

The Classical Guitar Society of Western Australia, Inc.

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GUITAR WA

Newsletter – March 2016

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“Never having thought of writing for the guitar, I asked Julian Bream for a chart which would explain what the guitar could do. I managed to write some rather pretty pieces for him, except that the first six notes of the first piece all need to be played on open strings. So when he begins to play the audience will probably think he’s tuning the bloody thing up!”

- William Walton

Letter from the President



Dear Members,

2016 commenced with a flurry of guitar concerts and the exciting array of events continues throughout the year. As **generous discounts** are provided to members at many of these events, joining the guitar society is well worth it!

The Guitar Society Orchestra (the guitar ensemble of the Guitar Society and a centrepiece) continues to be bigger and better every year, and continues this year under the baton of Jane Darcey. The orchestra meets every Friday, rehearsing at the old Maylands Primary School. **New members are especially welcome** at this time of year as the orchestra prepares for mid-year performances (see further information on how to join the orchestra below).

Highlights of our 2016 calendar include the concert of the **Grigoryan Brothers** on Friday August 19th as guest artists and adjudicators for the **2016 WA Classical Guitar Ensemble Festival** (over the weekend of 20th and 21st August).

Another fascinating guest artist coming soon is **Dr Nathan Fischer from Malaysia**, who will be presenting a fabulous concert on Saturday 4th June.

I also commend to all our members the **Guitar Society Forums**, which are a fantastic opportunity for players of all ages and abilities to get up and perform in front of a small audience in a casual setting.

The Guitar Society is also launching a new initiative for Perth guitar teachers by posting a **“Teachers List”** on our website, allowing potential students to peruse for a teacher online. Teachers interested in participating can sign up on the website (and must be members), and are given the opportunity to write a short blurb profiling their teaching.

Please do continue to check our website – www.guitarwa.com.au – which is regularly updated with new information.

I look forward to seeing you soon at a Guitar Society event.

Kind regards

Jonathan Paget

**2016 WA Classical Guitar Ensemble Festival
20-21 August 2016**

ENTRY DEADLINE – 3 June 2016

For **festival directors**, don't forget to get your ensemble entries in!

Applications can be made online at <http://www.sim.iinet.net.au/gfestapl.html> and the closing date is strictly 3rd June.

Upcoming Events

31st March 2016 (Thursday) - 7.30pm

A Guitar Schubertiade

Performed by students and staff, Directed by Dr Jonathan Paget

WAAPA's Classical Music students invite you to a 'Schubertiade' – a musical soiree devoted to the everlasting brilliance of Franz Schubert. WAAPA's version of this unique celebration will showcase the great composer's lieder sung with guitar accompaniment. A match made in heaven, guitar and voice has a long history of producing memorable music... and what better example than Schubert's highly emotional and expressive art songs with their strong lyrical melodies and rich harmonies.

Venue: Music Auditorium, WA Academy of Performing Arts (2 Bradford St Mt Lawley)

Tickets: \$26 Full, \$21 Conc
(waapa.ecu.edu.au/boxoffice or 9370 6895)

1st May 2016 (Sunday) - 2:00pm

Players Forum No. 1

Venue: School of Instrumental Music, 150 Guildford Rd Maylands (access from Peninsular Ave)

For information about the forums, please see
www.guitarwa.com.au/forums.asp.

13th May 2016 (Thursday) - 7.30pm

The Ambient Guitar

Performed by students and staff, Directed by Dr Jonathan Paget

The Ambient Guitar explores the mesmeric world of musical minimalism through the compelling sounds of the acoustic guitar. The program includes Steve Reich's Acoustic Counterpoint (for 16 guitars), the seductive Cuban landscapes of Leo Brouwer, the ambient pop textures of Californian David Pritchard, and the energetic and imaginative soundscapes of Australians Robert Davidson and Nigel Westlake.

Venue: Music Auditorium, WA Academy of Performing Arts (2 Bradford St Mt Lawley)

Tickets: \$26 Full, \$21 Conc
(waapa.ecu.edu.au/boxoffice or 9370 6895)

31st May 2016 (Thursday) - 7.30pm

The Guitar in Dance and Dream

Performed by WAAPA guitar students
A smorgasbord of guitar music, from Renaissance dance to Romantic flights of fancy.

Venue: Kurongkurl Katijin Gallery (ECU, Mount Lawley, Building 15) - FREE ADMISSION -

4th June 2016 (Saturday) - 6:00pm

Dr Nathan Fischer in concert

Nathan Fischer resides in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia where he is a Senior Lecturer of Classical Guitar with the Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM). While in Perth he will present this concert and a masterclass.

<http://www.nathanfischer.com/pressbio.html>

Venue: North Perth Lesser Town Hall (26 View St, North Perth)

Tickets: Online advanced booking: \$30 Adults, \$25 Conc., \$20 members; Door prices: \$33 Adults, \$28 conc., \$23 members.

Discounted prices only available by booking online

<https://trybooking.com/193561>

12th June 2016 (Sunday) - 2:00pm

Guitar Society Orchestra in concert

Join the Classical Guitar Society Orchestra for their first concert for the 2016 program in the relaxed and intimate atmosphere of the Maylands Yacht Club for an afternoon of classical indulgence. Conducted by Jane Darcey, with performances by special guests.

Venue: Maylands Yacht Club (East Street Maylands)

Tickets: \$5 Adults

19th June 2016 (Sunday) - 2:00pm

Guitar Society Orchestra fundraising concert for OMEP (World Organisation for Early Childhood Education)

For the second year, the Guitar Society Orchestra is pleased to support OMEP in 2016. Conducted by Jane Darcey, with performances by special guests. The concert includes a sumptuous afternoon tea.

Venue: St David's Church Hall (Cnr Simpson & Bombard Streets, Applecross)

Tickets: \$20 Adults, Available at the Door.

31st July 2016 (Sunday) - 2:00pm

**Guitar Society Orchestra in concert with Special Guest,
Jonathan Paget on 19th Century Guitar**

The *highlight* of the first half season for the Guitar Society Orchestra, the concert will include a performance by special guest Jonathan Paget on period 19th century instrument from the Romantic repertoire.

Venue: Kalamunda Performing Arts Centre Auditorium (48 Canning Rd, Kalamunda)

Tickets: Tickets Online advanced booking: \$25 Adults, \$20 Conc., \$15 members; Door prices: \$28 Adults, \$23 conc., \$18 members.

Discounted prices only available by booking online
<https://trybooking.com/193564>

19th August 2016 (Friday) - 7.30pm

The Grigoryan Brothers

Performed by Slava and Leonard Grigoryan

Hailed as a phenomenon of genius and rarity, Australian classical guitar duo the Grigoryan Brothers are renowned for their brilliant technical virtuosity, passionate musicality and popular appeal. Slava Grigoryan, who achieved unprecedented international success at an early age, was a founding member of the best-selling, award-winning guitar quartet, Saffire. Slava and his younger brother Leonard have been performing together as the Grigoryan Brothers since 2003, and have released eight ARIA-nominated albums. This not-to-be-missed concert is proudly presented in conjunction with the Classical Guitar Society.

Venue: Music Auditorium, WA Academy of Performing Arts (2 Bradford St Mt Lawley)

Tickets: \$35 Full, \$27 Conc (waapa.ecu.edu.au/boxoffice or 9370 6895)

20th – 21st August 2016 (Saturday-Sunday) – All day

**28th WA Classical Guitar Ensemble Festival
Guest Adjudicators Slava and Leonard Grigoryan**

The aims of the Classical Guitar Ensemble Festival are to provide a performance opportunity for students (especially young students), give ensembles an opportunity to hear others perform, provide each ensemble with constructive comments from an informed adjudicator. Ensembles receive a certificate which recognises participation.

Venue: Carine Senior High School

Tickets: See <http://www.sim.iinet.net.au/guitfest.html>

18th September 2016 (Sunday) – 2:00pm

Players Forum No. 2

Venue: School of Instrumental Music, 150 Guildford Rd Maylands (access from Peninsular Ave)

For information about the forums, please see
www.guitarwa.com.au/forums.asp.

4 December (Sunday) – 7pm

Guitar Society Orchestra – 2016 concert series finale

After a busy concert season in 2016, the Guitar Society Orchestra will perform its final concert for the year. Audiences will be treated to works by a variety of Western Australian and Australian composers. Special guest performances

Venue: North Perth Town Hall

Tickets: TBC.

DISCOUNTS available for advanced bookings online
http://www.guitarwa.com.au/events_upcoming.asp

Classical Guitar Forums

In 2015, two Guitar Forums were held at the School of Instrumental Music (SIM) In Maylands.

Organised by SIM guitar Teacher Caroline Berrer, it gave a wonderful opportunity for performers of all ages to play in front of an appreciative audience. Many were gaining valuable performance experience prior to sitting exams. Refreshments were provided. What a pleasant way to spend a Sunday Afternoon!!

Classical guitar forums are held on a regular basis throughout the year. These events are perfect practice for upcoming performances or exams, and they are also a great way to gain valuable feedback from a supportive audience. Forums are open to players of all skill levels and anyone is welcome to listen.

The **2016 Forums** will be held on **Sunday 1 May** and **Sunday 18 September** at the School of Instrumental Music (Peninsula Rd, Maylands). Forums usually run for 1.5-2hrs. Refreshments are served at the end of the forum.

To play at the forum is free for members, costs \$5 for non-members, and a gold coin donation for audience members.

If you wish to join the CGSWA at the forum, the committee will have membership forms and will be able to chat to you about the benefits of becoming a member.

See the Society website guitarwa.com.au/forums.asp for more information.

Below – participants in the 2015 Forums



DATES FOR THE DIARY!

2016 Classical Guitar Forums

Sunday 1 May

Sunday 18 September

2pm, School of Instrumental Music
(Peninsula Rd, Maylands)

The Guitar Society Orchestra – June 2015 concerts in review

OMEF Fundraiser Concert – 7th June

The month of June saw the Guitar Society Orchestra being kept busy with concerts at St Davids church in Applecross which raised funds for the OMEF, the World Organisation for Early Childhood Education as well as Maylands Yacht Club.

The orchestra is conducted by Jane Darcey and performed mainly music by Western Australian composers including Richard Lenz (Carpe Diem,

Asturiana), Jane Darcey (Carefree and her arrangement of Dowland’s Fantasia VII) and John Ralph (Brand New Day).

Left – Isaac Mangano plays Dowland

Below – Orchestra gets ready



Maylands Yacht Club Concert – 21st June

Billed as *An Afternoon of Classical Indulgence* it was a wonderfully relaxed atmosphere in the intimate and comfortable surrounds of the Maylands Yacht Club.

The afternoon was dark and stormy, but the music was light and breezy! The Guitar Orchestra played music including new works composed by members: Jane Darcey's *Carefree* and John Ralph's *Brand New Day*.

Below – Maylands Yacht Club concert 2015



Concert Review: The Guitar Artistry of Marcin Dylla

Friday 21st August 2015, WAAPA Music Auditorium

Concert Review by Glyn Geen



Jonathan Paget had billed this year's visiting international guitarist by reporting that he was "*hailed as among the most gifted guitarists on the planet*" and "*an elite among the younger generation of international guitar players*". His tallest order came by describing Marcin as "*truly the new John Williams ... and an absolute must-see!*" With such high praise Marcin was greeted by a packed house of eager music lovers for his solo concert!

And those that took this advice and heard the concert on Friday were not disappointed! The performance was truly world class. The opening piece, Ponce's *Theme, Variations and Fugue on Folia de Espana* was very approachable. The audience were treated immediately with playing alive with expression and colour. The dynamic range of the guitar was on full show.

We were also treated to several modern pieces including an Australian premiere in Roberto Sierra's *Sonata para guitarra*. This piece was a real highlight with Marcin confiding that the composition had only been completed last year and was to be his "happy" finisher piece in the program. However, he continued, he had found after spending time learning the piece that it was *not*, in fact, a happy piece, but rather another darker piece, sad in nature! And it was a more moody, brooding piece at times but with wonderful sense of drama from Marcin when it was required and quite beautiful, and a delight.

For guitarists in the audience it was great to see examples of stunning technique – fast phrases

executed flawlessly, expressive passages given the full force of the Right Hand or a silky touch. One subtle but obvious demonstration of his complete mastery of the instrument came when a D tuning was required. With barely a stop, the 3 deliberate full turns and half turn back – was executed and then straight into the next section – no test pluck of the string, nor the usual quick re-tune after a few notes required. And this was not the end – the brief tea cup method *glissando* was wonderful!

The length and complexity of the music was impressive – and the level of musical mastery required to play the entire concert unassisted by any music was tremendous.

Marcin was enormously generous with his time in Perth and also provided amazing insight and performance guidance in a mammoth **3 hour Master Class** the night before the concert. A point Marcin highlighted in the Masterclass several times came when explaining his view that the opening passage or phrase of a piece needs to "**describe the character of the piece**". Having heard this, I was keenly looking for each of his descriptions for the pieces in his concert program and was not surprised to see that each new piece – all unfamiliar to me – were 'introduced' so well with a different colour or expression. The 'character of the piece' was clear – evoking pain, drama, anger, or sadness.

A final note of interest from the Masterclass for all guitarists was on the nature of our practice. During the Masterclass – where whole 40 minute segments were spent concentrating on aspects of 8-10 notes, or 1-3 bar phrases, or the first 2 lines – Marcin remarked that the "**most effective way of practicing is to focus on the small details**". There is something in that for every one - toiling away at whatever level. And this is something that stood out in Marcin's concert – the level of care and attention to the smallest of details in everything he played.

Thanks to Jonathan Paget and WAAPA for hosting Marcin Dylla and bringing a memorable solo artist to Perth!

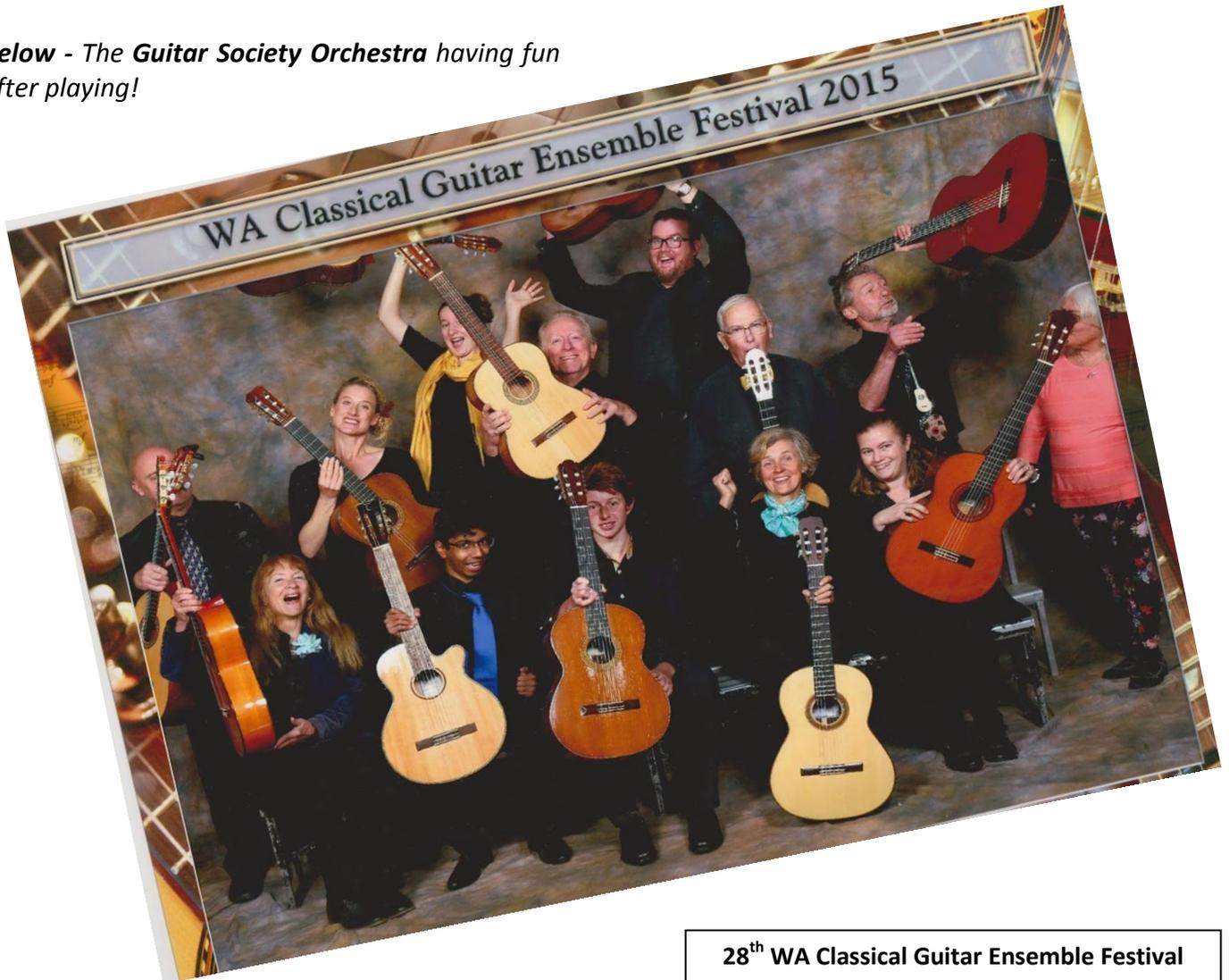
August 2015: The Classical Guitar Ensemble Festival

Again held at Carine Senior High School this annual event grows bigger every year. In 2015, over 68 guitar ensembles participated and all were adjudicated over the 2 days by Marcin Dylla.

This Weekend event is a marvelous celebration of ensemble for classical guitar in WA.

Below - The Guitar Society Orchestra having fun after playing!

The **28th WA Classical Guitar Ensemble Festival** to be held at Carine Senior High School on Saturday, 20th August and Sunday, 21st August 2016 promises to be another big year with guest adjudicators **Slava and Leonard Grigoryan**.



28th WA Classical Guitar Ensemble Festival
20-21 August 2016

ENTRY DEADLINE – 3 June 2016

Applications can be made online at
<http://www.sim.iinet.net.au/gfestapl.html>
and the closing date is strictly 3rd June.

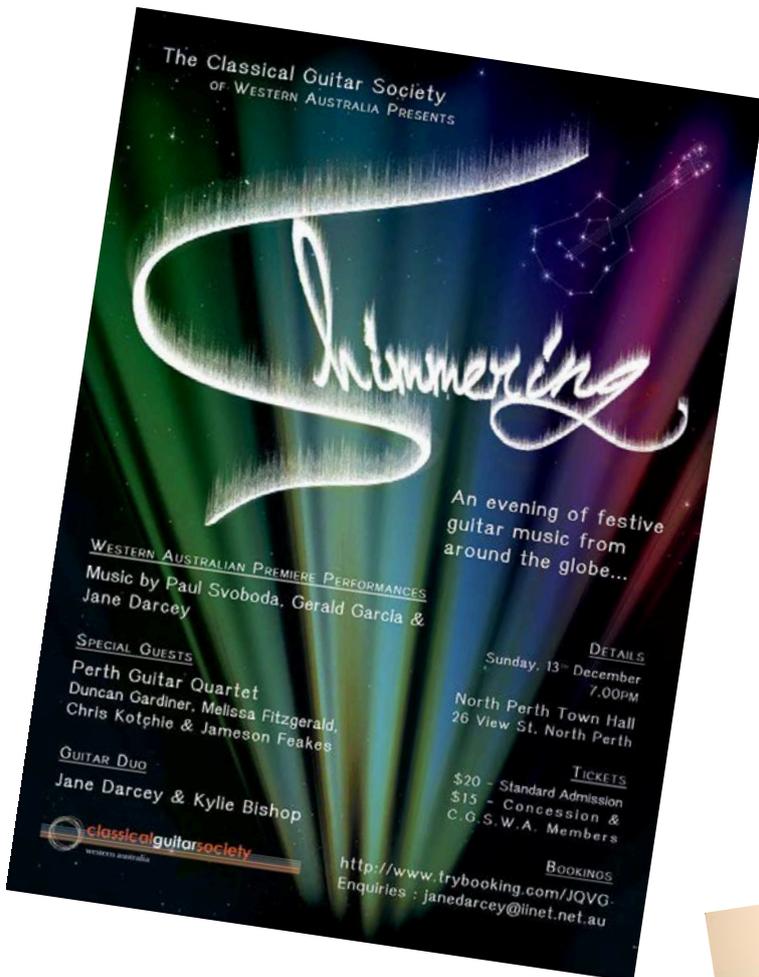
December 2015: Shimmering – Guitar Society Orchestra with the Perth Guitar Quartet

The highlight concert for the Guitar Society Orchestra for 2015 was a ***Shimmering*** spectacular! Audience members were treated to Western Australian premiere performances of music by Paul Svoboda, Gerald Garcia and Jane Darcey.

Performances by special guests the **Perth Guitar Quartet** who played the *Opals* suite by Charlton and two pieces from the Gypsy Kings – which were amazing. The musical Director Jane Darcey played self composed duets with Kylie Bishop and Duncan Gardiner.

Guitar Society Orchestra –

Conductor: Jane Darcey
1st Guitar: Marcia Hewitt, Isaac Mangano, Mina Mitric
2nd Guitar: Kylie Bishop, Leanne Fried, Alex Scherini
3rd Guitar: John Dall, Glyn Geen, Siddarth Murali, Thomas Wilson
4th Guitar: Jerome Toonen, Peter Hewitt, Allison Kohn, Xuan Le, Jasper Tang



2016 Guitar Society Orchestra Rehearsals

The GSO has moved!

We rehearse Friday nights from 7pm - 9pm at SIM
(the School of Instrumental Music), 150 Guildford Rd,
Maylands.

Please contact Jane Dacey for further information on
joining the Orchestra.

For the most up to date information on Classical
Guitar activity in WA visit our website

www.guitarwa.com.au

If you have any Comments, News or Reviews
please address them
to johndralph@hotmail.com

