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*Für Schüler, Eltern, Ensemble-Mitglieder, Kunden, Freunde etc. -
und alle, die es werden wollen*

Per allievi, genitori, membri dell'insieme, clienti, amici ecc. - e tutti coloro che vogliono diventarlo

Ich wusste nicht, ob ich den folgenden Artikel in Deutsch oder Italienisch schreiben sollte, so habe ich mich - ausnahmsweise - einfach für eine dritte Sprache entschieden...

Senio Diaz summer class in central Italy

This year I decided to go to a for-me-“new” master class, in an area where I had never been before (except for a one day-trip to Gubbio many years ago; north-eastern Umbria region, close to Marche). Senio Diaz (son of Alirio) gave his yearly m.c. there from Sunday, July 5 through Saturday, July 11. Of course, I have known Senio very well for decades, but I had never actually attended one of his classes.

The location is near Costacciaro, a village in a protected national park area. Four classes - guitar, piano, violin and oboe - take place at the same time in the beautiful old Country House (agriturismo) Villa Pascolo, just outside the

village, down in the valley. The drive from the Fano *autostrada* exit (near the Adriatic Sea) is 85 km or about 1:10 hrs. My choice was absolutely right, I was in for many nice surprises, a fantastically protected, preserved landscape, an absolute top kitchen all week long, friendly staff, and a lot of nice and interesting people. It was hard to understand that even considering the Corona crisis only three guitar players registered for the class (I was one of them). On the other hand, Senio intentionally keeps the advertising very low. The piano and violin classes had more participants. These two courses were very different, with the piano course catering mainly to children and the violin class (also) to some very talented, hard-working future professional performers (teenagers). One of the reasons I took part was that I have some Venezuelan pieces in my repertoire and I wanted Senio to show me “firsthand” how to do it right – which he did, of course. (I also played Sor, Scar-

latti, Barrios). He also accompanied me with the typical *cua-tro*-style, which was really fun!

Let me say that just the restaurant and the two meals served daily (except for the buffet breakfast, which is great, too) is a good reason to be there by itself. And time is generously taken in order to enjoy them! The average daily total time spent in the restaurant by all was (is) not less than four hours, or even longer. But when you talk about music and many other interesting subjects with great people time really flies. (The official times were 1 PM and 8 PM respectively, but the meals never started earlier than half an hour after that).

Because of the Corona measures the (rented) *baby grand* (piano) this year was placed in the main building, that's where many of the lodging rooms are and where this year - again due to the virus - the nearly-daily late evening participants' concerts and the final concert (Saturday morn-

ing) took place. Normally they take place in a hall in the village center, about 3 km away, which this year was not available at all. By the way, the evening concerts (we, th, fr) start sometime after dinner, and that's around 10:20 PM, which is quite a normal time in central Italy.

Senio Diaz chose the setting for this event, which is quite intense and relaxing at the same time, very well eight years ago, when it took place for the first time.

I guess I will be there again next year. Also the time is right, i.e. not in August/early September, when about 80 % of the courses and festivals take place all over in Italy and other countries. By the way, a new poster about **Ali-rio Diaz** and "his" music will be available in 2021 and I will have it with me, Italian and English editions. I assume it will be exposed.

The village itself, **Costacciaro**, really does not have much to offer. The three old churches from the middle ages were (are) locked down all the time, not because of the virus, but because in Italy churches are victims of thieves and burglars. (Maybe you get a key if you ask for it personally at the *Comune* [municipal authority], I don't know.) Of course, there are bars serving coffee and snacks, as many as two of them! A little shop carries all kinds of

magazines and newspapers, I was surprised.

The area's or town's main attraction is a cave, where you have to be ready for a temperature around 7° C (44 F) and very high humidity. The Monte Cucco mountain, 1566 m, attracts many paragliders and hang gliders and is also a well-known, popular location for international events of these air sports. However, 30 minutes (app.) drives take you to different, historic, famous towns which offer plenty of the things you want to do when visiting Italy. The sea is a little too far for just half a day off. The sea level is 567 m, so it doesn't get way too hot (you realize that when you drive back and down! When I arrived at the Fano exit on the way back the temperature was 37,5° C).

Normally, the event lasts two weeks, with each class held twice, this year though it was limited just to one week (the first one). Originally, this year this event was scheduled to take place in nearby Nocera Umbra, because the *Villa Pascolo* had all its rooms reserved for a big international hang-gliding event. But due to the virus the event had to be called off, so the master classes could take place right there, just like always.

If you consider going, the class starts on Sunday with lunch and ends Saturday after the final concert, around 12:30 noon. (Lunch on that day is optional.)

Termine, Unterrichtsbeginn

Im Frühherbst gebe ich in Österreich in verschiedenen Bundesländern drei Gitarreabende. Die genauen Termine können hier aus naheliegenden Gründen nicht bekanntgegeben werden. Ein Termin ist jedenfalls in Kärnten. Einfach anrufen. Aufgrund dieser Tournee ist der „offizielle“ Unterrichtsbeginn dieses Jahr erst am **Montag, 28. September**.

Internet

An der komplett neuen Netzstelle **bajo.at** wird gerade intensiv gearbeitet. Was mich betrifft, wird sich die Arbeit noch über den ganzen August hinziehen, schätze ich, dann wird mein Grafiker in aller Ruhe die Erstellung weitermachen. Obwohl der Termin des Hochladens nicht genau vorausgesehen werden kann, wird dieser wahrscheinlich irgendwann im November sein.

Nach einigen Jahren Unterbrechung kann ich wieder per **Skype** kommunizieren.

Michele Bajo
31. Juli 2020