

14th November 2009, Modena

XXII Guitar meeting

On that occasion will be presented the volume
Romolo Ferrari e la chitarra in Italia nella prima metà del Novecento
(*Romolo Ferrari and the guitar in Italy in the first half of the XX century*)

A special meeting about the world of guitar is going to be planned on Saturday 14th of November 2009 at the National Academy of Sciences Letters and Arts in Modena. The event is devoted to the anniversary of the 50th year after the death of Romolo Ferrari (1894 -1959). On that occasion the volume ***Romolo Ferrari e la chitarra in Italia nella prima metà del Novecento*** (Romolo Ferrari and the guitar in Italy in the first half of the XX century) will be presented (Mucchi publisher, 2009).

The volume was realized as a positive result of the conference – held in Modena on the first of March 2008 – aimed to remember this important musician; in that circumstance a close examination on the Italian history of guitar was carried out. Since the searches brought forth interesting and unknown points of view to discuss, further and deeper investigations became then unavoidable. The project developed itself as a consequence of the interest aroused by this initiative, and other collaborators were therefore included. The final purpose was to analyze the many aspects of the period returning in the end a whole picture of it, the more precise and accurate it could be.

This volume is realized by the one who is writing, with the precious collaboration of a team of colleagues: Massimo Agostinelli, Giuliano Balestra, Marco Bazzotti, Maria Angela Bianchini, Clara Campese, Luciano Chillemi, Paola Dato, Mario Dell'Ara, Giorgio Ferraris, Giuseppe Idone, Giovanni Indulti, Giovanni Intelisano, Norma Lutzemberger, Silvia Mastrogregori, Maurizio Mazzoli, Piero Mioli, Ugo Orlandi, Giacomo Parimbelli, Stefano Picciano, Vincenzo Poggi, Sergio Sorrentino, Andreas Stevens, Stefano Toffolo.

The general purpose is to remember Romolo Ferrari as a relevant figure within the world of guitar: almost an eclectic 'pioneer' whose activity added value to many aspects of this musical instrument. A second aim of the book is to offer besides an objective and well documented investigation on the world of guitar during the time of his life. The artistic and biographical aspects of his existence seem to be strictly related to many social and historical topics of that period (repertoire, didactics, publishing industry, etc.). All these subjects have been carefully analyzed in order to rebuild the real portrait of that time.

On the 14th November therefore a whole day devoted to the world of guitar in Italy during the early XX century is going to be planned: historical lectures, debate on photos and unpublished documents, listening to some of the rare audio clips of that historical period and of course musical performances are going to be the most important moments of the day. Speakers, musicians and composers as well will take part to the event: Giuliano Balestra, Marco Bazzotti, Francesco Bonacini, Piero Bonaguri, Luciano Chillemi, Giovanni Indulti, Silvia Mastrogregori, Sergio Sorrentino, Enrico Tagliavini, Giulio Tampalini.

This meeting acquires then another special relevance: it can actually be understood as the fortunate consequence of those meetings about the world of guitar already established by Romolo Ferrari: that tradition dates back to 1933, in Modena. From then on, till his death, that kind of event has been planned 21 times and without a doubt it has deeply influenced the Italian history of guitar and encouraged a better knowledge of the instrument itself.

Now we are going to take back that local tradition in order to recover it for all the years to come. The meeting on the 14th November 2009 has to be regarded actually as the XXII edition: on that day we will celebrate both the 50th year after the death of Romolo Ferrari and the presentation of the volume.

We hope this project will widen the knowledge of guitar. The final aim – as noticed above – is to promote this musical instrument and to carry out in the end a significant rediscovery of the Italian history of guitar. This volume – ensued from meticulous searches and challenging recognitions on original sources – has to be regarded as a starting point for further collaborations. After all, being musician means not merely making music but being aware of a critical and experimental point of view as well.

