

Central Studio on Thursday. From Penny Lane to Paraguay, from a Sussex sandpit to the Royal Albert Hall, Richard's life has been about music from the very beginning. His earliest musical memory is of listening to his older brothers and sisters playing Beatles records, but from the moment toddler Richard rescued a battered guitar from a sandpit, it was true love. He's tried everything from the recorder to the cello, trombone, double bass and piano, but he always comes back to that first love, the guitar.

Now he is using his stage craft and theatrical talent to show legendary Paraguayan guitarist and composer Agustín Barrios - known as Mangore - in an international context. The result is a fabulous and intriguing night out entitled *Danza Paraguaya*, a fascinating musical tale that weaves together Los Paraguayos, Manuel de Falla, Debussy and Django Reinhardt.

The inspiration for this came a long time ago. Richard's passion for the

after he received an email from Richard for Christmas. By then Richard was already a fluent guitarist but he was floored both by Diaz's style of playing and three precious tracks by Barrios featured on side two of the record.

"Those three pieces changed everything," says Richard, "I loved those tracks even more than my Dad's Django records."

His proudest musical moment so far came in Paraguay's capital Asunción in May, 2011. He had been invited to launch his latest solo album and, while there, in recognition of his services as a champion of Agustín Barrios Mangore, Durrant was officially proclaimed an Illustrious Visitor to the country. He will be returning to South America for more concerts in 2012.

● The performance at Central Studio begins at 8pm. Tickets priced £13, £11 concessions, £6 students, are available from the box office on 01256 418318 or online at centralstudio.co.uk.

Further details can be obtained via richard-durrant.com.



welcomes duo

LAUGHTER House comedy club's guests this week are Adam Crow and Sol Bernstein. They'll join compere Danny Dawes in The Red Lion Hotel on Thursday. Tickets cost £12 and doors open at 7.30pm for an 8.15pm start. Further details are available from 01256 328 525 or online at laughter-house.co.uk.

Shakespeare at Haymarket

THE Shakespeare Schools Festival arrives at The Haymarket this week.

Locals are invited to celebrate an evening's professional entertainment with four half-hour productions on Wednesday and Thursday at 7pm.

Tickets priced £8 are available from the box office on 01256 844244 or online at anvilarts.org.uk.

Poetry set to move listeners

LISTEN to compelling, inspiring and outstanding poetry at the Ten Poetry Tour in Portsmouth's New Theatre Royal on Wednesday, November 2 at 7.30pm.

Hosted by Bernardine Evaristo, it will feature poets Malika Booker, Nick Makoha and Jan Kofi-Tsekpo. Book now at newtheatreroyal.com.

Tickets to see Titchmarsh

TICKETS are now on sale for Alan Titchmarsh's Christmas visit to Winchester Cathedral on Friday, December 16 at 7pm. He will join the choir for a feast of carols and readings.

Further information is available from the box office on 01962 857 275 and online at winchester-cathedral.org.uk.

Free nativity

ALDERMASTON'S annual York nativity play returns for its 55th year this Christmas.

The free performances run from Thursday, December 8 to Sunday, December 11 at The Church of St Mary the Virgin, in Church Hill. For tickets, send a stamped, address envelope to Val and Andy Hall at The Gables, Church Road, Aldermaston RG7 4LR or go to aldermastonnativity@hotmail.co.uk

Classical, popular and all that jazz in church

Group Sax
St Mary's, Silchester

MUSIC from the earliest days of the saxophone up to modern times made up the programme when Group Sax came to St Mary's.

The saxophone quartet comprising musical director Lorna Mountford, Rosie Edgar, Lizzie Locks and Tim Newbury, played a wide repertoire of music including jazz standards, classical favourites and popular tunes by composers such as Gershwin, Lennon and McCartney and Billy Joel.

But the audience weren't only entertained by music. The evening included an introduction to the instrument they have all mastered and a guide to the different sizes and types of instrument within the saxophone family.

The group were only too happy to share their knowledge on the saxophone and followed each introduction with a solo performance that highlighted each instrument's musical range and exemplified the maxim that's been true since Adolphe Sax invented the saxophone in 1841 - the smaller the instrument, the higher the pitch.

The group didn't limit themselves to the saxophone. Rosie, who has played piano since the age of three, played electric piano during Tim's solo performance of *Walkin' Shoes* and Tim did likewise when Lorna performed her solo of *Wedding Song*.

The three female members of the group also sang during their performance of *Bill Bailey* and at one point Lorna danced down the



● Group Sax playing in the church
Pic by Pete Hughes

aisles before returning with a partner for a jive demo on the stage.

Group Sax describe themselves as a sax quartet for all occasions and pride themselves on making an occasion out of every performance.

Judging from the applause at the end, they did just that at St Mary's. The evening, which was in aid of the church organ restoration, was the last musical event at St Mary's for the year and served as a fitting end to a summer of music.

-Dan Read



THE show that rocked *Britain's Got Talent* visits Southampton's Guildhall with jaw-dropping routines this week.

The Circus of Horrors' new production is set in Berlin during the roaring twenties, the decadent decade that saw the birth of the cabaret. Dr Haze rolls into town with his Vampire Vaudeville show, featuring hair-hanging beauties, twisted contortionists, flying aerialists, demon dwarfs, gyrating jugglers, voodoo warriors, pickled people, sword swallows and its latest and greatest new found star, The Ventriloquist. The performance takes place on Friday at 7.30pm.

Tickets, priced from £13, are available from the box office on 023 8063 2601.

Further information is online at circusofhorrors.co.uk.

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