

Questo concerto è organizzato con il patrocinio del Comune di Montecatini Val di Cecina



The **Volterra** ♦ **Project** 

The Volterra Project, Summer Guitar Institute

VI edizione

Avril Kinsey

Evocations of Africa

Guitar recital

Il Volterra Project viene organizzato con l'aiuto di



Galli Strings



Scienza Industria Tecnologia

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Comune di Volterra



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Agriturismi Inghirami

Museo delle Laverie, Montecatini Val di Cecina
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turns to desert, but hindered by long legs, the snake is unable to escape the sandy terrain, so he pleads to the Spirit for help. Meanwhile the Bushmen dance the 'rattle dance' on their way to greener pastures. The animals gather and make haste to leave, while a desert Korhaan bird cries a high---pitched call, until eventually the Spirit takes pity on the snake and shrinks his legs so he can glide over the hot desert sand to safety.

This story was passed down to the Bushmen as a reminder to heed the warnings of the Spirit of the Wilderness. The Prelude narrates the story until the desert Korhaan bird calls out. The Fugato follows in a free fugal form depicting the flight of man and animal from the encroaching desert.

Modjadji (The Rain Queen)

A revised solo version of the original duo work was completed in April, 2012 to première at Volterra in Italy. The legendary rain---making powers of Modjadji were famed throughout Southern Africa. Kinsey was granted a rare visitation to the 5th Dynasty of the Rain Queen in a remote part of South Africa in the mid---1980s. Witnessing the gomana drum ceremony with the ululating cries of the tribeswomen led to the drumming middle section of the piece, while the evocative mists surrounding the Queen's isolated kraal (homestead), and the Queens regality and sadness were the inspirations for the mystical and earthy sounds Kinsey desired to recall in her tone poem. The through---composed piece begins with the regal and mystical, and culminates in soft falling rain before a thunderous ending.

during his World Tour Concert in Stellenbosch, South Africa.

The Domba Dance or Python Ritual Dance is performed by young Venda women from the northern area of South Africa, as an initiation rite for their transition into womanhood. The interlocked body and arm movements resemble that of a large snake. Composed in the form of a tonal rondo, the music describes the joyful occasion when the chief of the village chooses his wife from amongst the young Domba dancers.

Bagatelle No 5 – Fritz Buss

Fritz Buss was largely responsible for developing the classical guitar in South Africa after Andres Segovia had performed in the country in 1956. Buss wrote several books of studies for his students, as it was difficult to obtain scores during the cultural boycott of the apartheid years. Bagatelle No 5 is one of Buss' more virtuosic tonal works.

Four African Tone Poems

Avril Kinsey- Mokoro (Song of the Water)

Mokoro was inspired during a camping trip to the Okavango Swamps in Botswana. Mokoro is a dug out canoe, which is poled along through the reedy waters. Various effects recreate the atmosphere of the area including harmonics to express the way light flickers on a vast expanse of water, the scraping sound of reeds as the mokoro skims past the reeds, while water insects and the ever present Fish Eagle cry remind one this is Africa in its wild and natural state.

Afrique du Temps Jadis (Sangoma)

This is a 3 movement programmatic work based on Kinsey's field trip to visit a medicine woman on the subtropical East coast of South Africa.

The Prelude describes the tranquility of the rolling green hills of KwaZulu---Natal in a simple African walking song theme.

The Evocation mystically evokes communication with the Sangoma's ancestral spirits, through the opening shell effects and the 'eerie call' of the Buff---spotted Flufftail bird. Motivic development leads into a theme, which foreshadows the theme of the third movement. The Evocation ends with the 'spirit world' gently fading away.

The Ritual Dance is deliberately wild and exotic. It exploits percussive rhythmic effects created by a Sangoma's swish and a porcupine quill. A virtuosic dance follows which culminates in the middle with the sacrificial slaughtering of a goat depicted by the guitars strings being pushed over the edge of the fingerboard. The movement ends with a return to the theme of the second movement.

Bushmen (Spirit of the Wilderness)

Bushmen is dedicated to the indigenous cultures of Southern Africa and is programmatically based on a Bushman folk tale about the snake who lost his legs:

The Spirit of the Wilderness warns the snake that a drought is coming and that he should find a safer environment. The snake declines to heed the warning. Soon the land



Avril Kinsey has studied with internationally renowned performers and teachers, including Narciso Yepes, Ernesto Bitetti, Carlos Bonell, and Christopher Parkening.

She received her Masters of Music degree from the University of Cape Town with distinction, and is the recipient of numerous awards including the Jules Kramer Fine Arts and Music Scholarship, the KW Johnstone Research Bursary and the Adcock Ingram Classical Guitar Competition First Prize.

Her performing career has taken her to Singapore, Malaysia, Portugal, Spain, Holland, Belgium, Austria, Germany, Denmark, England, Scotland, North America and Greece, many of which led to numerous live radio and television broadcasts. In 1988 she made her orchestral debut with the National Symphony Orchestra performing Rodrigo's Concierto de Aranjuez under the baton of Garcia Asensio. Performing with the Cape Town Philharmonic Orchestra in 1996 she accompanied Luciano Pavarotti during the Cape Town visit of his world tour.

Kinsey has composed over 25 works for, and including, the classical guitar. Most have been published by Art Music Editions and many recorded on the Art Music label. Her works have been featured in television documentaries and radio programs (SABC TV, BBC Radio & TV, Austrian Radio) and KPFK Radio in the USA. Her works include bird calls and sounds of ethnic instruments.

Kinsey is the author of two music books Guitar Music from Africa and Guitar on Safari and the performer on 5 CDs. Her writings and articles have also been published internationally in Classical Guitar (UK).

She is the founding director of the Cape Town Academy of Music and the Cape Town International Guitar Festival.

www.avrilkinsey.com

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Programma

Dedicated to Antigoni Goni in recognition of her educative work in the world of the classical guitar

Stanley Glasser
(1926 -)

Mr Masenga's Walk

Two African Sketches

- Charles Camilleri (1931-1990)
- Jean Bosco Mwende (1930 - 1990)

Folk Prelude

Masanga

Avril Kinsey
(1955-)

Domba Dance* (Python Ritual Dance)

Frit Buss
(1930-)

Bagatelle No 5*

Avril Kinsey
(1955-)

Four African Tone Poems*

- Mokoro (Song of the Water)
 - o Afrique du Temps Jadis (*Sangoma* or *Medicine Woman*)
 - o Prelude Evocation (to ancestral spirits)
 - o Ritual Dance
- Bushmen (Spirit of the Wilderness)
 - o Prelude
 - o Fugato
- Modjadji*** (The Rain Queen)

* Italian première

** World première

** World première of revised solo (2012)

Programme Notes:

Mr Masenga's Walk – Stanley Glasser

Stanley Glasser was born in South Africa and studied at the University of the Witwatersrand, before furthering his compositional studies in the UK at the Guildhall School of Music and the University of Cambridge. He returned to South Africa to lecture at the SA College of Music, University of Cape Town in 1958, and gained international recognition as a composer in 1961 with songs for the hit musical King Kong. Glasser received an honorary doctorate in music from Richmond College, The American International University of London in 1997.

Masenga's Walk is dedicated to South African guitarist Simon Wynberg and was published by Woza Music in 1978. The piece incorporates modal and pentatonic influences and evokes the 1940s African township jive of Sophiatown, a town which was characterised by a sense of community, dance, music, and home-brewed beer.

African Folk Prelude – Charles Camilleri

Charles Camilleri was influenced, not only by the folk music from his native Malta, but also by the music of Africa and Asia. He had an ability to draw on diverse and eclectic styles, and still retain a persuasive individual voice. He wrote over 300 works of which Folk Prelude is one of his Four African Sketches. The work is dedicated to the renowned Ghanaian ethnomusicologist, composer and author J H Kwabena Nketia. Camilleri's other guitar works include Four Japanese Prints and Fantasia Concertante No 5. Kinsey's version of Folk Prelude incorporates the use of Prestik or putty on the 3rd to 6th strings to create a muted African marimba effect.

Masanga – Jean Bosco Mwende

Jean Bosco Mwende is a Congolese guitarist-composer who was discovered by South African ethnomusicologist Hugh Tracey during his 60 years of recording indigenous African music in central and Southern Africa. Mwende went on to make over 200 recordings, eventually performing in Europe and the USA. His unique finger---picking style has been imitated by many sub-Saharan African guitarists.

Domba Dance – Avril Kinsey

Kinsey travelled extensively throughout Southern Africa researching the material for her book and CD Guitar Music from Africa. Many of her guitar solo's and duo's are inspired by nature and folk legends. They are often programmatic in style, with some recreating the sounds of indigenous African instruments and bird calls. As a researcher she received an MMus with distinction from the University of Cape Town for uncovering close to 320 works for classical guitar by 72 South African composers. She is the recipient of numerous prizes and awards, including first prize in the Adcock Ingram Classical Guitar Competition. She has performed and lectured on 4 continents and accompanied Luciano Pavarotti with the Cape Town Philharmonic Orchestra