



Colorado Springs Guitar Society Newsletter

January 2015

In this issue:

- The next meeting: **Monday January 12th 2015**
- Last month's CSGS meeting
- Group Pieces for January: "Forest Ensemble Series No. 4"
- Music quotes
- Foothills Guitar Duo Performed for Wintersong 2014 (article)

Last Month's Meeting

Last month's CSGS meeting was held Monday December 8th 2014, in Armstrong Hall on the CC Campus. The performers and pieces played were:

- Group pieces: "Seven Carols"
- Brad Rumsey: Study #3, Op. 31 (Fernando Sor)
- Rock Goldberg: Alman (Anon.) & "Away in a Manger" (James R. Murray)
- Bert Bradford and Rock Goldberg, recorder and guitar duet: "The Coventry Carol" (Traditional)
- Bert Bradford: Study #8 in D minor (Fernando Sor), and Gavottes 1 & 2 from BWV 995 (Johann Sebastian Bach)
- Jim Bosse: "James" and "Goodnight My Angel" (Billy Joel, arr. Jim Bosse)
- Tom Stringer: 4 Preludes (Manuel Ponce)

CSGS Officers:

- **Mike Zimmerman**, President
- **Jim Bosse**, Vice President
- **Bruce Downs**, Secretary and Webmaster
- **Tom Stringer**, Newsletter Editor
- **Mark Mathews**, Member at Large
- **Josh Willis**, CSGS Facebook Pages Editor

Contact information:

<http://www.coloradospringsguitarsociety.org/>

The Next Meeting of the CSGS

Meetings are the second Monday of each month, at **Armstrong Hall** (NE corner of Cascade and Cache La Poudre) on the Colorado College Campus, **Room 328**, at 7:30 PM, and are free and open to the public. The next meeting is **Monday January 12th 2015**.

Group pieces: all attending guitarists are welcome to join in playing the set of group pieces: we will once again play pieces from "Forest Ensemble Series No. 4" from <http://www.forrestguitaresembles.co.uk/quartets.html>. Scroll down the page to find this set of pieces.

Please learn at least two of the parts to each piece if possible, so that you could do either to allow us to cover the 4 parts of the ensemble. If possible please print and bring the sheet music, and please have your guitar tuned to standard pitch. Following the group pieces, the meeting will be open to any attending guitarists that wish to play to perform a couple of solo pieces for the other meeting attendees. Ensemble pieces, such as duets and trios, with other musicians are encouraged.

Editor's Note: In February, we will switch to playing Celtic ensemble pieces, in preparation of St. Patrick's Day coming up the following month.

Music Quotes

"To strip human nature until its divine attributes are made clear, to inform ordinary activities with spiritual fervor, to give wings of eternity to that which is most ephemeral; to make divine things human and human things divine; such is Bach, the greatest and purest moment in music of all time."
- *Pablo Casals*

"...the most stupendous miracle in all music!"
- *Richard Wagner, on the music of Johann Sebastian Bach*

Upcoming Concerts and Events

Stargazers Theater, at 10 S. Parkside Dr., Colorado Springs <http://www.stargazerstheatre.com/> brings in a number of music concerts potentially of great interest to CSGS newsletter readers. See the web site above for a list of their concerts and other events. Stargazers Theatre and Event Center is a multi use indoor facility with a seating capacity of 500 people concert style and 220 people banquet style. They feature concert events ranging from rock, country, blues, jazz, classic rock, folk, Celtic, bluegrass, comedy and more.

The Black Rose Acoustic Society

This society also offers a great many concerts, jams, lessons, and musical events that will be of interest to guitarists and CSGS newsletter readers.

See their website at

<http://www.blackroseacoustic.org/index.php>

Foothills Guitar Duo Performed for Wintersong 2014

Foothills Guitar Duo (Mike Zimmerman and Chelsea Smith) performed for the annual Wintersong concert series with the Colorado Vocal Arts Ensemble on December 19 and 20th at Shove Chapel on the campus of Colorado College. The Duo played three Spanish villancicos from the 15th century, along with the 30-member CVAE choir, a cellist and percussion as part of a two-hour long mostly-choral concert.

Although the performances were in December, the process to get there began the previous July when CVAE director Deborah Jenkins-Teske approached Mike with the idea to perform these pieces. "We met and talked about the pieces, the style in which they were performed and the textural quality of the guitars and various choir/solo accompaniment," said Mike. "Deborah gave me the vocal scores and asked if I could create a guitar accompaniment from them. We discussed tempos and the possible combinations of guitars with the choir." Mike ended up using an octave guitar for Chelsea to double the alto part of the choir (or soloist, in one of the pieces) at pitch, and he used a standard guitar tuned a whole step down. "I tuned the guitar down a whole step and transposed my music up to E minor in order to play in D minor with a fuller sound using all 6 strings. For the last piece in G major, I put a capo on the second fret and played the music as written. In fact, I changed my strings and kept the guitar tuned a whole step down for two weeks before the concert to keep the guitar pitch from changing much during the rehearsals and performances."

The first rehearsal with the choir was the week prior to the performance. "I was quite nervous since we had never done anything like this before, and I wasn't sure how it would all

work out with the choir, cello and percussion," Mike said. "After that first rehearsal we had so many compliments from the choir members and director that I knew it was going to work out just fine. It was quite a relief! We were so confident after that that the performances themselves went without a hitch."

All in all a great experience for the Foothills Guitar Duo and a wonderful holiday experience for the audience to hear these rarely-performed songs from the Spanish Renaissance. You can find out more about Foothills Guitar Duo and the Colorado Vocal Arts Ensemble on their respective Facebook pages. Just search for "Foothills Guitar Duo" and "Colorado Vocal Arts Ensemble."



Foothills Guitar Duo (Mike Zimmerman and Chelsea Smith)



Foothills Guitar Duo with the Colorado Vocal Arts Ensemble

GUITAR MUSE -

by Mark Mathews

(Mark's column will return soon)



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Master luthier Randy Reynolds (see his ad above) has a blog with a number of great, informative articles that will of interest to guitarists. You can read all of these articles at <http://www.reynoldsguitars.com/blog.shtml>. Articles that can be read on his site deal with, to give a couple of examples, evaluating the tone and dynamic range of a new guitar, and the pros and cons of choosing a luthier-built guitar.