



# BCGS

## newsletter



Volume 20, No. 4



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BCGS Artist Series  
Presents

## Duo Melis

Friday, February 14, 2014 7:30pm  
First Lutheran Church, 299 Berkeley St., Boston

*Oscar Ghiglia*

Duo Melis. The Spanish Susana Prieto and the Greek Alexis Muzurakis made their debut as the Guitar Duo Melis in 1999 at the International Guitar Festival of Volos (Greece). Since then they have performed in such prestigious halls as the Philharmonie in Berlin, the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, the Tchaikovsky Hall in Moscow, the Megaron in Athens and the Merkin Concert Hall in New York. They have been invited to play concerts and give master classes in international guitar festivals in Europe and America.

**[www.bostonguitar.org](http://www.bostonguitar.org) for ticket information**

## Letter to Members



### Dear Members,

Following exquisite fall concerts with Vladimir Gorbach, Marco Tamayo and Anabel Montesinos, the BCGS is preparing for a very busy and exciting early 2014. Performance parties will again be in full swing

with at least three dates on the calendar. Our community calendar is beginning to fill up with great events all over metro Boston. The Boston Guitar Orchestra is more vibrant and playing at a higher quality than ever before.

We have three phenomenal events remaining on the Artist Series. Duo Melis joins us for a special Valentine's Day performance on February 14<sup>th</sup>. They have garnered some of the highest praise ever directed toward guitar duos. Steve Marsh of *Classical Guitar Magazine* advises: "Highly recommended for an example of just what two guitars are capable of producing in this day and age." Last year's BCGS performer David Russell goes even further: "on stage they show the mastery in the musical unity and they convince us that the guitar duo is a great musical instrument." Their YouTube videos are even more proof that they are not to be missed. If you are planning on a Valentine's Day dinner in Boston, join us afterwards for this musical treat (and a little surprise as well)!

As we enter springtime, we welcome one of the greatest guitarists, anytime, anywhere. Manuel Barrueco certainly needs no introduction, and we are fortunate to be able to feature him on our series. He will be touring to promote his latest CD releases: *Medea*, a Spanish collection of music by Albéniz, Granados, and Manolo Sanlúcar, and *Chaconne-A Baroque Recital*, with classics by Bach, Scarlatti, and Weiss. This concert, on April 4<sup>th</sup>, is sure to be a sellout, so please preorder your tickets through our online box office.

The New England Guitar Ensembles Festival will close our spring programming. The featured artist will be renowned French composer/guitarist Roland Dyens. His music, such as *Tango en Skai*, has endeared him to a generation of guitarists and audiences alike. He will give the evening recital and conduct the festival orchestra in the premiere of his new,

BCGS-commissioned piece. We are grateful to the Augustine Foundation, the D'Addario Music Foundation, and Savarez strings for making this commission possible. Ensembles and players wishing to take part in the festival should sign up online or via email: [director@bostonguitar.org](mailto:director@bostonguitar.org).

This year we are also rededicating our commitment to the BCGS quarterly newsletter. In an era where so much information bombards us online, we believe it is valuable to publish a physical edition that you can hold in your hands. Furthermore, we would like to include even more valuable content: reports, topics of interest to guitarists, features, reviews, and anything that might enrich our community. We would like this to be your newsletter. We welcome articles and ideas from you. Send stories, ideas, or completed articles to our email address (above).

Best wishes for a great 2014,  
Daniel Acsadi  
Director, BCGS



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## Artist Series Recap: Montesinos & Tamayo

By Will Riley



Going in to the second BCGS Artist Series concert of the season, one may have been surprised to find a program that included a Disney tune from *The Little Mermaid* and variations on Frère Jacques. How delightful then, to witness the

artistry of guitarists Marco Tamayo and Anabel Montesinos, who brought as much refinement and life to those seemingly simple pieces as they did to the more serious works on their program. The two guitarists combined their formidable individual talents to craft a memorable duo concert for the BCGS on Friday Nov. 22 at First Lutheran Church of Boston.

The husband/wife team of Tamayo and Montesinos performed a range of duos and solos, most arranged by Marco Tamayo specifically for the duo. After opening with a very lively and colorful rendition of Fernando Sor's *L'encoragement*, the duo

performed Tamayo's arrangement of Paganini's First Sonata. This piece wonderfully showed off a wide range of timbres, as imitative melodic lines were traded between the two, allowing the listener to hear the variety in each player's individual sound. It was clear that they had not only put a lot of time into creating a broad palate of color changes, but that they enjoyed listening and responding to each other's playing. Throughout the concert their very creative use of dynamics, the variety of articulations, and the perfect timing of phrase endings (aspects so often left unaddressed by the average guitar duo) was exquisite, and served to elevate the music.

The audience was treated to a solo from each - Montesinos with an elegant and polished interpretation of the *Op. 9 Introduction and Variations* of Sor, and Tamayo with the fiery *Sonata, Op. 61* of Joaquín Turina. After these performances it was clear the audience was really getting three shows for the price of one, as either of the two could certainly have given a headlining individual recital. We had the pleasure of hearing them as soloists, and also their remarkable duo, all in a single evening.

Tamayo and Montesinos kept the energy level high in the hall through the rest of their program, as they delivered arrangements of Three Beatles songs (arranged by Leo Brouwer, who was Tamayo's teacher in Havana), and works by Nikita Koshkin and Manuel Saumell. The program closed with "Under the Sea" from Disney's *The Little Mermaid*, which Tamayo joked was Anabel's favorite movie (according to him she has seen it at least seven hundred times), and so he was compelled to make the arrangement of this fun calypso piece.

The highlight of their program may well have been their encore, as they performed a clever set of variations on the tune of Frère Jacques, and then gave an astounding Two-Players-Upon-One-Guitar performance of Mozart's Rondo alla Turca, with Tamayo reaching over the back of Montesinos' guitar to provide the bass line and harmony while she played the melody. The performance was truly impressive, and brought the crowd to their feet in appreciation of an engaging performance that thoughtfully balanced musical depth with accessibility. The BCGS is fortunate to have two incredible guitar duos on the Artist Series this season, and we can all look forward with eager anticipation to the Duo Melis concert coming up on Valentine's Day.

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## Un Dia de Novembre

by Donna Ricci

I remember the moment, or more accurately, the essence of the moment; one that can't necessarily be placed in space and time, but rather remains ethereal like the warm kiss of the summer sun on your body long after the day is done. Was it a day in November? I don't recall, although it might have been because it was just a few months after I began playing classical guitar. I heard the piece *Un Dia De Novembre* by Leo Brouwer, and like that kiss of the sun it warmed me to the bone; I needed to play that piece that was beyond my ability.

For me listening to music is like having a nice glass of orange juice that has been poured from the carton. It is satisfying and probably has some nutrients. Playing the same piece is like peeling the oranges and juicing them, immediately drinking the fresh squeezed fruit. Thoughts and feelings that come from listening can be powerful, but once I delve into the pulp of the piece by playing it I get to the core of that which nourishes.

I had heard that the day in November Brouwer wrote about was Nov. 22, 1963, the day President Kennedy was shot (and was well on my way to perpetuating that rumor). However, the piece was written in 1967 for a film by the same name.

When I first heard the piece it brought me back to my 1960's childhood and like the juice from a carton, it was a satisfying enough experience. I recalled the era with a certain amount of fondness and regret. Once I started to play the piece, to feel my fingers on the strings as they produced the notes, I was back in 1963, a few days after the assassination, sitting on the edge of my parent's bed, watching JFK's funeral, my dad next to me, cloaked in an overcoat of deep sadness. 50 years later, decades since my dad passed on, sitting in my practice room, he was next to me again, infusing my music with timeless emotion, allowing me to "know" the piece in the way we need to in order to send forth emotional content through the music.

In another day in November, Nov 9, 2013, members of the Boston Classical Guitar Society and guests gathered at the home of Don and Naoko Hague for our monthly Performance party, a time where we get together to eat, drink and play music for each other. All of our performance parties have unique elements to them making each one a special event. On this particular day in November, an eclectic group of performers attended. I played *Un Dia de Novembre* and talked about my experience with the piece and asked others if they could send me their thoughts about music, performance and the performance parties.

## October – George and Phyllis Attisano Party



Fabian Abarca-Calderon



Jerome Mouffe



Mike Hurley, Frank Papineau, Chris Ruth, Donn Ricci, and Fabian Abarca-Calderon

Oscar Azaret, guitarist, luthier and the organizer of these parties always brings a kind of relaxed joy to these events. On this particular day "I sat down to try to convene the revelers and start the show, started playing "Here comes the Sun" and Don Hague sang a couple of bars, then of all things, I switched to an old Peter Paul and Mary song – 'I dig Rock and Roll music'." Oscar also brought three of his guitars. "It was fun to hand guitars to George Attisano so he could play one song – *The Entertainer*" on all three of my guitars – quite a treat for me to listen to the three voices – very grateful to George." And it was a treat for the rest of us as well. George did enjoy playing this piece and wrote "That day, I played the Villa-Lobos Etude No. 1 and Scott Joplin's *The Entertainer*. I had been working on these pieces for a presentation that Oscar Azaret and I were giving..." He did a great job of playing "parts of it on each of Oscar's three guitars: the Romanillos, the Fleta, and the Kasha," and being, well, I must say, *The Entertainer*!

We had another luthier there that day, Rich Young. His guitars were played by Mark Davis and Michael Bester. Mark, with his decades of national and international recognition as a performer

and teacher, brings a wealth of not only factual information about music but a wealth of emotional understanding.

Mark performed “Fantasia 10 and ‘Mille Regretz’ by Narvaez on my ‘62 Papazian with a capo and the 3rd string tuned down a half step to emulate the tuning of the ‘vihuela. This year I have been greeting the day between 6 and 7 a.m. with a cappuccino and Frank Koonce’s new ‘The Renaissance Vihuela and Guitar in 16th-century Spain’. (Mel Bay, the Frank Koonce Series). I find that these elegant contrapuntal pieces are very soothing to play and have the ability to draw one outside the

### November – Don and Naoko Hague party.



Jon Kim, George Attisano and Don Hague

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Members of the Boston Guitar Orchestra



Naoko Hague conducting the Boston Guitar Orchestra

reach of daily concerns. Following that I performed a rather ad lib medley on Rich Young’s delightful new Hauser-inspired guitar, ending with my own ‘Thema de Soto.’ I chose these pieces to bring out the various tones possible on this new instrument.”

Nine members of the Boston Guitar Orchestra along with Mark Davis performed *Canta, Canta Mais* by Carlos Jobin. Flutist Miriam Ben-Ur had this to say: “The first piece brings up a lot of feelings, but they transcend words. The sound of 10 guitars is rich and deep.” We also played *Oblivion* by Astor Piazzolla. A video of this performance was sent to our conductor Scott Borg and we were delighted to receive high praise from him. “Congratulations on a great performance! You really are ambassadors for music. One of the sheer pleasures of playing the guitar is having the opportunity to go out and perform for



people, especially in an ensemble setting where everyone works together to make a product that an audience can both enjoy and relate to. Your dedication and love of the guitar truly inspires me.”

Steve Rapson in explaining why he often drives hours to get to our parties wrote, “I have been a professional guitarist for many years. But playing for a listening audience of one’s peers is the highest bar. I vacillate between playing what’s easy and playing what challenges me. At our Pepperell gathering I did both. I learn how to perform and how to practice at these monthly meetings.”

Doug Danforth, guitarist and singer wrote, “The performance parties are a rare opportunity. ... the group is very accepting and supportive of everyone no matter what their level of expertise. It’s a chance to hear other music and experience other people’s struggles with their music. It’s inspiring to be involved with everyone’s dedication and their willingness to share what they’ve been working on. Many thanks to the organizers and hosts who help make these parties possible.”

Indeed on this day in November we were all grateful to be part of a musical experience that allowed us to both practice our skills and access our emotions in order to send that message out to others. So join us for a day in March, or a day in July, or a day in April. And if you join us for a day in May when I host a performance party you can count on some fresh squeezed orange juice!



*Jeffrey Aach*

## Union Music – Carl Kamp Hosting



*Carl Kamp*



*Glenn Jimenez*



*Miriam & Doug*

## Calendar

*BCGS events are in red. Please visit the BCGS website at [www.bostonguitar.org](http://www.bostonguitar.org) to see further information including a link to maps and directions. Members may enter their own events by contacting us for permission and instructions.*

### Friday, February 7, 8:00pm

Berit Strong & Aaron Larget-Caplan - Free Faculty Recital

### Friday, February 7, 8:00pm

Rockport Music: International Guitar Night

### Friday, February 14, 7:30pm

**BCGS Artist Series: Duo Melis**

### Sunday, February 16, 3:00pm

**Hingham Sunday Sounds: Jose Lezcano**

### Saturday, February 22, 8:00pm

Passion and Thought in Song, Aaron Larget-Caplan, guitar, Betany Coffland, mezzo-soprano (Additional performances March 2 at 3:00pm, Mar. 4 at 7:00pm, and Mar. 9 at 4:00pm)

### Saturday, March 8, 2:00pm

**BCGS Performance Party**

### Saturday, March 8, 8:00pm

Lily Afshar, guitar - Solo Concert

### Saturday, March 15

MA-ASTA 2014 Solo Competition

### Sunday, March 16, 3:00pm

**Hingham Sunday Sounds: Steve Marchena, guitar**

### Friday, April 4, 7:30pm

**BCGS Artist Series: Manuel Barrueco**

### Saturday, April 26, 9:00am

**New England Guitar Ensembles Festival: Roland Dyens**

### Saturday, May 17, 2014 2:00pm

**BCGS Performance Party**



## Classifieds

*Classifieds are \$15 per issue of the BCGS newsletter for a 32-word ad, and \$0.25 for each additional word. The fee includes posting on the BCGS webpage for three months. Email [director@bostonguitar.org](mailto:director@bostonguitar.org) with inquiries. Please send checks to BCGS, P.O. Box 470665, Brookline, MA 02447, or pay online.*

### Guitars for Sale

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**Allan Harold Chapman, 1995.** "Lattice Brace Prototype." Indian rosewood back and sides, Sitka spruce top, mahogany neck with rear weighted head, Gilbert tuners, beautiful rosette. Recent setup by Jim Mouradian. Excellent tone and projection. \$1,800 OBO. Includes Harptone hard shell case in very good condition. (617) 835-3621, or email: [ronaldkgold@gmail.com](mailto:ronaldkgold@gmail.com)

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**BCGS Artist Series**

**Presents**

**Duo Melis**

**Friday, Feb.14, 2014**

**[www.bostonguitar.org](http://www.bostonguitar.org)**

