



Artist Profile: Thomas Nash

Thomas was born in China in 2005 and his family moved to the UK in 2008, then onwards to the Isle of Wight.

He started learning guitar in Ventnor with his grandad John Nash at age 6, and his first public performance was at a Ventnor “Music for Fun Festival” gala performance.

Since then, Thomas has been a regular participant in the Isle of Wight Music, Dance and Drama Festival and also the Portsmouth Music Festival; winning many trophies in each.

In 2019 he was awarded the Chairman’s Cup for his performance in the Portsmouth Festival Gala Performance.

Thomas has appeared as a soloist in concerts given by several familiar Isle of Wight choirs and musical groups.

As well as playing guitar, Thomas is also a keen pianist and has a music scholarship at Ryde School.

Thomas is fortunate to have received generous support for his music making from the West Wight Arts Association and also from the national charity Awards for Young Musicians (AYM).

The guitar that he is playing for this concert is made by Ryde luthier; Ken Bramall.

Programme Notes:

Variations on “O Cara Armonia” from Mozart’s The Magic Flute Fernando Sor (1778 – 1839)

Sor was an acclaimed Spanish guitar virtuoso and composer, writing in the classical European style.

He is best known for his beautiful etudes and lively sets of variations – of which these Variations on a theme by Mozart, are the most famous.

The set comprises an Introduction and Theme followed by 6 Variations, which are full of playful wit and humour. The Theme is a little ditty from Mozart’s opera The Magic Flute.

Un Dia de Noviembre (A Day in November)

Leo Brouwer (1939 -)

Brouwer is one of Cuba’s leading composers. A guitarist himself, his output for this instrument is huge and many of his works are firmly established in today’s guitar repertoire.

In 1972, he composed the film-score for a Cuban film titled “Un Dia de Noviembre” from which he later used a wistful little tune as the basis for this perennially popular guitar solo.

Asturias (Leyenda)

Isaac Albeniz (1860 – 1909)

Albeniz was a composer, virtuoso pianist and a leader of the Spanish nationalist school of musicians.

Many of his piano solos are now more familiar to audiences in transcriptions for guitar – not least ‘Asturias’ which is part of a set titled Chants d’Espagne.

Thomas will play a transcription made by his teacher John Nash.

The middle section of this transcription tries to retain the voicings and textures of the original piano score.

Paradoxically, the piece is based upon Andalucian forms and rhythms despite being named after a region of northern Spain. The alternative title is translated as ‘Legend’.