from Jara’s most memorable tunes, and use both traditional and extended techniques for multiple guitars.

I’m thinking of percussion golpes, strumming the strings behind the nut, harmonic node “golpes“ (in the manner of the late Michael Hedges, a friend of mine at Peabody in the late 70s), and other effects, not used for their own sake but as part of the musical argument of the piece. The work will possibly have a narrator.” The student ensemble from Keene State College in NH will join members of the Society to rehearse and perform “Homage to Victor Jara” as part of Festival 21 on April 10, 2010. All welcome, please register early to hold your place.

FREE CDs

Register for Festival 21 or buy any BCGS tickets totaling \$50 or more before January 15, 2010 and receive a free CD of one of the artists presenting at the festival. Go to our website or directly to www.itsmyseat.com/bcgs.html. CDs by Gyan Riley, Jose Lezcano Trio, Tracie Anne Smith, and Andrew Mckenna Lee are listed at <http://www.bostonguitar.info/freecds.html> - maybe more, go check it out!



Classifieds

Classifieds are \$10 per issue of the BCGS newsletter for a 32-word ad, and \$0.25 for each additional word. The fee includes posting on bostonguitar.org. Send inquiries to bostonguitar@hotmail.com; send checks to BCGS, P.O. Box 470665, Brookline, MA 02447.

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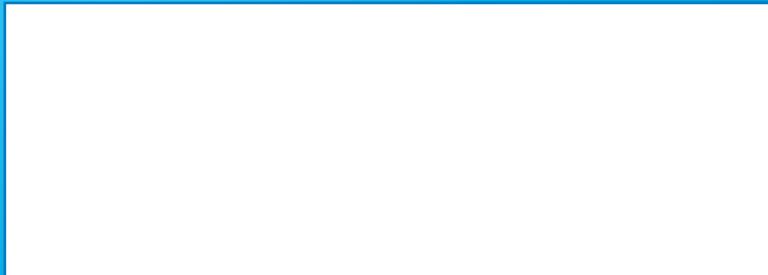


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 Gordon Chapel at the Old South Church, Boston.



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