

24th INTERNATIONAL GUITAR SERIES
Presented in association with the
EMBASSY OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

VLADISLAV BLÁHA, *Guitar*

TUESDAY, 24th OCTOBER 2006 at 6.45pm
LEIGHTON HOUSE MUSEUM
12 HOLLAND PARK ROAD
LONDON W14 8LZ

PROGRAMME

USHER WALTZ

After E. A. Poe: The Fall of the House of Usher

Dedicated to Vladislav Bláha

NIKITA KOSHKIN

(b. 1956)

SONATA

Dedicated to Vladislav Bláha

ANTONÍN TUČAPSKÝ

(b.1928)

AMERICANA OP. 96

Broadway

Work Song and Blues

Hoe-Down

JOHN W. DUARTE

(1919-2004)

INTERVAL

DOS TEMAS DE MILONGA

World Première

JORGE CARDOSO

(b. 1949)

EL EDITOR

VALSE DE VLADISLAV (2006)

World Première

The last piece dedicated to Vladislav Bláha

CARLOS ATILANO

(b. 1952)

FARRUCA

PANTOMIMA

LA VIDA BREVE, arr. by V. Bláha

MANUEL DE FALLA

(1876-1946)

ELEGY

HORA – ROMANIAN DANCE

ŠTEPÁN RAK

(b. 1945)

KNOW YO

USHER WALTZ

After E.A. Poe: The Fall of the House of Usher

NIKITA KOSHKIN (b. 1956)

Nikita Koshkin, composer and guitarist was born in Moscow. He was influenced by Stravinsky, Shostakovich, Prokofiev and rock music. At the age of fourteen his grandfather gave him a guitar and a Segovia LP record which inspired him to formally study the guitar. He was a pupil of George Emanov at the Moscow College of Music and of Alexander Frauchi at the Russian Academy of Music and studied composition with Victor Egorov. He became known when he wrote his suite *The Prince's Toy* (1980) which was premièred by the Czech born guitarist Vladimír Mikulka. This work refers to a fairytale where the toys of a child come to life and takes him away to another dimension. There are several sound effects on the guitar such as the snare-drum effect to imitate the drums of toy soldiers, as well as the sounds of scraping the strings with the fingernails and a range of percussive elements. There is no doubt that Koshkin introduced changes in the playing of the guitar for he has the ability of expanding its sound beyond its boundaries. He is an active concert player touring Russia, Central and Western Europe, Great Britain and the United States.

Nikita Koshkin was inspired on the horror tale of "*The Fall of the House of Usher*" by Edgar Allan Poe, where Roderick Usher and his sister Madeleine lived in a depressing and decaying house, describing the sister in a similar state of decay. The Czech surrealist animator Jan Svankmaier made a film based on the story and Koshkin composed the *Usher Waltz*, in the tradition of Tchaikovsky, for his ambition was to expand the sound effects of the guitar and to develop means to incorporate these into musical expressions. He kept the sense of decay but in a romantic way, so the piece depicts both the beautiful and the evil and its execution explores several diminished minor and quarter harmonies. In this piece there is a range of sounds which requires a performer of a high standard.

SONATA

Dedicated to Vladislav Bláha

ANTONÍN TUČAPSKÝ (b. 1928)

Antonín Tučapský was born in Moravia and studied at the Teachers College in Valašské Meziříčí and musical science at the Pedagogical Faculty in Ostrava and later forged a career as a teacher and composer. He was also the conductor of the *Moravian Teachers Male Voice Choir* and enriched their repertoire with contemporary works and with his own compositions. In 1972 a big change happened in his life, he was removed

from his teaching post and as choirmaster in Ostrava and was forced to do building work until he eventually left the country and emigrated to Britain; by 1975 he was teaching composition at the "Trinity College of Music" showing his creative side mostly with choral works. His knowledge of several theories of the twentieth century made him a composer who could write all sorts of music but in general he remained essentially a tonal composer. He has written more than 300 pieces among them *Sonata* which requires considerable instrumental promptness and inventiveness. It was written in the 80s and revised in 1994 when it was dedicated to Vladislav Bláha who premièred it at the Conway Hall, London in 1996. Tučapský was invested with the title of Doctor Honoris Causa by the Brno University when he reached his 70th birthday and by 1988 he was given the Freeman of the Vyškov City.

AMERICANA Op. 96

Broadway

Work Song and Blues

Hoe-Down

JOHN W. DUARTE (1919-2004)

John Duarte, composer, guitarist and writer, was born in Sheffield and attended the Manchester Central High School and later the Manchester University, Faculty of Technology where he obtained a BSc with honours. He later worked as an industrial chemist until 1969 when he decided to dedicate himself to music; he studied just guitar with Terence Usher. This was his only formal training. He played music until 1953 when he decided to write music. He was a prolific composer of around 140 works for the guitar and lute, many of them commissioned by the Arts Council of Great Britain. He was also successful in arranging music for the guitar and is the author of didactic works. As a writer he contributed with articles, reviews and interviews to the *Soundboard*, *Gramophone*, *Music Teacher* and *Classical Guitar*. He wrote numerous concert programme notes and almost three hundred liner notes for records. Notable are the complete re-issue of Julian Bream's recordings for RCA and the annotations of the re-issue of Segovia's recording (1927-39) for which he received a *Grammy Award*. As a writer he worked with *Guitar Review*, *Guitar International*, *Music & Musicians*, *Records and Recording*, *Performance*, etc. He celebrated his 60th, 70th and 80th birthdays with concerts at the Wigmore and Bolivar Halls with guitar performers from all over the world playing his music. He was a teacher at the Oatridge International Guitar Summer School and Festival (Edinburgh) and gave lectures in more than twenty-nine countries overseas and interviewed a great number of musicians.

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