

# Guitarist Daniel Bolshoy delivers outstanding concert

Wendy Gibb  
Leader Staff

MORRISBURG – It is difficult not to speak in clichés.

Guitar virtuoso Daniel Bolshoy, who gave a concert on Saturday, January 24, at the Morrisburg Meeting Centre, is simply so good that music really does appear to be flowing effortlessly from him.

Alone on stage, no microphone, no props, he kept his audience charmed and exhilarated for nearly two hours.

Daniel Bolshoy appeared in Morrisburg as part of the mid-winter and spring concert series offered by the St. Lawrence Acoustic Stage Performances. The St. Lawrence Board is hosting a number of concerts in 2009 featuring established professional artists and introducing new and local artists.

Bolshoy is a classical guitarist who has performed throughout North America with major orchestras and chamber music

groups. He has been showcased on CBC Radio many times, and his performances have been the subject of numerous rave reviews in newspapers and magazines across Canada.

His Saturday evening concert was a heady mixture of South American music, classical works by Bach and new compositions by modern composers.

Early in the program, in *Un Sueño en la Floresta*, Bolshoy shared the whimsical, poetry-inspired music of Agustin Barrios Mangoré with his listeners: later, they could hear in Barrios' *Choro de Saudade*, the longing beat of Brazilian street bands.

Bolshoy delighted the audience further when he slyly told them that composer Barrios' passionate *Julia Florida* had two possible inspirations. Either Barrios composed it to honour his small niece on the occasion of her first communion; or the married composer wrote it in honour of a gorgeous student of whom he may have been just a little too fond.

When he finished playing the piece, Bolshoy innocently remarked, "Now does that sound to you like a small girl's communion, or secret praise for a beautiful woman?"

One especially memorable moment in the Bolshoy program was the artist's interpretation of *Aurore Boreale*, written by Canadian Patrick Roux, who lives in West Quebec.

In 2007-8 the nation of Brazil commissioned new guitar pieces from composers throughout the Americas. Roux's *Aurore* was chosen as the Canadian winner. This was a unique composition, intended to capture the power of the Northern Lights by using the full spectrum of the guitar.

20 children too," Bolshoy laughed) who liked to build instruments "in his spare time." Bolshoy performed three movements adapted from a composition Bach had originally written for a flute-like instrument he designed.

The artist left the stage at the end of a wonderful evening to a standing ovation.

Eric Friesen of C.B.C. Radio once described the young classical guitar virtuoso Daniel Bolshoy as a "whole passionate package."

On January 24, at the Morrisburg Meeting Centre, local audiences learned why.

Bolshoy's interpretation was beautiful and moving as the great lights themselves.

As self-effacing on stage as he is a gifted artist, Bolshoy shared many insights with the South Dundas audience into the character and works of the composers he presented in his concert.

One story concerned Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco, one of the most important composers of the early 20th century. He fled Italy ahead of Mussolini and the fascists and ended up working in Hollywood and composing music like *Capriccio Diabolico*, performed by Bolshoy.

Another anecdote introduced Bach (the "busiest man alive," hundreds of compositions, organist for a major cathedral, and

