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Dorset Guitar Society

On The Beat

Newsletter of the Dorset Guitar Society

November Update

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November
Teatime Talent Performances



This month we enjoyed a solo performances by Daisy Watson & Mark Armitage, duet by Bob & Peter L and a quartet by Bob, Sue, Martin & Peter L.

Mark Armitage started off with his performance of the Mason Williams hit **'Classical Gas'**. Mark chose to amplify this guitar for a more authentic performance.
Originally named "Classical Gasoline", the tune was envisioned to be "fuel" for the classical guitar repertoire. The title was later inadvertently shortened by a music copyist.

"Classical Gas" is sometimes erroneously thought to have been performed or even composed by Eric Clapton, because Clapton was the musical director of and played much of the guitar music for the feature film The Story of Us, in which Williams' own recording of it from his album Handmade appeared.

Williams re-recorded "Classical Gas" as a solo guitar piece on his 1970 album Handmade. This version was re-released by Sony in 2003, after being featured in the film Cheaper by the Dozen, which starred Williams' Smothers Brothers protégé, actor/comedian/musician Steve Martin.

First for the quartet was a performance of **'Greensleeves'.** This arrangement was a variation of the theme and was originally intended for trio- the 4th part added by Peter L.
The quartet then went on to perform **'Into the light'** composed by Peter Lubbock.
The quartet then reduced size to a duo of Bob and Peter for their performance of **Alfonsina Y El Mur.** This arrangement for 2 guitars was made by Bob.
Ariel Ramírez *composed Alfonsina y el Mar in* ***1939****, with lyrics by* ***Félix Luna****, and it quickly became one of the most celebrated South American songs.*
The work is a tribute to the poet ***Alfonsina Storni***

This month's performances were concluded with Daisy Watson playing **Carcassi etude opus 60, no. 7**

Many thanks to all for playing



Events

Meeting Dates



Friends and Family Concert 15th November 2026

Small ensembles & solos- performers for these ready and to the side of the stage area for start of concert- rest of DGS in audience. Peter N To MC

Running order:

- **Greensleeves- Peter L, Sue, Martin, Bob**
- **Into the Light**
- **Classical Gas- Mark Armitage**
- **Vals no.1- Paul**
- **Alfonsina Y el Mar - Bob and Peter L**

Orchestra to assemble on stage

- **Wongaling**
- **Nine Barrow Morning**
- **Pavane**
- **Dance of the Knights**

- **Encore Eight Little Corintheans**

Tea and Cake!

Usual black concert dress. If any family member is handy with a camera- some new photos would be great to have both during or after the concert.
Please encourage as many family and friends to attend as you can. Any money raised will help us to buy new music.

Bob's recordings from yesterday are now in the 'DGS rehearsal Recordings' folder on OneDrive (thanks Bob)

Please use the link below to access parts & recordings

Access pdf parts

Access rehearsal recordings

South Coast Societies Day 2026

On the 18th October, 14 DGS members travelled to Bognor Regis and joined forces with guitarists from Canterbury, West Sussex and Southampton Societies for what has now become an annual playing day for societes along the south coast. This year hosted by West Sussex Guitar Club at the Regis School of Music in Bognor. It was a special event as it also marked the one year anniversary of the passing of my teacher and WSGC's founder -Sasha Levtov. We established this playing day some 10 years ago as a meeting between DGS and WSGC and it has now grown to include SCGS, RAGG and Canterbury. Sasha would have been very happy to see so many guitarists enjoying playing together in his hall!
DGS are to host next year and the provisional date for this is **Sunday 19th September 2027**
The following article has been written and kindly shared with us by Hazel Inskip- Secretary of the Southampton Classical Guitar Society.

We spent the morning working on a piece called Wongaling by Paul Svoboda led by Linda Kensall-Barnet from West Sussex. She introduced it by showing us pictures of Wongaling Beach in Queensland Australia, and an equally sunny picture of the beach at Bognor Regis. It is a fun piece in four parts and members of our society contributed to all four. We had previously run it through at our SCGS meeting in September, but Linda took it at a cracking pace, so we were a bit caught out. The tempo is given as Beachy and Tropical, which we had interpreted (wrongly) as pretty laid back. After the first run-through, at Tim's request (thanks, Tim!) she pulled the speed back a bit, which helped. The day before the event, we were sent an introduction to the piece written by John Glover-Kind called 'Anthem for the 2026 Southern Guitar Societies Celebration or: Who Needs To Go To Wongaling Anyway'. It was based on the well-known song 'Oh I do love to be beside the Seaside' and each guitar society played small sections of it, before joining together and then leading into Wongaling. All great fun.

Lunch was provided by the West Sussex group. During that break, we had a poignant moment to remember Sasha Levtov who set up and ran the West Sussex Group from many years. He attended the joint societies day in Dorset last year and sadly died very suddenly a couple of weeks later on October 18th 2025. He is much missed by the Society there and in the wider guitar world.

The afternoon was devoted to contributions from the various societies.

Canterbury kicked it off, though only two members of that society were present. They, Tom Rimmer and Rob Protheroe, performed three duets, Bach Invention number 14, Pilkington Echo for Two Lutes and Satie's Gnossienne number 3. Rob then performed two solos by Couperin: Les Ombres Errantes, and Les Barricades Mystérieuses. All these provided a great start to the afternoon and were beautifully played.

Next up were 13 guitarists from Dorset who performed three ensemble pieces. The first was written by one of the players Peter Lubbock – a lovely piece evoking a misty start to a day called Nine Barrow Morning. Then we had a fiery performance of Prokofiev's Dance of the Knights from Romeo and Juliet. Out came the bass and requinto guitars to finish their set with Fauré's Pavanne.

A trio, including Peter Lubbock, played another of his pieces called Into the Light. This was written for a quartet but one of the members had recently had surgery so couldn't join in and Peter had re-written it for the trio! Then we had a duo formed from two of the trio players playing Alfonsina y el Mar by Ariel Ramirez, arranged by Bob ??? one of the performers. Finally from Dorset, Mark Armitage played a piece called Recuerdos - not the well known one by Tarrega, but a lovely piece by Eduardo Diaz.

Then it was our turn. Twelve of us stepped up, under Tim's baton to perform Paragon Rag by Scott Joplin, arranged by Tim himself. We have been practising it at various SCGS ensemble evenings, and we gave a creditable performance. Jane Nash and Mark Toomer then gave us a solo each. Jane played Capricho Arabe – yes, the one by Tarrega, and Mark played Por una Cabeza by Carlos Gardel, arranged by Nemanja Bogunovic. Both did the Society proud, playing with fabulous tone. Finally Tim and his duet partner Adrian Smale from RAGG played Spanish Dance No 2 (Orientale) by Granados. Both this duet and Mark's piece were given a run through at our Society meeting in September. It was lovely to hear them again.

West Sussex's turn, who, as hosts, had opted to go last, and ten players from their society gave a spirited performance of Balero by Bartolomé Calatayud. Paul Nowlan, who confessed to having only started to play the guitar recently, bravely stepped up to play Branle De Poitou by Adrien Le Roy, which he performed well. He was followed by another soloist Teresa Henley who played Memories of Summer by Gary Ryan. Linda Kensall-Barnett, not content with organising the day, also provided us with a beautiful rendition of a piece she had composed following the felling of the Sycamore Gap tree. The piece was based on the folk song 'Fair Flower of Northumberland' and Linda had called the piece 'Fall'. She was followed by Elaine Foakes giving her first performance of Villa Lobos, Prelude no 5, which she said was in need of an outing! She played it very well indeed.

By then we were ready for a tea break, and the West Sussex bakers had done us proud. We tucked into a wonderful choice of home-made cakes.

Then the West Sussex Orchestra played an untitled piece by Luke Laves (????), followed by an arrangement by Bridget Mermikides of the popular 'Cavatina' by Stanley Myers and 'From the Andes' arranged by John Whitworth. A great way to round off the Society performances.

To finish the day, we performed Wongaling (with its introduction). This was recorded, but sadly the recording failed so we had to do it again! The day ended with a group photo, which

took some organising.

Huge thanks to West Sussex and in particularly to Linda Kensall-Barnett for a magnificent day with great hospitality. Thanks too to Tim for his work on the ensemble, and all those from our society who took part. We'll be signing up again next year. Dorset have kindly offered to host it again in 2027, but we will step up in 2028 – all ideas welcome.















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