



BCGS



newsletter

Volume 18, No. 3, March / May 2011



Coming Events

Saturday, April 2
BCGS Boston Guitar Orchestra
Hingham Public Library,

Friday, April 8
Keene State Guitar Festival
Keene State College - Redfern Arts Center

Saturday, April 16
FESTIVAL 21
Gordon Chapel, Old South Church,
First Lutheran Church, Boston

Saturday, April 23, 3pm-4pm
Mark & Beverly Davis, guitar duo
Hingham Public Library

See the Calendar Section for a complete list of events and more information.

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BCGS Staff

- Director**
Daniel Acsadiadbcgs@gmail.com
- Treasurer**
Thuy Wagner.....twagn01@yahoo.com
- Festival 21 Director**
Frank Wallacewallacecomposer@gmail.com
- Newsletter**
Will Riley, Editorwillriley@earthlink.net
George Ward, Productiong.w.ward@mac.com
- Acting Membership Director**
Daniel Acsadibostonguitar@hotmail.com
- Performance Party Coordinator**
Oscar AzaretJOscar.Azaret@lsi.com



Spanish Virtuoso Rafael Aguirre Saturday, April 16, 8 pm

First Lutheran Church, 299 Berkeley St., Boston

— Prelude by the Boston Guitar Orchestra at 7:45 pm —

www.bostonguitar.org for Online Tickets

Letter to Members,



Dear Members. April is fast approaching and that can only mean one thing in BCGS land: *Festival 21!* Taking place on the 16th, our daylong celebration is an exploration of the future of our instrument: its repertoire, interdisciplinary reach, and community involvement.

Festival 21 founder Frank Wallace has again designed a wonderful program. Nathan Kolosko's morning workshop on prepared guitar techniques will push the boundaries of nylon string sound. Maarten Stragier's relentless drive for innovation and new repertoire will take center stage at his recital, featuring a newly commissioned piece by Nicholas Vines. Later, the Olson/De Cari duo presents a concert with music and science in the crossroads, followed by our always-popular Members' Concert. The evening concert promises to be a real treat, with the prodigiously talented Rafael Aguirre taking the stage after a performance from the Boston Guitar Orchestra.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, dear members, for helping make the 2010-11 season one of the best in BCGS history! Membership and email list numbers have grown healthily. Attendance at our concerts has also increased, culminating in a near-sellout for Ana Vidovic. Curated by George Ward, The Hingham Saturday Sounds series welcomes a diverse group of great local musicians with a steady and loyal following. The Oscar Azaret-led network of BCGS Performance Parties continues to attract members for sharing beautiful music and friendship. Scott Borg is tirelessly advocating for the BCGS Boston Guitar Orchestra, whose musicians are playing wonderfully while sharing their love of the guitar in a number of recent performance opportunities. Our new Newsletter Editor, Will Riley, ensures that we will be able to continue to regularly mail each of you a quality and informative publication.

In fact, it is this dedication and grassroots support that will keep the BCGS and our instrument growing and taking a prominent role in the cultural life of New England. We are experiencing a climate in which the traditional media increasingly embraces and promotes a restricted subset of the music industry. The survival of the classical guitar, and indeed of art music, depends on your group of family, friends, colleagues, and other social networks supporting the cause. Our joint potential was indicated by the palpable energy and high artistic quality of the Ana Vidovic concert. Let's keep it going with *Festival 21* and into the following season!

Sincerely,

Dan Acsadi, *Director*

Vidovic Concert Review

by Scott Borg

A capacity crowd of about 270 packed into the First Lutheran Church to hear the very talented Croatian guitarist, Ana Vidovic. Vidovic has garnered praise from audiences worldwide, and she is of the rare breed of guitarists that balance a formidable technique with a sensitive and lyrical approach to music. Having now heard Vidovic perform on several occasions, I am impressed with both the roundness and depth that she gets from her Redgate guitar, and the consistency, clarity, accuracy, and dexterity of her hands.

Vidovic began the concert with the much beloved *Violin Partita in E Major* by Bach. Baroque interpretation has been a heated topic for many decades now, but what we do know from reading the treatises of some of the Baroque greats - Quantz, CPE Bach, Leopold Mozart - is that there is a myriad of performance practices that are available to the performer, and no two composer/performers of the era can agree on what constitutes a stylistically 'correct' performance. Vidovic opted to base her performance on typical violin performance practices of the Baroque, a more virtuosic and lyrical approach to the music, which seemed logical since the *Partita in E Major* itself was originally a work for violin. While showing great vitality in the work, she also paid close attention to counterpoint. There was nice control between the soaring melody and the active bass line, and when required, the inner voices came out cleanly and clearly. Stylistic traits of each dance movement were conveyed accurately and the work finished as it began, spirited and lively. As I am personally attracted to keyboard music of the Baroque, I would have preferred a bit more variety in ornamentation in the repeats of each section, but then again, this is not keyboard music.

The four arrangements by Toru Takemitsu were a real treat. Far too many guitar performances take an academic approach to their programming and ignore the audience. These compositions added a real sense of calm and ease to the performance. Having works that the audience can relate to is vital, and I think that the audience thoroughly appreciated the inclusion of these works. There is no doubt that Takemitsu was a great arranger, however, it seemed that his more 'jazzy' sections could have benefited from more block chords rather than a pure melody/bass approach. Despite this, Vidovic executed these works very beautifully. The tunes were easily identifiable, and it certainly brought the guitarist's more sensitive side to the foreground.

To finish the opening half, Vidovic performed two quintessential works of the guitar repertoire, *Recuerdos de la Alhambra* by Francisco Tarrega, and *Asturias* by Isaac Albeniz. Her tremolo was very controlled and it was wonderful to hear her take certain liberties with the melody as many guitarists just chug through this work like a freight train. The freedom of the tremolo really brought out the sweetness in the melody. As expected, a stylish performance was given of *Asturias*. After listening to *Asturias* countless times in a concert setting, it is always interesting to hear what each performer does differently. Of particular interest were

(continued on page 5)

Something for Everyone at Festival 21

by Frank Wallace

Rodrigo's *Toccatà* – a work that was lost for most of the past century! Match sticks and other play things to make your guitar sound cool - hands on. The BCGS commission *Les Effaceurs*. You, the members, with lullabies, kotos, gamelan orchestras and other surprises. Songs on men, women, molecules, and a Mass for the stars. Cutting-edge interactive electronics. World Premiers and more. This is Festival 21 - April 16th, 2011.

Headlining our evening concert is one of the most exciting virtuosos to come out of Spain in decades, young Rafael Aguirre. With monstrous technique and elegant interpretive voice, Rafael will give the Boston Premiere of Joaquin Rodrigo's newly discovered work *Toccatà*, that was not found until 2006 - lost in the archives of Regino Sainz de la Maza for 75 years. Rafael will also play selections from Leo Brouwer's *Nuevos Estudios Sencillos*, give the world premier of Daniel Real's *Estalacticas y stalagmites*, and play other Spanish works.

Preceding Rafael will be our very own Boston Guitar Orchestra led by Scott Borg conducting his new composition for the BGO. Scott says, "For several years now I have been fascinated with the music of South East Asia. Their melodies, rhythms, and forms, while seemingly simplistic, are actually very complex, and the philosophies that surround these cultures are advanced. *A Journey through the Eastern Villages* captures the essence of three very different sound worlds."

The day begins at 10:00 am with the coming together of three community orchestras: Timberlane High School, Keene State College and the BGO, in rehearsal for the afternoon and evening concerts. The group will perform Frank Wallace's *New England Sextets* in the Members' Concert as well as Borg's work in the evening. Keep your instrument handy for the next class - at 11:00 am Nathan Kolosko will direct a workshop on prepared guitar. Nathan will discuss the history of prepared guitar techniques through a survey of the guitar literature and players that employ them. He will demonstrate these techniques and bring materials for participants to try their hand(s) at playing prepared guitar. At the end of the class participants will read through a short score for prepared guitar ensemble.

After lunch (1:15pm), Maarten Stragier will play a program of 21st century guitar works. *Les Effaceurs* (The Erasers), Nick Vines' 5 movement-long tour de force, was commissioned by Festival 21 with the help of the New England Foundation for the Arts. The second half of the program will submerge the guitar in a bath of interactive electronics, with *Kogarashi*, *Le Premier Soupir des Fantomes* by the up-and-coming French composer Jerome Combier, and a new work by the amazing Caroline Park.

When the last electro-acoustic reverberations have dissipated, the Olson/De Cari duo will take stage (2:15pm) with songs from their

FESTIVAL 21 SCHEDULE

Saturday, April 16

Gordon Chapel, Old South Church, 645 Boylston St., Boston
 10:00 am Open rehearsal BCGS Community Guitar Orchestra
 11:00 am Lecture/Demo Nathan Kolosko, Guitar Techniques
 1:15 pm Concert, Maarten Stragier, new solo works
 2:15 pm Concert Olson/De Cari Duo
 3:15 pm Coffee Break
 4:00 pm Members' Concert
 8:00 pm Concert by **Rafael Aguirre** and the BCGS Guitar Orchestra. First Lutheran Church, 299 Berkeley St.

Ticket Information

Festival Pass: \$60 general admission; \$50 seniors; \$10 discount for BCGS and Church members; Special Student price \$35. Rafael Aguirre Concert \$15-25. **Tickets available online at www.itsmyseat.com or call (818) 640-7047**, same price either way, or send check to BCGS, P.O. Box 470665, Brookline, MA 02447 with your email address to receive confirmation. Checks must be received five days prior to festival. Call (603) 588 6121 for more information. Tickets for individual day events \$8-\$12 at the door. Contact the BCGS if you wish to bring a group.

Science/Music commissioning Project. "*Is no one inspired by our present picture of the universe? The value of science remains unsung by singers: you are reduced to hearing not a song or poem, but an evening lecture about it.*" — Richard Feynman, American physicist. John Olson and Gioia de Cari are creating music for voice and guitar through their Science/Music Commissioning Project, which celebrates the insights of science and illuminates the human side of science through song. Works composed by Champlin, Donahue and Wallace, with texts by Einstein, Bohr, Curie, Donahue, Teilhard de Chardin, Richard Feynman and Roald Hoffmann, a Nobel Prize-winning chemist at Cornell University who survived the Holocaust as a young boy.

After a coffee hour with entertainment by the Keene State College guitar orchestra, members of the BCGS will share their passions and creativity over the past year with performances by the Timberlane Orchestra that commissioned *New England Sextets*, Aaron Larget-Caplan who has been very active in various commissioning projects, Robert Margo with Wendy Silverberg, Jose Lezcano and others to be announced.

All daytime concerts of Festival 21 are on Saturday, April 16, 2011, at Gordon Chapel, Old South Church, 645 Boylston Ave., Boston MA. The BGO orchestra precedes Rafael Aguirre at 8pm at the First Lutheran Church, 299 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA. Buy tickets for individual concerts and stay up to date on the BCGS website, Facebook page, and Festival 21 blog, where you can hear Rafael Aguirre speak with Rodrigo's daughter Cecilia, read more about programs and composers and watch more video of the artists who are part of Festival 21.

Calendar

BCGS SPONSORED EVENTS

Saturday, April 16

BCGS presents Festival 21

When: 10:00 am-4:00pm Gordon Chapel;
8:00 pm First Lutheran

Where: Gordon Chapel, Old South Church, 645 Boylston St.
Schedule:

10:00 am rehearsal BCGS Guitar Orchestra
11:00 am Lecture/demo Nathan Kolosko,
1:15 pm Concert, Maarten Stragier
2:15 pm Concert Olson/De Cari Duo
3:15 pm Coffee Break 4:00pm Members' Concert

First Lutheran Church, 299 Berkeley Street
8:00 pm Concert by **Rafael Aguirre** and
The BCGS Community Guitar Orchestra.

Tickets and detailed information see page 3 or go to
www.bostonguitar.org

SERIES EVENTS

Saturday, Mar 12, 2011, 3pm-4pm

Saturday Sounds Special: Trio Cordefiato with Dan Acsadi

Where: Hingham Public Library, 66 Leavitt, Hingham, MA
Description: Laura Finkelstein, flute Jeff Leiserson, clarinet
with special guest Dan Acsadi, guitar www.hinghamlibrary.org
for details

Sunday, March 13, 2pm -3pm

Mandolin Concert

Where: Peterborough Town House
Description: The International Mandolin Academy Orchestra
under the Direction of Maestro Carlo Aonzo will perform at the
Peterborough Town House. Tickets may be purchased online at
www.mariposamuseum.org or directly from the Mariposa.

Saturday, March 19, 3pm-4pm

Saturday Sounds Special: Bob Margo, guitar & Wendy Silverberg, voice

Where: Hingham Public Library, 66 Leavitt, Hingham, MA
www.hinghamlibrary.org for details and directions

Wednesday, March 23, 6pm

The French Influence • Aaron Larget-Caplan, guitar

Where: Waltham Public Library
Description: The Ligue Francophone of Boston presents "The
French Influence" with guitarist Aaron Larget-Caplan.
Admission: Free
Information: www.waltham.lib.ma.us • www.AaronLC.com

Friday, March 25, 7:30pm-9:30pm

Faculty Recital presents Debut

Where: Concord Community Music School, 23 Wall Street,
Concord, New Hampshire 03301 Phone: 603-228-1196
Description: Frank Wallace will present his newest composition
Epitafio a un pajaro, poetry by Garcia Lorca.

Friday, March 25, 8pm-10pm

Boston Celebrity Series: John Williams

Where: Jordan Hall, NEC
Description: John Williams, guitar

Sunday, March 27 – April 1

Aaron Larget-Caplan & Northern New Hampshire Arts Alliance

Where: Northern New Hampshire
Description: The Northern New Hampshire Arts Alliance and
the New England Foundation for the Arts presents Aaron
Larget-Caplan in a week long residency performing a series of
concerts, school enrichment programs, and workshops.
www.AaronLC.com for details

Saturday, April 2, 3pm

BCGS Boston Guitar Orchestra

Where: Hingham Library, 66 Leavitt St Hingham MA
Description: BCGS Guitar Orchestra, Scott Borg, Director
www.hinghamlibrary.org for details and directions

Friday, April 8, 9am-9pm

Keene State Guitar Festival

Where: Keene State College - Redfern Arts Center
Description: Keene State College announces its first ever Guitar
Festival, with concerts, clinics, and large ensemble performance
opportunities for registrants. Call Dr. Jose Lezcano, Director, at
603-358-2180 for more details, or send an email to
jlezcano@keene.edu.

Sunday, April 10, 3pm-5pm

¡Con Fuego! - Gabriela Granados, flamenco dance • Aaron Larget-Caplan, guitar

Where: Centennial Room, Kimball Towers, 140 Chestnut St
#79, Springfield, MA 01103
Description: The South Congregational Church presents ¡Viva
Con Fuego! Gabriela Granados, castanets, voice, dance Aaron
Larget-Caplan, guitar www.Ambolero.com, www.AaronLC.com

Thursday, April 14, 8 pm

Dan Acsadi, guitar

Where: Keller Room, New England Conservatory
Description: BCGS director Dan Acsadi presents a recital at NE
Conservatory. Works by Milan, Brouwer, Mertz, Bartok, Falla,
and Beaser. Free admission. Jordan Hall building.

Saturday, April 23, 3pm-4pm

Saturday Sounds Special: Mark & Beverly Davis, guitar duo

Where: Hingham Public Library 66 Leavitt Street, Hingham
www.hinghamlibrary.org for details and directions

Sunday, May 1, 3pm-4:30pm

Duo LiveOak Concert

Where: Loring-Greenough House, 12 South St., Jamaica Plain
Description: Duo LiveOak: Frank Wallace and Nancy Knowles,
classical guitar and voice

Saturday, May 7, 8pm-9:30pm

Duo LiveOak Concert

Where: Starving Artist, 10 West St., Keene, NH (603) 352-6900
Description: Frank Wallace and Nancy Knowles preview their
upcoming European tour; ten-string guitar and voices

Sunday, May 15, 3pm-4:30pm

Aaron Larget-Caplan in Cohasset

Where: First Parish Cohasset, 23 N. Main St, Cohasset, MA
Description: First Parish Cohasset presents Aaron Larget-
Caplan, guitar. <http://firstparishcohasset.org/events-activities/calendar/>

Stay current with the BCGS Events Calendar
at www.bostonguitar.org

Vidovic Review Continued

certain accents that were placed to create the hemiola effect, a device that is frequent in Spanish music. Also interesting was Vidovic's spacing in the middle section. By using the natural breath of the score, Vidovic let the inherent musical charm speak for itself.

The second half began with three works by the Venezuelan composer Antonio Lauro. A fast, yet conservative approach was taken, and the melodies were performed lyrically with a great sense of phrasing. Vidovic has the uncanny ability to perform difficult passages legato with ease, and this mastery of the fingerboard was accentuated in these works. Emphasis on the South American rhythms gradually entered throughout the performance, and this added to the playfulness and quirkiness of these three little gems.

I have long been a fan of Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco. Despite being one of the most under-rated guitar composers, his compositions are full of shifting moods, fire, dynamics and tonal contrasts, and are among the most demanding within the guitar repertoire. His *Sonata* really let Vidovic's 'chops' shine. Vidovic gave a very musical performance and her prowess around the fingerboard was seemingly effortless. While this piece can be easily misunderstood, Vidovic captivated the audience throughout the four movements. The final movement particularly impressed the audience with her break-neck speed and endurance throughout the rapid scale passages.

Vidovic finished the program with Barrios' haunting *La Catedral*. If you wanted to hear legato and connected playing, you came to the right place. The notes almost melted into each other into one clump of gooey goodness. A tiny criticism has to be that a bit more focus on the moods associated with each harmonic shift would have been nice, but when you can play this work like she did, who really cares? Each movement was as haunting as the next, and her poise was unwavering despite the technical difficulties of the final movement.

As an encore, Vidovic performed *Cavatina* by Stanley Myers, made famous by the movie, 'The Deer Hunter'. The work was clean, musical, legato, and beautifully executed.

Vidovic finished off a very successful Artist Series for the BCGS that also included Paul Galbraith and Jason Vieux. The audience this season has grown exponentially, and if the current trend continues, a larger concert hall may be required soon! Without a doubt, this season's Artist lineup was among one of the best nation-wide. In the future, reserved ticket sales might be necessary to even get a seat. The next BCGS event is Festival 21, scheduled for April 16th. This day-long event is a celebration of contemporary music for the guitar. A number of fantastic soloists and groups will perform on the festival, including Rafael Aguirre and our own Boston Guitar Orchestra.

Classifieds

Guitars For Sale

Felix Manzanero, 1993, superb condition, aged spruce top, Indian rosewood back & sides, protec case included; superior concert instrument; \$3500 o.b.o. For more info, call Emil at 508-878-1502 or email at ekrasich[at]gmail.com.

Esteve Flamenco 9F, 1992, superb condition, spruce top and Spanish cypress back & sides, protect case included; excellent flamenco guitar; \$1300 o.b.o. For more info, call Emil at 508-878-1502 or email at ekrasich[at]gmail.com

Augustino LoPrinzi Grand Concert Classical Guitar 1994, Hand made and signed by Augustino LoPrinzi. Very Good condition. Cedar Top; Rosewood back and sides; Ebony fingerboard; Mahogany Neck. \$1800.00. marcoux@verizon.net 978 319 0406

Cordoba 30R, 1997, in mint condition; Cedar top; Rosewood sides and back; Mahogany neck; Rosewood fingerboard; no cracks or dents; hard shell case; a very nice student guitar; \$300; call 603-547-7246; request photos at geirobin@aol.com

Asturias Standard; approximately 1999; model #26200; cedar top; Rosewood sides and back, Mahogany neck; Rosewood fingerboard; beautiful guitar in mint condition - no cracks or dents; a lovely guitar; hard shell case; \$950; call 603-547-7246; request photos at geirobin@aol.com

Alhambra guitars, Model 2C, \$541, Cedar top; Model 8P, Solid Indian Rosewood sides, Cedar Top, \$1943; Luthier India Model, solid indian rosewood, cedar or spruce, \$3412. All instruments made in Alicante, Spain and exquisitely crafted; singing trebles and deep basses. Call Jose at 603-313-3027.

Luthiers and Dealers

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NORTH MEADOW GUITARS Now offering: 1970 Bernabe; 1967 Ramirez (I.M.); 1962 Papazian; Lyon & Healey A-Professional model (mandolin). New guitars by Richard Young. Come visit our new studio in the Quiet Corner of north-east Connecticut. By appointment only. For information please call proprietor Mark Davis at 860-455-2056 or email: markmdavis@yahoo.com.

Miscellaneous

Jean-Francois Delcamp Free classical guitar lessons on the internet given by Jean-Francois Delcamp, Professor at the Brest Conservatory of Music, Dance and Drama - France, beginning in November 2010 and finishing in June 2011. These lessons correspond to the first three years at the conservatory. The conditions for registering are available on the forum www.delcamp.us/

TO PLACE A CLASSIFIED AD Classified Ads are \$10 per issue up to 32-words, plus \$0.25 for each additional word. This fee includes a print ad in the newsletter and posting on our website, bostonguitar.org, until the next quarterly newsletter is published. Ad copy and payment must be received in February, May, August, or November to guarantee placement. Send inquiries to adbcgs@gmail.com; send checks to BCGS, P.O. Box 470665, Brookline, MA 02447, or PayPal the payment to bcgsemail@gmail.com.



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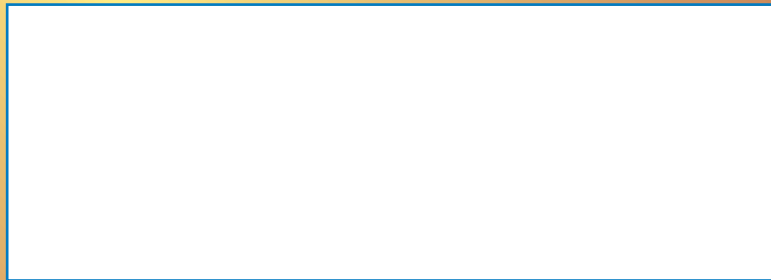
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Rafael Aguirre
FESTIVAL 21
Saturday April 16, 2011



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