

INFO Nr. 210

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The Costacciaro „experience“ Plenty of music, food, landscape, heat (this year)

This year the “double” guitar class by **Senio Diaz** took place as planned, the first July 4-10 and the second July 11-17. Overall, more participants (than in 2020) came this year, especially for the violin and piano classes. Concert flute and oboe classes were offered also. Since at the Villa Pascolo country house (where the lessons and concerts took place) there was no vacancy left, I had my accommodation at the Agriturismo Pian d’Isola, 1,9 km away and further “down” into the valley. This is also a horse-riding instruction and training center, 30 horses live there. Nevertheless, I had lunch and dinner daily at Villa Pascolo, with all others. As expected, temperatures this year were much higher despite the

ASL altitude (appr. 560 m), reaching 37 degrees Celsius on July 7 (38 and above depending on where in the valley you were). July 8 was overcast in the morning and temps were more pleasant, but the heat came right back with the sun in the afternoon!

While in the first week just one guitar participant (the undersigned) came, the second one was a little busier, among others with two graduate-level players who also gave a recital in the village’s event hall. (I was not there, unfortunately.) Obviously, the above “single” guy did not have the opportunity to listen to other guitar class lessons. Lessons are daily, all 7 days.

One of the guitar participants of the 2nd week had done a major in-depth research of the “prassi esecutiva” (performance practice) of Alirio Diaz regarding *Seis por derecho* (by A. Lauro), how he actually used to play it, with all possible details thoroughly analyzed

from the footage on YouTube. Senio told me that was an amazing, impressive job.

This year I used the opportunity to get to know the area a little better, so I visited Fabriano (35 min.-drive, in the Marche region), and Sigillo, which is just a few kilometers (about 7) down the road (S-bound) and has definitely more “business” to offer than Costacciaro, even though here you find all the essentials.

For some this stay did not turn very pleasant, as feet “mishaps” seemed to be an issue. One female participant of the oboe class was “badly” stung by a bee on a toe, with very strong itching that went on for days, the next day the mother of an oboe participant suffered a bad ankle sprain just walking over to the restaurant for dinner. The swelling within a couple of minutes was really impressive. And just one day later, a teenage girl taking part in the piano class also suffered exactly the same, painful injury. (All of that happened right inside the *Villa Pascolo* area.) Luckily, the *excellent* restaurant had plenty of ice! (This is something not all restaurants in Austria have.) A teenage violin player somehow injured a toe nail so badly that she had to walk around barefoot. Anyway, it seems to be a good idea to bring along a first-aid box for stings and sprains, and even an ankle support!

This year Senio Diaz had the famous Scan-

durra guitar owned and used by his father for a long time with him, and the two aforementioned performers (who left their guitars at home), had the privilege to give their recitals on it. This instrument really “boasts” its legendary history, just by looking at it! Senio does not have it refurbished on purpose. The varied final participants’ concert of the first week took place Saturday, July 10 at 11.15 AM until about 12.30. The final piece was *Fiesta de San Benito* (popular Bolivian) by Inti Illimani, performed on violins, concert flutes, piano and with Senio Diaz on the guitar. Just before the start of the concert I had the opportunity and pleasure to present my Alirio Diaz poster (on display) to the audience. July 5 was the 5th anniversary of his passing.

If you are interested in attending this great, stress-free class in 2022 let me know. I’ll also send you the *Info* issue of one year ago, which also contained some useful information about it.

Posters re-edited and “improved”

Four posters are undergoing a major re-editing and overall improvement process during the summer and early fall; **Giuliani - German edition** and **English edition, The free stroke** (in German only, currently) and **“The best performers”**. Especially the Giuliani posters – focusing on the biography – receive quite a bit more information and just a little better graphics. They will be available by late August, except for the one on the free stroke (which is for internal use only).

Italy – Cervignano master class, other events

Sandro Brancaccio gave a 1½-days master class in C., southern Friuli (NE Italy) for the first time, for the Associazione Luigi Cocco. The class started Saturday July 17 at 2.30 PM and continued Sunday morning through early evening. Sor, Giuliani, Carcassi studies, Tarrega (Capricho arabe), Villa-Lobos (Prelude no. 1), Scarlatti were played. To the participants playing the studies S. Brancaccio stressed the importance of under-

standing the melody and its structure, e.g. giving a distinct sound and volume to the upbeat and downbeat notes.

S.B. hails from Naples and has now been living in Friuli for ten years. In the early 2000's S. Brancaccio studied at the Koblenz Academy, where he graduated in 2010. He has been holding a teaching position at a middle school (*liceo*) in Trieste since 2016. He has produced a CD this year.

Two guitar makers (from Gradisca and Padova) exhibited their instruments which attendants could try.

The next m.c. will be with **Pier Luigi Corona** on the last weekend in August. The association has scheduled also other events in between, especially catering to younger students. This summer series is organized by local **Mauro Pestel**, who teaches at the music school of Farra, near Gorizia. A 9-months m.c. with P.L. Corona and about five or six class dates spread over that period is tentatively scheduled to start in October.

Compared to Carinthia, the Friuli region has a very busy guitar scene, distributed over six different locations (i.e. cities and towns) from East to West. (seven in Summer, with the Cividale master classes). A

garden recital by P. L. Corona near Palmanova scheduled for July 28 had to be postponed at short notice due to “local” Coronavirus measures. It will take place probably in late August.

CD-Projekt Aktueller Stand

Von den 16 Stücken meiner dritten CD sind nun 12 aufgenommen und “fertig”. Da von den restlichen vier drei für Gitarren-Duo (einzelne Stücke) sind, in welchen ich mit mir selbst spiele, werden die Aufnahmen noch bis zirka Ende des Jahres oder Jänner 2022 dauern. Die Corona-Krise war die Ursache dieser extrem langen Dauer, da die Aufnahmen mit Reisen, Hotels etc. verbunden sind.

We are right in the middle of Summer. If you have not registered for a course yet, do it now.

Michele Bajo
July 31, 2021