

Christ Church



RICHARD BOWEN

Solo Guitar

Tuesday 14th May 2024

12.30 pm

*Admission is free, donations gratefully received as you leave
for Christ Church funds*

www.christchurchworthing.org.uk

Coffee and tea are served before and after the concert.

Richard Bowen

Richard Bowen gained an ATCL Performance Diploma at Trinity College of Music in London in 2010 .

He studied Classical Guitar with the internationally recognised Segovia prize winner Paul Gregory and won two categories in the Brighton Competitive Music Festival on Classical Guitar in the late eighties..

Prior to undertaking classical studies, Richard spent three years at the Leeds College of Music, studying Jazz Guitar. For two years he was the guitarist with the Frankie Vaughan Orchestra.

He has done sessions on guitar for BBC television, and for individual singers, and has "depped" in West End shows. He is also active on the local "Jazz Scene".

Richard's classical work has been mostly for local music societies and churches such as The Chapel Royal, Brighton, St Nicholas, Brighton, St Leonard's Seaford, Christ Church Worthing and St Mary's Eastbourne .

*Today Richard is Playing a Cedar top Guitar
built in 2020 by Rohan Lowe*

Programme

Along with a word from Richard....

1. Giuliani's "Grand Overture" opens the concert.

Mauro Giuliani was most influential in defining a new role for the solo guitar in Europe at a time when the instrument was regarded as having a purely accompanying role. The Grand Overture is written in the Italian style and is a good example of late eighteenth century Sonata form applied to the guitar. It echoes many devices found in the sonatas of Mozart and Haydn.. French Overture, Mannheim crescendo, aria, Alberti bass and so on. Giuliani worked with Rossini and Beethoven and was most definitely "in" with such musicians when he settled in Vienna.

2. The famous Mozart Variations are still the subject of heated musicological debate.

Based on a theme from the Magic Flute ,the question is whether Sor actually saw a performance of this opera when he was staying in London, or merely heard the tune.

In the absence of any modern recording techniques ,many ears did work properly in Sor's day, and tunes were remembered much more easily than today.

3. The Villa Lobos Preludes 2/3/4 came from perhaps Brazil's most famous composer and these three preludes are from a set of 5 dedicated to Andres Segovia.

Heitor Villa Lobos spent time in Paris with the impressionistic composers like Ravel and Debussy and was regarded by many as their equal.

4. A Latin American medley

Solidao ,by Jobim, is a rather plaintive melody from the guitarist composer who used to live in the Ipanema area of Rio when he moved there as a child after his mother split from her husband. Hence the famous "Girl/Boy From Ipanema" smash hit pop tune of the sixties with Astrid Gilberto. The composition of his played today is more restrained!

5. Luiz Bonfa , also of Brazil, wrote this Sambalamento

maybe as thanks to his Uruguayan teacher, who he had to visit by way of a 2½ hour trek each way for guitar lessons when he was a youngster.

As a result his distinguished teacher refused to charge him for the lessons.

He got his big break in writing some of the music for the film Black Orpheus, the theme tune of which is now an accepted jazz standard.

This fine guitarist composer can be seen on You Tube ,being hosted by a very young Perry Como. He plays fabulously and this is one of his popular compositions.

6. Antonio Lauro from Venezuela wrote a set of Valses for guitar which are world famous.

He mistakenly didn't think much of his own playing ability but somewhere out there, is a video of him playing this Vals No' 3 really well.

He was a keen democrat and got imprisoned by the usual Latin American dictator for his beliefs, carrying on composing whilst in prison and joining a touring outfit immediately on his release. His approach was similar to that of Bartok in that he was trying to compose for the guitar and the repertoire using Venezuelan folk melodies.

Thanks for coming today, we hope to see you again soon!