

C.G.S.U.N.Y. NEWSLETTER

Spring 2009

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Classical Guitar Society of Upstate N.Y. 8 Banta Place, Stamford, NY 12167
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President's Message

By Dennis Turechek

As most of you know, CGSUNY likes to recognize, from time to time, members who have made significant contributions to the society. One person who is eminently worthy remains elusive. I speak of Bruce Walker. Bruce is very aloof and self effacing and can't imagine anyone would care to read about him. And yet, it is hard to think of anyone more important to the growth of CGSUNY than Bruce, especially in its formative years.

Many members know Bruce as a first rate guitar maker from East Branch and some members own one or more of his guitars including this writer. Not as well known, is that Bruce was the 2nd president of CGSUNY succeeding Gail Hamilton, who was the 1st. Even less well known is that Bruce voluntarily stepped down from the presidency when he could easily been re-elected to take over as the treasurer where we desperately needed help and guidance.

It was Bruce who created the idea of offering up a Walker guitar at the Fall Festival to attract more people and executed this idea with beautiful hand made guitars for several years thereafter. Finally, his vision of and for CGSUNY was always unselfish and altruistic. His down to earth approach to all things and his sensible advice was always consistent with his own personal example.

Bruce is retired and entitled to take it as easy as he wishes. He has left an indelible mark on our society, but if he doesn't want to hear about his contributions to CGSUNY, I guess I have to respect that. Please make certain that he doesn't receive a copy of this newsletter.

Dennis Turechek

Attention Members:

MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE PAST DUE!

If you have not yet sent in your renewal membership for 2009, please do so today...we need your support to continue bringing guitar events to the upstate area. Membership form is on back page of this newsletter.



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Composing: Lagrima

by Tom Rasely, CGSUNY Board member

♩ = 72

E B7 E B7

Last month I proposed that cliches were our friends. So, to see if that statement stands up, let's examine Part 1 of "Lagrima" by Francisco Tarrega (1852-1909). Tarrega was one of the great players and teachers of his time, and he was also a prolific composer. This music starts on a I chord (E). The 4th string E and the 1st string G# combine with the open 2nd string B to create an idiomatic voicing of a root position I chord. The outer "voices" then move parallel up the scale two steps in succession while the inner voice (B) remains static. The next thing that happens is that the melody and harmony notes both move down 4 scale steps to F# and D#, and combine with the open B again, but this time adding the dominant 7th A note and the bass B (5th string) to create a V7 chord. Melodically, it's interesting to see that every note that is on a beat alternates with the open B note on the off-beat. Cliches!

The chords I and V7 combine to establish every note in the scale of E, with the exception of the 6th step C#. The chords I and V7 are the same chords that are used in the folk song "Tom Dooley". I doubt that Tarrega was familiar with this traditional American nugget, but that's not the point.

Now let's take a closer look at the second line.

C#m 9fr. E 9fr. A6 7fr. E F# B7 E

The 1st measure continues the alternation to a single note, while the 2nd measure features a single note line that could easily be found in a rock lead section. The 3rd measure starts with the I chord and then moves through a "Circle of Fifths" (major II to V7 to I). The melody is basically walking down the scale, with a slight side trip in the 2nd measure which begins with B and ends with A. Scales, parallel intervals, circle of fifths...talk about cliches! Hey, if it's good enough for Tarrega, it's good enough for the rest of us. So, get to writing!

9th Annual Fall Festival.....get ready now!

Dates: October 3 & 4th 2009

Featured Artist: *Jason Vieaux.*



More Details to follow in upcoming newsletters and on our web page.

**Summer NEWSLETTER deadline
for submissions
is
July 10, 2009**

Please submit articles, etc. as soon as possible.

To: musicalm@frontiernet.net

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