

INFO Nr. 243

Juli 2024

July 2024

New Sor edition – Sorry

In the last issue of the *Info* the release of the **new enlarged and re-edited edition** of the (electronic and paper) book about **F. Sor** was announced too soon, by mistake. The new (added) substantial work on this project was not completed yet at the end of May. I apologize. However, this new edition is now finished and is just going to be uploaded on this website in early July (I assume around July 4/5).

One chapter is completely new, also the index is new - 16 chapters. See also the news just below.

New – Printed and bound

The Sor book is now also available on paper the traditional way! (From July 8.) Perfect binding, A4. This will remain, decades and decades, even centuries, and your children and grandchildren will be able to read it, and hold something in their hands which you were holding. A book is always there to keep you - and others – company, it won't leave you. An (electronic) file isn't.

Klassische Gitarre im Fernsehen? Ja - das gibt es. ...Sicher?

Am Samstag, 8. Juni hat der lokale österreichische Sender donau.kanalHD eine recht ausführliche Dokumentation über eine niederösterreichische

Musikschule, Fach Gitarre (und andere Instrumente) ausgestrahlt. Die Sendezeit war für die „Werbung“ und Verbreitung der klassischen Gitarre genau richtig: zwischen 04:30 und 04:45 Uhr in der Nacht. Vermutlich haben ich und 2 bis maximal 3 andere Personen die Sendung geschaut. Ich gebe allerdings zu, dass ich nicht weiß, worüber dieser Sender tagsüber berichtet, oder ob dieselbe Sendung auch zu einer anderen Zeit gebracht wurde (was ich annehme).

Musik u.a. von Th. Moore, G. B. Marella - keine Solostücke -, einem interessanten, unterschätzten Komponisten aus dem 18. Jh. Der erste, der in England ein Konzert auf der Gitarre gegeben hat, lange bevor die sechssaitige Gitarre erfunden wurde! (Ältere) Einspielungen gibt es u.a. von den Duos Presti-Lagoya und Gangi-Carfagna. Es ist mir aufgefallen, dass jede Schülerin (drei oder vier) eine andere Haltung der rechten Hand hatte. Das kann verschiedene Gründe haben. Moderator war übrigens Benjamin Mühlbacher, der auch die Schülerinnen und deren Lehrerin interviewt hat.

Archiv-Projekt und weißes Zimmer „neu“

Zirka am 1. Mai wurde eine sehr große, jahrelang aufgeschobene Ablage- bzw. Archiv-Aktion gestartet, die Massen Papier betroffen hat. Papier, das vor allem seit Sommer 2020, aber auch aus verschiedenen Jahren davor, z.T. bis aus den 80er Jahren, angesammelt wurde. Natürlich befand sich auch

verschiedenstes Material über Gitarre darunter, schon deswegen ist diese Meldung auch für die Schüler und Freunde der Gitarre interessant.

Täglich und systematisch wurde daran gearbeitet, z.T. musste eine entsprechende neue Methode „entwickelt“ werden. Im Rahmen der Aktion wurde auch der **Notenkatalog** bzw. die entsprechende Nummerierung aktualisiert (v.a. Noten aus den letzten Jahren). Am 12. Juni, pünktlich zu meinem Geburtstag, wurde die seltene, gründliche Archiv-Aktion für abgeschlossenen „erklärt“.

Im Zuge dieser Arbeit wurde aber auch das weiße Zimmer als solches ebenso gründlich aufgeräumt, das erste Mal in dieser Form seitdem ich in diesem Haus wohne und arbeite (November 2007). Viel Gitarre-Zubehör hat dadurch einen neuen, eigenen Platz erhalten. ...Jetzt sieht man wie der Boden aussieht! Dieser Raum, in dem ein alter Fernseher steht, wird u.a. verwendet, um Schülern Ausschnitte aus DVDs zu zeigen. Gelegentlich dient er auch als „Wartezimmer“, wenn ein anderer Schüler noch Stunde hat.

Publishers may just as well scratch some sections altogether
Which method available on the market explains the right hand (free stroke and rest stroke) the best?

I give you the answer right away: there is no such method. There can't be.

I have not found - in my not that short life – a method which explains this subject *exactly* and / or shows it on photographs as well. Some methods just explain it *a little* better than others, but still in a rather woolly and, basically, unclear way. I do not really know if this is due to an actual lack of knowledge and awareness of the authors, or a lack of ability to explain the (basics of the) “mechanics”, or because of an intention to just not explain everything. Or it may be due to the simple fact that a thorough explanation would make the buyer... renounce on learning the instrument. E.g. I have found that a very popular U.S. method - authored by a very famous (U.S.) guitarist - does explain the rest stroke and free stroke, however, some lack of clarity and inconsistencies with the (large) photos right next to the text are very disappointing. Of course, we can agree that it is not possible to teach this on a couple of pages. A beginner is not able at all to learn something that complex just from watching a few photos, which to a beginner, i.e. lay-(wo)man essentially mean nothing in the first place. Try to ask a beginner “Which important details do you see in this photo?” You will not get an (the right) answer in 99 % of cases, if not 100 %. He/She must be told exactly what to do again and again, and – gradually – why, so that he/she keeps doing it right, even if

it is hard. This again requires a teacher who possesses the appropriate knowledge and (rare) pedagogic skills. There we go.

Also, from the aforementioned photos in that method it is not clear at all at which angle (seen from the front) the hand is held. Obviously, all that raises the question whether it makes sense to print such superficial and even confusing content in the first place. One of the best classical guitar methods ever authored to date, the *Sagreras* Vol. 1 (now well over 100 years old) does not contain such pages with some illustrations. All it does is providing just one or two sentences about the next specific “lesson”. The rest is the teacher's job. Not quite the method's.

When I was a kid and teenager, in Rome there were people who were able to help with finding the right (instrument) teacher or school, i.e. a good one. The music instruments' dealers. Their personal knowledge of the (varied) sector in the city and their advice was part of their success. The shops, most of them located in very visible spots /locations, were the interface between parents, youths looking for lessons and the schools and teachers. Today, with the internet market and even internet instruction... good luck. Or is there anyone around actually helping you with it?

Friaul – „MFG“

Auch dieses Jahr finden über den Sommer verteilt bzw. im **Juli** und **September** an verschiedenen Orten einige interessante Gitarre-Konzerte verschiedener Art statt. Schüler und Ex-Schüler, die daran Interesse haben, mitzufahren, bitte melden!

Friuli – possibilità di “strappò”

*Anche quest'anno hanno luogo durante l'estate, ovvero a **luglio** e **settembre**, in vari luoghi della regione alcuni interessanti concerti di chitarra, di vario genere. Persone le quali fossero interessate a recarvisi insieme al sottoscritto (nella sua auto) sono pregate di contattarmi.*

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Article about Tamburello postponed

The exhaustive article about **Italo Oliva Tamburello**, scholar/researcher/historian and teacher from Rome, which I announced already a few issues ago, must be postponed.

In May and June, after my very long sick leave, I was quite busy adding new content to and completely re-editing the Fernando Sor biography, as well as preparing the (all-new) paper version. This project (see above news) was completed today, June 30. Also, a major archive/filing and clearing up etc. work in my premises was a reason. The article is now scheduled either for the August or September issue. Thank you for understanding.

**NO MATTER WHERE
YOU LEARN IT
(AS LONG AS THE
TEACHER IS GOOD),
CLASSICAL GUITAR
HELPS.**

...Have a great summer!

Michele Bajo
30. Juni 2024
June 30, 2024