

the ROSETTE

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November, 2000

Orange County welcomes guitarist Stephan Robinson



On Saturday, November 18, 8 p.m., the Orange County Guitar Circle is pleased to present guitarist Stephan Robinson in Salmon Hall.

Born in New York, Stephan Robinson began his guitar studies in 1976 with Bruce Holzman at Florida State University. Before receiving the first Doctor of Music Degree in Guitar Performance from Florida State University in 1987, Dr. Robinson attended The Yale School of Music for graduate work. High Fidelity/Musical America Magazine named him Young Artist of 1985.

Stephen Robinson tours extensively as a recitalist, chamber musician and orchestral soloist. He has appeared as guest soloist with the Cincinnati

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Randy Pile brings "Story of the Guitar" to Chapman

Randy Pile's ambitiously titled program, "Story of the Guitar," was unlike anything that had been presented at the Orange County Guitar Circle before. The most outstanding feature was the staging: A 16-foot wide by eight-foot tall canvas provided the backdrop for the performer, while a piano bench, draped with a cloth, served as both music stand and table for wine and candles. Lighting for the performer consisted of a single spotlight on a tall stand, and the bench on which Mr. Pile sat concealed colored lights that illuminated the backdrop and shifted colors to suit the mood of the music.

As the program began, the backdrop painting was a slightly surrealistic parlor – a chair, a clock, a window, a settee. The artist explained the sonata-allegro form as it applied to his first work, Grand Solo, Op. 14, of Fernando Sor. This is a large scale and demanding work, which he played with sweetness and an effective *leggiero* feel. In his "Story," this work represented "the recital."

Beginning a section representing "the dance" was a lively performance of Heitor Villa-Lobos' *Mazurka-Chôro*. Antonio Lauro's *Valses Venezolanas* followed, which he imbued with a lively South American spirit.

The last dance was the always enjoyable Usher Waltz by contemporary Russian composer Nikita Koshkin. Mr. Pile related in graphic detail the tale woven by Edgar Allan Poe of the demise of the house of Usher, with particular emphasis on the physical cracking of the house itself. His playing did a wonderful job of conveying

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Stephan Robinson

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Symphony and Boston Pops Orchestras, and conducts master classes at leading musical institutions worldwide. During the 2000 season, Dr. Robinson will perform in Germany, Italy, throughout the United States and extensively throughout Florida. He has recently been elected to the Guitar Foundation of America Advisory Board.

He has been recognized for his outstanding work with children and seniors, and in 1991, was presented with Stetson University's Hand Award for Excellence in Research and Creativity. He is the founding Director of the Guitar Program and the International Guitar Workshop at Stetson University, where he is currently Professor of Music.

Dr. Robinson will be performing works by Bach, Sainz de la Maza, Albéniz, Pujol and Dyens among others. The performance will begin at **8p.m.** on **Saturday, November 18** at Chapman University's **Salmon Hall**. OCGC members are admitted free of charge. Guests and non-members are asked to pay \$7.00 at the door.

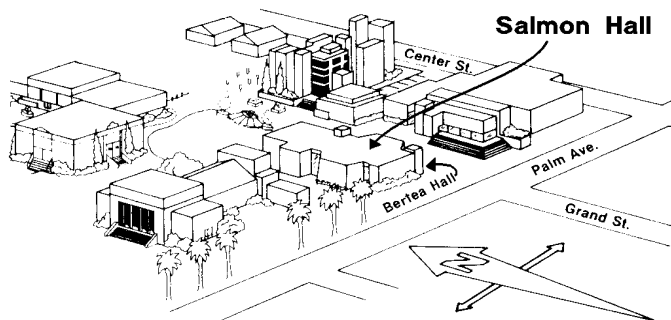
In addition to this special concert, Dr. Robinson will also be giving a **master class** on Saturday November 18, at 10:00 a.m. in the choral room next door to Salmon Hall. There will be a \$5.00 charge to attend the class and \$25 if you would like to perform in the class. If you are interested in performing in the class, please call Jeff Cogan at (714) 289-1472 for a reservation.

This will be our last feature performance before the holiday season break so we hope to see all our members in attendance. See you at the show!

This month's recital location

Saturday November 18 at 8:00 p.m

Salmon Hall, Chapman University
333 N. Glassell St. Orange, CA.



October Showcase Recital

Congratulations to all the performers of our last showcase of 2000.

Studies, Op. 60, Nos. 3 and 7. M. Carcassi
Matt Nipper, guitar

Prelude No. 4 H. Villa-Lobos
Prelude in D minor J. S. Bach
Sarabande J. S. Bach
Payam Larijani, guitar

Two South American Duets Arr. By Len Williams
El Puerto
Cubana
Zeus Lim and Richard Glenn, guitars

Studies Op. 6, No 6. F. Sor
Prelude in D minor J. S. Bach
Quoc-Phong Tran, guitar

Divertimento No. 4, K. 439b W. A. Mozart
Allegro (Arr. by R. Glenn)
Adagio
Allegretto
David Avalos, Glen Boyd and Richard Glenn, guitars

Faire A. York
Sunday Morning Overcast A. York
Sunburst A. York
Jimmy Hsu, guitar

La Maja de Goya E. Granados
Danza Española E. Granados
Lawrence Ward, guitar

Captain Willoughby's Welcome Home J. Dowland
Tango Español I. Albeniz
Duet in G, Op. 34, No. 2 F. Carulli
James Chiang and Cha-Yu Teng, guitars

Randy Pyle

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Koshkin's flight of musical madness, and two theatrical touches midway through the work (at its maniacal peak) added to the effect: Mr. Pyle, needing to turn the page on his score, dramatically flung half the score onto the floor without missing a beat. Then, by means of a cleverly cut piece of jagged black felt, a crack began to appear in the surrealistic backdrop, widening as it worked its way slowly down from the top of the set. The audience loved it.

We returned from intermission to a new backdrop, an impressionist European street scene. This set the mood for the second half of the program, titled "The Genius of Joaquín Rodrigo."

Mr. Pyle had a personal relationship with the famous composer, who died just last year. In his conversations with Rodrigo, he gained special insights into the composer's works. The combination of the mystical and folkloric was Rodrigo's specialty, and was clearly evident in the first work, *Tiento antiguo*. Without pause, Mr. Pyle went straight into *Tres pequeñas piezas*, which depicted a pilgrimage of the shepherds, the streets of Santiago, and a late night gypsy *fiesta*.

Among the most effective performances of the evening were the two works of *Por los campos de España: En Tierras de Jerez* and the demanding *En los trigales*. Our performer then introduced Rodrigo's last major work for the guitar, *Un tiempo fue Itálica famosa* (at one time Itálica was famous). This work, spiced with demanding scales and flashy *rasgueados*, was given an appropriately passionate performance.

The final work on the program was the *Sonata a la Española*. In his conversations with the maestro, Mr. Pyle learned there were two versions of the programmatic nature of the work. In the public version, Rodrigo indicated it was an ironic take on the Spanish people and society. But he privately admitted that he viewed the work as the story of the tribulations of a blind man (himself) making his way to the refrigerator in the middle of the night! Regardless of its intent, the piece was wonderful, end-

ing with exciting, crowd-pleasing *rasgueados*.

With relatively simple props and staging, Randy Pyle has added a new dimension to the classical guitar recital. This "thinking outside the box" will no doubt serve as inspiration to others, making the recital experience richer for us all. Our sincere thanks to Mr. Pyle for a wonderful evening of learning and entertainment.

—Dave Weisbart

OCGC Calendar of Events

Here are the scheduled events for the 2000/2001 season at Chapman. Members attend regular recitals for free. All events will be held in Salmon Recital Hall unless otherwise indicated.

November 18, 2000	Stephan Robinson
December, 2000	no recital
January 20, 2001	Showcase Recital
February 17, 2001	Lorenzo Micheli (GFA)
March 17, 2001	Showcase Recital
April 21, 2001	Flamenco Program
May 19, 2001	Showcase Recital
June 16, 2001	Directors' Showcase

After our holiday season break, the OCGC will be back on **Saturday, January 20 at 8 p.m.** with our first Showcase Recital of 2001. If you have never attended a Showcase, it is comprised of players and/or teachers who are members of the Orange County Guitar Circle. If you interested in performing in January's Showcase, please contact Recital Coordinator Richard Glenn at **(949) 733-1456** or email him at **rbglenn@aol.com**.

Paul Galbraith at LMU

This Grammy nominated artist plays a unique 8-string guitar in a cello style position. He will be performing **Sunday, February 4 at 7:30 p.m.** at Murphy Recital Hall at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. Tickets are \$20. For more information, call **(310) 338-5158** or check the LMU Website at **www.lmu.edu/colleges/cfa/music** for details.