

Classical Guitar Course 11th – 13th June 2010 as Part of The British BMG Federation Summer School Weekend at Benslow Music Trust, Little

Benslow Hills, Benslow Lane, Hitchin, Herts SG4 9RB

websites: www.banjomandolinguitar.org and www.benslow.org



Gerald Garcia: Classical Guitar

Ensemble playing is one of the best ways to improve musical skills such as keeping in rhythm, playing without stopping and listening to others while concentrating on a fairly simple part. It also presents music making as a sociable activity, depending on the interaction between the players. This course will introduce participants to ensemble playing in a relaxed yet rigorous manner! Music chosen will be of an easy to intermediate level and participants will need to be able to read music notation (not tab). Sight reading ability is an advantage, although this can also improve through taking part in the course. Parts will be distributed beforehand and for the event to run smoothly, participants will need to have studied the music on their own. To get the most out of the course, a rough guide to ability would be Grade 3 or above, or you would need to have played for two years minimum.

Biography *When Gerald is not performing as a guitarist, he is busy composing. Among many successes are his '25 Etudes Esquisses' for guitar solo which have become standard repertoire for aspiring guitarists and his music has been played and recorded by David Russell, Craig Ogden, Amadeus Duo, Eden-Stell Duo and John Williams. His Concerto for two Guitars based on themes by Garcia Lorca has been performed throughout Europe and is a staple of the guitar duo concerto repertoire. Gerald's music and arrangements have been published worldwide by Mel Bay, Holley Music, ABG publications, Guitarissimo and Cramer and he has recorded more than 12 CDs selling more than 40,000 copies worldwide. His teaching experience has included educational workshops with Kent Opera, English National Opera and the Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields. In 1995 Gerald toured China as a duo with guitarist John Williams and he now performs in Simon Mayor's Mandolinquents, in a duo with Alison Bendy, and in an occasional Irish ensemble with Mick Henry, Bernard O'Donoghue, John Pethica and friends. Gerald is Musical Director of the highly successful National Youth Guitar Ensemble of Great Britain which brings together young guitarists from all over the country to play guitar orchestral pieces.*

The Weekend Registration is from 4.30pm and the weekend starts with dinner at 7pm, after which will be a short introductory session followed by class tuition. Saturday daytime will be busy with class tuition and after dinner we expect to offer a choice of playing in a large ensemble, in smaller groups or using the time for personal practice; there will be opportunity to put forward ideas for this session. On Sunday after lunch there will be an informal concert and the course will finish by 4pm.

Accommodation & Cost Most of the 40 bedrooms have either en-suite facilities or sole use of a bathroom. There is room on site for two motor-homes. Cost of the weekend is £190 for a single standard room and £155 non-resident (including lunch and dinner). En-suite supplement is £45 (£50 for select en-suite). There is a reduction of £10 for sharing.

Booking and Further Information The title of the weekend is 'Banjo, Mandolin and Guitar Fest'. To book, telephone Benslow Music Trust 01462 459446 or download a booking form from www.benslow.org. For further information about the weekend please contact BMG Federation course co-ordinator Henry Girvan 01592 630374 or email henry.girvan@btinternet.com

The Other 3 Courses for Banjo, Mandolin & Guitar

Chris Sands: Classic Finger-style 5-string Banjo

Suitable for intermediate and more advanced players but anyone who has a reasonable insight into playing banjo solos will be welcome. Students will need to be able to read music notation.

Frances Taylor: Baroque Mandolin

Suitable for intermediate players, but less experienced and more advanced players are also welcome. Whichever level, you must be able to read music notation.

Robin Garside: Mixed Instrument Folk

This course is open to plectrum or tenor banjo, mandolin and guitar. It will suit all levels of ability apart from complete beginners, although if you can play a few chords or a melody line, that's fine.