

# CLASSICAL GUITAR

The background of the cover is a photograph of two men in white tuxedos and black bowties. The man on the left is looking down at a guitar, while the man on the right is looking towards the camera. The guitar is a dark-colored acoustic guitar. The background is a solid light green color.

APRIL 1994

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HILL-  
WILTSCHINSKY  
DUO

JAROSLAW  
BILAN

MAREK  
SOKOLOWSKI

NEWS • REVIEWS • FEATURES

**CLASSICAL GUITAR**

FUNDAMENTAL PERSPECTIVES

BY

JIM FERGUSON



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# CLASSICAL GUITAR

APRIL 1994

VOL. 12, NO. 8

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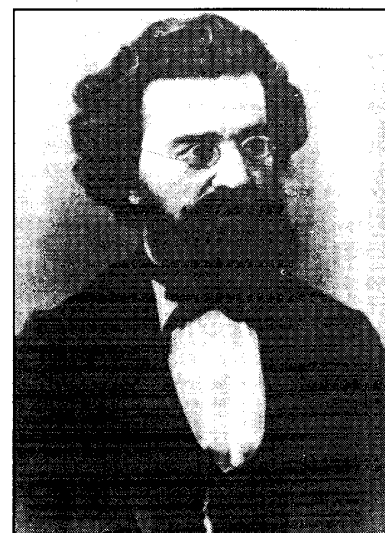
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# THE HILL-WILTSCHINSKY DUO

ROBIN HILL AND PETER WILTSCHINSKY IN CONVERSATION  
WITH GRAHAM WADE

IN OCTOBER, 1993 Robin Hill and Peter Wiltschinsky celebrate the 20th anniversary of the founding of their duo, a career which began while they were both students at the Huddersfield School of Music. Since October 1973, when they gave their first professional recital, the Hill-Wiltschinsky Duo has gone from strength to strength with overseas tours, recordings, and plans to publish their own compositions. Despite the usual difficulties of a concert career, they have persevered through good times and bad and are now on the crest of a wave. Peter recently became a father, Robin is married to one of his former guitar pupils, and they are under new management – their full-time agent is Pip Keenan. Their virtuosity and integrity appeal to audiences the world over.

GW: *You've been playing duo recitals together for as long as 20 years?*

RH: 20 years exactly in October 1993, yes.

*So this is the big year for you and your families?*

RH: This is certainly the best year so far!

*What plans have you got for the duo in the immediate future?*

RH: Well, we're going to do more recordings, including some concertos. We have various ideas for a range of different albums, including a Castelnuovo-Tedesco album which will include his Concerto and other works for two guitars such as the *Preludes and Fugues*, *Sonatina Canonica* and *Fuga Elegiaca*.

PW: What plans have you got for the duo in the immediate future?

*Because you are both composers.*

PW: We like to think so!

*And you are having the score of quite a few of your compositions published anyway!*

RH: Yes, there will be a special Hill-Wiltschinsky edition. We are publishing my *Three Studies* for two guitars which we play, and then Pete's two pieces, *Nocturne* and *Danza*.

*Were these compositions intended for your own concerts?*

RH: Yes, primarily. We started by just doing the odd



*The Hill-Wiltschinsky Duo*

piece here and there and people seemed to like them so we played them more.

PW: We have so many transcriptions now, in fact a whole list of things that could be published, and people kept asking 'why don't you publish them?' So after 20 years it's time we got round to publishing this repertoire.

*So 20 years ago, to take you back, you met at College and you decided you would form a duo straightaway?*

RH: We were thrown together because our teacher, David Taplin, said 'You and you ought to do a concert together. Why don't you play this, this, and this?'

PW: We lost touch for a while, as Robin left College earlier than me. Eventually he contacted me and suggested we should do a duo concert. 1973 was our first professional public concert. About three or four years after that we got together permanently. We are giving a recital at Huddersfield in October to celebrate the anniversary of those 20 years.

*Presumably you were doing a lot of solo work at the time but decided to take up the duo.*

RH: Yes, things seemed to come together right from the beginning. When we hear old tapes it all seems to be rhythmical and working well. There was always a certain something and we managed to make it come alive very naturally without any strain.

PW: Obviously the standard of playing was not as it is now. But there was this certain something.

*Affinity?*

PW: Certainly.

*And what was the duo scene like, 20 years ago? Did it seem wide open?*

RH: There were very few people around in this country who played guitar duo professionally at the time.

PW: Well, we were pretty naive really – we didn't know many people, we didn't have many contacts. We just played a lot and got as many concerts as we could.

RH: Which were very few and far between at first.

*Well, it seems looking back that it was a more innocent, more naive guitar scene in 1973. In retrospect people seemed less competitive and desperate than nowadays.*

RH: Our problem then was that we always worked hard together but we didn't know exactly what we were looking for. We just wanted to play . . . Our big inspiration at the beginning was the Abreu brothers. I got one of their recordings and we used to listen to them a lot.

*I remember attending their first concert in this country. The Abreu brothers set you off, did they?*

RH: Definitely. We'd heard other duos but none of them had the impact which they did.

*What about Presti-Lagoya?*

RH: We hadn't heard Presti-Lagoya at that stage, but even so having heard them now and being familiar with everything they have done, we still prefer the Abreu brothers.

PW: At least we can only judge by recordings because we were not able to see either duo in recital or it might have been a completely different matter. We like both.

*So, after this early inspiration, you gradually expanded your number of concerts?*

RH: Well there were bad years when things were not going well. But we managed to stick through.

PW: It was the sheer love of playing that kept us together.

RH: Really, over the last two or three years things have begun to take off. Things look good now. But we've always done a number of different things as well – teaching, session work, and so on.

*So perseverance is the main thing?*

RH: Certainly it's vital from a professional point of view when you consider the pure difficulty of the whole thing. I think quite a few people would have called it a day at certain points along the line.

*One of the difficulties of keeping a duo going is surely the economic factor – not only the question of getting good fees for concerts but also spending valuable hours together for practice.*

PW: That's still not easy now – we live 90 miles apart! But of course we practise separately and individually a lot more than we do together.

RH: But things are easier now that we do everything from memory. We don't need to practise together in quite the same way.

*You don't find then that it's bad to practise your repertoire too much on your own when you're putting together duo pieces?*

PW: Well, you'll get the odd area where one has a completely different idea from the other about what might be going on. But then the second time we play it through we might realise it should be played a certain way.

RH: We'll realise, for example, that it's right the way I do it! *(laughter)*.

*Are you bringing in a lot of new repertoire nowadays?*

PW: There's a chap in Holland, Marco de Goei, who's transcribing a lot of stuff for us, and he's writing a piece for us in the style of a toccata. He puts together some really hot arrangements.

RH: We are of course writing our own stuff all the time, and Mario Gangi has composed *Suite Italiana* for us, which we play quite a lot. He may also be writing a concerto for us, which we hope to feature on a recording entirely devoted to his works.

*How did you meet Mario Gangi?*

RH: What happened was that I found his *Suite Spagnola* in a music shop in London, and we'd never heard anybody playing this. We liked it very much and eventually we recorded it on our first album, and sent a copy of it to him. He then invited us to Italy to play and wrote *Suite Italiana* for us.

Since then we have been back to Italy quite a few times at his invitation.

*How is the British musical scene for duos nowadays?*

RH: It tends to be more music societies and festivals that we do nowadays than guitar societies.

*So it used to be guitar societies?*

RH: It *used* to be, many times, playing for next to nothing, but when you have family responsibilities, you have to play for real money. A career takes a long while to build up – you can't stress that enough, and it takes a great deal of hard work, writing letters, and so on. Also, at last, we have an excellent agent who is working all the time on our behalf.

*Robin's mother-in-law . . .*

RH: Yes.

*Because the career management aspect takes up so much energy?*

RH: It's a full-time job. You can't do all the practice required if you're having to write all the letters. Pip Keenan started doing this over 18 months ago and she is getting so many new contacts for us.

*What have you done in the way of foreign tours?*

PW: We went to the Phillipines some years, ago, and we've been recently to Holland, Germany, France, Muscat and Bahrein. We have tours planned for the USA and the Far East. Then we are going to Bari, in Italy, to judge the Giuliani competition.

*You seem to have a special affinity with Italy.*

RH: Yes, we go there quite a lot, and Italian audiences are marvellous.

PW: When we played in Rome it was a capacity audience at the biggest theatre in the city, yet many people couldn't get into the concert. So obviously the guitar is popular over there.

*What do you think of the classical guitar scene in Britain now compared with 20 years ago?*

RH: For us personally it is much better and we are far busier. But certain music societies still tell our agent when she phones them up that they don't like the guitar. If she inquires further, they tell her either they had a concert they didn't like or they've never had one before.

PW: People often come up after concerts and say, 'I've dragged my friend along, under duress, and now she would like to say how much she enjoyed it.' People are converted to guitar music by a good concert.

RH: Often people claim to dislike the guitar when



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they have never been to a guitar recital. A prejudice is still there to some extent.

*Is this prejudice against the guitar itself or against two guitars?*

RH: Less against two guitars. It's prejudice against the guitar generally. The prejudice we've come up against has never been against two guitars as such. This is usually among conservative music societies who have string quartets concerts or whatever.

PW: If you can get through this prejudice and give a concert, we find that once we've played they usually want us back to play again. These are the very same people who were reluctant at first. It's just managing to show what the guitar can do.

*Well, perhaps people these days don't hear guitar very much. They certainly do not see classical guitar on television.*

RH: We've done quite a bit of television over the years but nowadays it consists mainly of doing one item on a news programme. It's helpful but not what you really need which is an hour-long profile. You very rarely see any classical guitarists on television these days or even any

live instrumentalists. Occasionally you might see Nigel Kennedy. It's a very bad situation as far as television is concerned.

*What about in other countries. Are things easier there?*

RH: The trouble is you get the best impression of other countries when you visit and it may be the wrong picture. But certainly some of our engagements abroad seem superior to what we might get here. It's the old thing that people think that if you are indigenous you can't be as good as some foreign player.

PW: One thing we are doing more of, both here and abroad, is concerto work. We are going to Wales soon to play Castelnuovo-Tedesco's *Double Concerto*. We've also done Rodrigo's *Madrigal Concerto* with the Liverpool Philharmonic at the Wirral Festival during a night of guitar concertos. We're planning to make a recording of these shortly.

*What about your other future plans?*

PW: Just to play more and more!

RH: Just to play better and better! Every day we feel we improve, we really do, and as long as we can keep doing that, what more can you ask for? We still work very hard.

*I understand you have quite a few new recordings coming out soon.*

RH: We've just signed a deal with BMG, who are a Japanese company who own RCA, and this is being released in the Far East. We also record albums for ASV, and we're going to release CDs on our own label, Kudos, which should be established very soon now.

*How many albums have you made now?*

PW: Sixteen.

*I don't have all of those.*

RH: They're not all out yet. *Virtuoso Music for Two Guitars* (Hyperion A66113), *Sound of Strings* (Teldec 8.44140 ZK), *Les Deux Amis* (Teldec 8.44141 ZK), *Romantic Guitars* (Teldec TCD 2479), and *Music of Europe* on our Kudos label, are the ones released so far. The others will be available shortly.

PW: We're also producing a video to promote these recordings with performances of some of the pieces on the new discs. That's our latest venture.



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# MAREK SOKOLOWSKI — UNKNOWN GUITARIST?

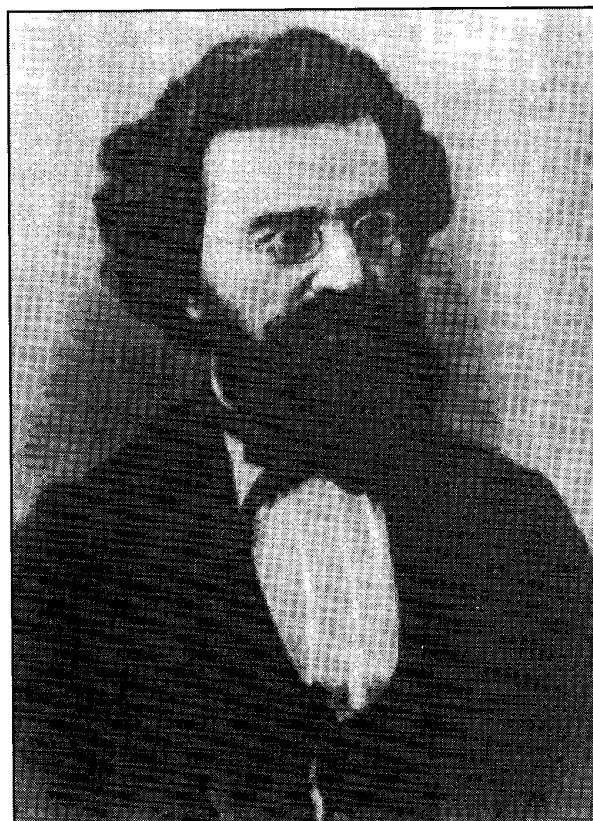
by ZBIGNIEW DUBIELLA

*Zbigniew Dubiella was born in Starogard, Gdansk, Poland, in 1949, and teaches guitar at the Koszalin Music School. He contributes regularly to the Polish guitar magazine 'Gitara I bas' and to CG. He is often invited to lecture on the guitar, and to be on the jury at guitar competitions.*

THE 19th century was a period of international success for Polish music through the activities of Frederic Chopin (piano) and Henryk Wieniawski (violin). Unfortunately, in the guitar field, there was a lack of artists in the same class, but we can mention four important names: Feliks Horecki (1796-1870), Jan Nepomucen Bobrowicz (1805-1881), Stanisław Szczepanowski (1811-1877) and Marek Konrad Sokolowski (1818-1883).

All four became well known in Europe through both composing and playing the guitar, but only the latter, Marek Sokolowski, was especially renowned as a virtuoso performer on the guitar, and was by the far the most outstanding player. He was born on 25 April 1818 in the village of Pohrebyszcze near Zytomierz (Ukraine) of Polish parents. From early childhood he suffered from poor health, and his only passion was music. He played the guitar from the age of six, often practising long into the night. He also learned to play the violin, cello and piano, but the guitar was always his favourite instrument, and he devoted his life to playing it. Self-taught, he had mastered the instrument by the age of 23, when he made his debut, on 28 May 1841 in Zytomierz, where he performed the Concerto in E minor by Carulli. The event was well received and from then on he performed regularly. He played throughout the Ukraine and later in Moscow, where he was enthusiastically received by audiences used to top-rate performers. On one occasion he attracted an audience of 4000.

A prominent Polish critic, Józef Sikorski, after a concert by Sokolowski in Warsaw, described him as a very gifted musician, but suggested it was a pity that he had chosen to play such a trivial instrument. Although Sokolowski never forgave Sikorski for that remark, from this time onward he became interested in all types of guitar. He experimented with 17 strings at one time, but finally settled for 10-string guitars, claiming that these were the most suitable guitars for the transcriptions he made of the music of Chopin, Schubert and Mendelssohn, and recommending 10-string guitar to Regondi when he met him. He was never satisfied with the strings available to him, preferring those from the Italian master Ruffini, which he could scarcely ever obtain. He used to beg friends living abroad to try to obtain



*Marek Sokolowski*

them for him.

In spite of the fact that when Sokolowski was at his peak guitar music was suffering from a decline in popularity, he made such an exquisite sound on his guitar that he confounded critics. In Dresden in 1866 he gave several recitals which were received with such enthusiasm by Oettinger, a renowned music critic, that he wrote poems praising Sokolowski's excellence. His visit to Germany was followed by concerts in Paris and London between 1863 and 1865, but his greatest triumph was later, in Russia, where he toured in 1886. Critics were full of praise.

A. S. Famicyn wrote:

*It was not virtuosity which caused Sokolowski's listeners to weep. The secret of his success is real understanding of the music, depth of thought, expressiveness, melodiousness and magnificence - everything that music can contain. From under his fingers flowed, not sounds, but singing... deeply touching the audience, who were not expecting anything of this nature.*

From the Petersburg News: *Sokolowski has discovered the mystery of the instrument, understands it and was thus able to make his playing rich... and melodious. He managed such*

full sounds from his guitar that they reached every corner of the Nobleman's Club, not losing any of their depth...

Sokolowski was an incomparable interpreter of the classical works of Giuliani, Sor, Legnani, Mertz, Carulli, Regondi and others, but even though he played many of his own transcriptions of music by Chopin and Schubert, the matter of his own compositions remains mysterious. With a few exceptions, his works were not printed, yet he wrote études, polonaises, mazurkas, fantasias from Italian operas and many variations around Polish and Russian folk songs.

From newspaper reports we know the names of those compositions which were the most popular - *Reverie*, *Valse Brillante*, *Recollections from Scotland*, the mazurka *Go Ahead*. During his life only *Deux Polkas-Mazurkas* was published. I have in my collection two original Sokolowski compositions which were published in the monthly magazine *Muzika Gitarista* in Moscow in November 1909. A note at the bottom of the page tells us that N. A. Czernikow wrote out the music. Up to now, it is not known if there are other compositions of the legendary guitarist around somewhere. It is known that he was modest - indeed, to excess - and that he did not try to print his works. The two compositions mentioned are miniatures.

The title of the first is *Post-music Picture* and the other is the one whose opening theme calls to mind the motif of an old Polish song *Kiedy ranne*

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The grave of M. Sokolowski.

PHOTO: DARIUSZ SICLEBIEWSKI

*wstaja zorze* (When the Dawn Comes). This étude was recorded by the American guitarist David Starobin on his CD 'A Song From The East' (BCD 9004) in 1987. In the sleeve notes, Allan Kozinn writes that in 1907 several of Sokolowski's studies were published in the Russian guitar journal. Unfortunately, I do not know if anyone still has them. Many people, especially from Russia and the Ukraine, have sent me compositions by Sokolowski, but these were pieces by another - N. Sokolowski - who lived later. We are not sure if the number of his compositions allows us to judge Marek Sokolowski as a composer, but we are sure that he was one of the greatest virtuosi playing the guitar in the latter half of the 19th century. Giulio Regondi gave him most of his scores, saying: 'They will not find any worthier than you'.

On his grave, in the Rossa cemetery in Vilnius, there is a plate bearing the inscription, in Polish: Marek Sokolowski - famous European guitarist - died 25th December 1883 at the age of 65.

#### Sources

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HAR XII HAR XII HAR XII HAR XII

*crescendo* ..... *p* *rall.*

*mf*

**Cantabile**

*a tempo* *mf*

*(b)* *a tempo* *Cantabile* *a tempo*

1st time  
2nd time  
*mf*

*p subito*

2nd time rall.  
1.  
*p*  
*mf*

2.  
HAR XII  
*p sub./cresc.* .....  
*rall.*  
*f*  
*p*

# SEGOVIA – A CENTENARY TRIBUTE

By GRAHAM WADE

## Part XV – The mid-1960s

During Segovia's customary North American tour in the early months of 1963, during which he celebrated his seventieth birthday, he was invited to perform for the President's Cabinet under the honorary chairmanship of Mrs John F. Kennedy. The concert, entitled *An Evening with Andrés Segovia*, took place in the State Department Auditorium on 18 March, 1963. The printed programme, embossed with the American Eagle holding thunderbolts and olive branch, was illustrated with an ornate guitar in gold. The appreciation of Segovia inside the programme concluded:

*By the devotion of a lifetime Andrés Segovia has restored the guitar to its high and proper place as a member of the family of stringed instruments.*

*Guitar News* (July/August 1963) reported that the concert was the sixth in a series and attracted the ambassadors of Spain, Turkey, Lebanon, Venezuela, Chile, South Africa, Jordan, Burma, Nigeria, the Philippines and Malaya. The concert was also attended by Sophocles Papas who had been friends with the Maestro ever since the USA debut in 1928.

The programme was as follows:

*Three Pieces*, Galilei; *Gavotte*, J. S. Bach; *Two Studies*, Sor; *Prelude in E*, Villa-Lobos; *Danza*, Granados; *Melancolia-Primavera* (from *Platero y Yo*), Castelnuovo-Tedesco; *Romance y Danza*, Torroba; *Torre Bermeja-Sevilla*, Albéniz.

In an earlier recital in the same tour on 24 February at the Pasadena Community Church, St Petersburg, Florida, Segovia performed other pieces from *Platero y Yo*, including *La Arulladora* (Lullaby) and *El Canario Vuela* (The Canary Escapes). Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco's *Platero y Yo*, Op. 190, originally intended for narrator and guitar, was composed in 1960. The 28 pieces on selected passages from Juan Ramon Jiménez's lyrical prose episodes on the life and death of Platero, the Andalusian donkey, were a substantial contribution to the guitar repertoire. But the work, perhaps because of its structure and genre, has never quite achieved the reputation or popularity of other pieces by Castelnuovo-Tedesco. (Eduardo Sainz de la Maza's *Platero y Yo* Suite in eight movements (publ. Union Musical Española, copyrighted 1972), not played by Segovia, has succeeded in establishing a more secure niche in the recitalist's repertoire).

Segovia himself did magnificent work on his composer's behalf, in due course recording (on his renowned Hauser guitar) ten of Castelnuovo-

Tedesco's most tempting movements and performing these favoured items at many recitals. Unfortunately Segovia did not publish an edition of these pieces, and so the history of *Platero y Yo* becomes somewhat tantalising. An edition was eventually published in 1973 as an 'original text in its integrity' (i.e. without fingering or scrupulous editing) by Angelo Gilardino and Berben. As Gilardino comments in his *Foreword*, by the time of publication, 'an enormous quantity of manuscript versions of these musical compositions' had come into circulation one way or another, a reference to the fact that many recitalists had acquired copies of the works in one way or another and sometimes performed them.

The situation arose in which Segovia launched these new pieces but did not reinforce the process of disseminating *Platero y Yo* world-wide with a published edition. Perhaps Segovia wished to select only a few pieces from the 28 and clearly it would be preferable for the entire work to be published. But Segovia on occasion produced editions of pieces that he did not perform (Rodrigo's *Tres Piezas Españolas*, published in 1963 and referred to later in this article, provide a good example, Segovia performing only the *Fandango* from the tryptich).

It is perhaps worth mentioning that *Platero y Yo* was not dedicated to Segovia but to Aldo Bruzzichelli, though the Maestro's commitment to the essence and quality of these richly romantic idylls was total and the chosen movements of *Platero y Yo* ideally suited Segovia's temperament and musical needs.

A memorable solution for posterity would have been an edited version of the ten pieces that Segovia played. But whatever the precise circumstances, pirated copies roamed the earth, and the problem was eventually partially resolved by Gilardino's very welcome publication over a decade after the pieces were written. Gilardino expresses his ideas on the matter forcefully in his *Foreword*:

*... the existence of an enormous quantity of manuscript versions of these musical compositions has engendered such a confusion that it has become all the more necessary to publish the original text in its integrity ... A determined denunciation of the hundreds of interpolations which, unfortunately, are circulated abusively throughout the world, is then within the aims of this edition that carries out above all the exact will of the author.*

Unfortunately the score as published, carrying



out 'above all the exact will of the author', needs further editing and is, at times, a fascinating example of how unrealistic Castelnuovo-Tedesco's own writing for guitar could be before editorial work by guitarists tidied up his unplayable chords and unreachable notes.

Segovia's first recording of pieces from *Platero y Yo* (*Platero, Melancolia, Angelus, Golondrinas, La Arulladora*) on Brunswick AXA 4510 (mono)/5XA4510 (stereo) was favourably reviewed in *The Gramophone* in February, 1963. The recording also featured *Passacaglia, Corrente* (Frescobaldi), *Fantasie* (Weiss), *Studies Nos 3 & 17* (Sor), *Dolor* (Donostia), *La Fille aux cheveux de lin* (Debussy).

A further recording of music from *Platero y Yo* was reviewed in *The Gramophone* in December, 1964. Manuel Ponce's *Sonata Romántica* (in homage to Schubert) was paired with *Retorno, El Pozo, El Canario Vuela, La Primavera, and A Platero en el Cielo de Moguer*, on Brunswick AXA 4527/SXA 4257. The reviewer described the music of *Platero y Yo* as 'entirely charming', but added the comment that 'Segovia's performance of course contributes much to the charm of both composers and so does Brunswick's recording, impeccable in either of its forms'. This recording was later reviewed by *Discus* in *BMG* (September, 1965), praising Segovia but lukewarm about the composer:

*Only when the last sounds die away does one realise the frailty of this salon-type music of Tedesco – and to what extent it is hidden from us by the spell-binding of this master magician and poet now in the richness of his seventies. There is little Segovia cannot thus transmute and there is none of it on this record.*

(Segovia's recording of ten pieces from *Platero y Yo* is now available on compact disc, Vol. 8 of the *Segovia Collection*, MCA Classics, 0881 10056 2).

Another significant event of 1963 was the publication of Segovia's edition of Rodrigo's *Tres piezas españolas* by Schotts in the *Segovia Archives Series*, a veritable milestone in the development of the repertoire. But its riches were not to be fully appreciated by recitalists or the public for several years. (Several of Rodrigo's finest solo works seemed to lie dormant for some time before players were able to focus on the intrinsic merit of the pieces and bring them into recitals and recordings). The following year Segovia's edition of *Fantasia para un Gentilhombre* was also published by Schott & Co, bringing another Guitar Concerto fully and finally into the public domain.

*The Gramophone* reviewed yet another new recording by Segovia in June, 1963. The album (Brunswick AXA4512) featured *Eight Lessons* (Aguado), *Studies Nos 10, 15, 19 and 6* (Sor), *Canción, Canción y Paisaje* (Ponce), *Granada* (Albeniz) *Mazurka* (Tansman), and *Spanish Dance in E minor* (Granados). The reviewer was not entirely complimentary:

*Segovia plays with all his old style and skill,*

*though with a rhythmic freedom, particularly in the Spanish pieces, that seemed to me to hold up the progress of the music, somewhat. Conscious of uttering a very great heresy, I should now hastily add that the recording of the disc is certainly very good.*

At the Chigiana Academy, in Siena, Italy, that year, Christopher Nupen interviewed Segovia and made several recordings for BBC radio, entitled *Segovia and the Revival of the Guitar*. In one of the interviews Segovia placed a definite chronology on his early years, saying that his first recital in Granada was in 1909, followed by concerts in Seville, Madrid and Barcelona. In 1917 he had toured Spain and two years later visited South America for the first time with concerts in Buenos Aires, Mexico, etc. In master classes Segovia was recorded in action, advising, 'Listen and improve the sense of your sound – correct the acidity – otherwise the guitar has not charm'.

If 1963 was a most worthwhile year for the guitar, the following year was to prove even more auspicious. On 12 June, 1964, Julian Bream premiered Benjamin Britten's *Nocturnal* at the Aldeburgh Festival. The next day it was announced that Bream, at the early age of 31, had been awarded the Order of the British Empire in the Queen's Birthday Honours List, a remarkable recognition of his significance in British musical life and the first for any guitarist.

The mid-1960s saw of course the rise to fame of the Beatles and a new prominence in the media for popular music in general. The passing of the years has given the pop stars of this decade an almost invulnerable status as icons of an era. But in 1964 this process had not taken place and many, especially Segovia, regarded Beatlemania as little more than a manifestation of an essentially ephemeral triviality.

Even George Melly, a sympathetic critic of the pop world, implied in *The Observer* in November, 1963 that because 'the average age of the fanatic Beatle fan today is about twelve', the Liverpool sound did not have much longer to run. As had happened with various pop idols of the recent past, it seemed reasonable to conclude that a transient phenomenon was occurring which had less to do with music than with haircuts, novelties, images and personalities with whom the very young could identify.

But as Beatlemania, with all its implications, became both widespread and apparently durably endemic, journalists who interviewed Segovia grew inordinately interested in his views on the Beatles (and pop music generally). On 23rd May, 1964, Segovia gave an interview with David Ash of *The Daily Express* in which the ideological clash between the old values of the classical artist and the rising stars of pop was well expressed. Segovia commented:

*I have heard of these Beatles but what they play is strange to me. I do not think it is anything to do with art as I know it. I do not like the movement of*

*the boys, the loud electric guitars, the cries, the way the girls go crazy.*

*I distrust quick popularity. An artist should concentrate on his guitar with all his life and let his public come later. We guitarists – or any serious musicians – need the stern discipline of life-long practice, many years of self-denial.*

*Many hours and weeks polishing a single passage, burnishing it to bring out its true sparkle. The creation of beautiful imagery demands the cares of gestation and the pains of childbirth.*

*I like everyone to listen to the lovely natural voice of the guitar. A guitar should be shaped simply and with a feminine quality, like an honest woman. It should be built to produce many voices, many colours.*

Segovia's comments about the Beatles having nothing to do with art as he knew it was totally true to both his own beliefs and those of the majority of classical musicians at the time. Pop culture with its stress on the immediate and the visually colourful with its noisy participative audiences seemed the very opposite of the artistic values of classical music with its years of solitary practice, the images of evening dress, silent attentive audiences of predominantly mature years, and the undemonstrative performing gestures of the recitalist. Stephen Walsh reviewing a recital by Segovia in *The Times* on 30 October, 1965, described the experience in the following terms:

*He plays for himself. And as he does so you can hear a pin drop, even among three thousand people . . .*

*But Segovia's magic is to draw his listeners into a web of silence and for this only the insubstantial and elusive will suffice.*

In the 1960s it was difficult to reconcile this concept of music as an art to attend to in silent homage with the hordes of youngsters who screamed their way through a Beatles concert. But since 1964 various definitions have undergone structural modifications. George Melly examined the theme of the Beatles and art in a book about the pop phenomenon, published some years later, and squared the triangle by seeing the Beatles as pop artists who reject traditional definitions of art:

*While themselves admitting to being interested only in what they are up to at a given time, they have succeeded in producing a body of work which has illuminated a whole landscape and enlarged the horizons of a whole generation. The comparisons with Mozart and Schubert seem to me irrelevant; the Beatles' aim is different; 'art' is a concept which, as Beatles, they reject. They remain pop artists, but there is nothing to say that pop may not, in retrospect, turn out to have been art after all.*

*(Revolt into Style, The Pop Arts in Britain, George Melly, London, 1970).*

While the pop juggernaut of the 1960s roared from climax to climax in an apparently unending

*crescendo*, Segovia's Festival Hall recital of 20 May, 1964, was received with less than rapturous critical acclaim as the 'insubstantial and elusive' qualities mentioned by Stephen Walsh veered towards the inaudible. Even the ever faithful Wilfrid M. Appleby, to whom adverse comment about Segovia was anathema, was not pleased by the small volume of the guitar in the huge auditorium, though he chose to blame the acoustics of the hall rather than the artist's choice of the hall:

*We met several friends, found our seats, and by the time Segovia entered with his guitar the hall was completely filled. The welcoming applause subsided, Segovia toyed with his guitar until quietness was achieved, then Handel's noble, folia-type Aria opened the programme. We soon began to notice the difference between the acoustics of this great hall in comparison with those of the smaller and more intimate Wigmore Hall where we had heard our last London recital. We knew that Segovia was producing subtle tone colours which were practically inaudible to us in the centre of the fifteenth row from the platform. They would have been clearly heard in the Wigmore Hall.*

*(Segovia in London, Guitar News July/August 1964).*

The critic of *The Times* was also disappointed by the sound quality received and commented that 'Everything Segovia offered was just simple, black and white music', a judgement which an undaunted Wilfrid Appleby absolutely refused to accept.

Later in 1964 Segovia gave his first master class at the University of California, Berkeley, from 20 July to 14 August. Young performers on the Course (necessarily under 30 years old on 1st July to be eligible) included Guillermo Fierens (Argentina), Oscar Ghiglia (Italy), Michael Lorimer (USA), Ako Ito (USA), Aldo Minella (Italy), Christopher Parkening and George Sakellariou (USA).

While pop music consolidated its hold on the imagination of thousands of youngsters world-wide in 1964, younger generations of classical guitarists were evolving their artistic identity and future ambitions. In Britain the bulk of the population and the media may not have been entirely aware of Julian Bream's OBE, or the rapidly developing concert career of John Williams. But the classical guitar was now established and forging ahead. While the storm of pop publicity clamoured outside, the small voice of the concert guitar was indisputably a potent force in music, attracting the attention of leading composers. Those who cared deeply about the instrument had much to be excited about. As if to emphasize the point, Segovia took off in September for his second tour of Australia, giving three recitals at Sydney Town Hall on 23rd, 25th and 28th September, each time to capacity audiences.

*(To be continued) . . .*

## FUNDAMENTAL PERSPECTIVES

## PART 8: SHIFTING ON A SINGLE STRING

By JIM FERGUSON

LAST month, I discussed the advantages of learning to play the notes above the staff as soon as possible, which raised the topics of position shifts and one-octave scales on a single string. Let's now explore these areas in more detail.

Example 1 shows a fingering for the first string's white-key notes up to high E, which will not only help you reinforce these higher notes, but also work on position shifts. Notice that after you play G you must shift up to A with your 1st finger, and then up to D with your 2nd. Here are some tips that will help you master this useful technique:

- use your arm to make each shift in one smooth motion;
- your thumb should be positioned approximately opposite your 1st and 2nd fingers and not drag along behind your hand;
- practice slowly and listen carefully to ensure that each note rings for its complete value and that there are no inadvertent slides or other glitches;

- as you ascend, keep each finger on the fingerboard once it's played; when you descend, prepare each position's notes in advance;
- generally try to change positions as little as possible when fingering passages on a single string.

The next step is to introduce the black-key notes. Although playing an E major scale is an obvious choice, you might want to begin Example 2's E natural minor scale, which has only one sharp (the E Dorian mode has two, and E Mixolydian three). Example 3 shows E major, which has four sharps. Finally, Example 4 shows a one octave ascending and descending chromatic scale played on the high E string.

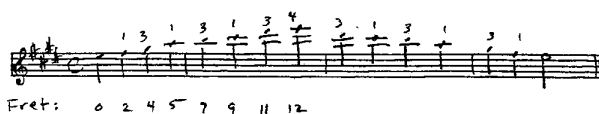
You also might transfer these ideas to the remaining five open strings. Next month we'll discuss some tips that will help you master the higher positions more completely.



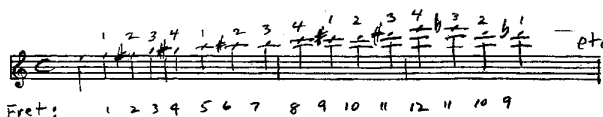
### Example 1



### Example 2



### Example 3



### Example 4

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