

The West Georgian

Guitar Night Showcase

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Despite the heavy rain and slick roads this past Saturday night, West Georgia students, staff, and alumni showed their support for Guitar Night at 8 p.m. in Kathy Cashen Hall. Directed by Brian Mitchell and free to all UWG students, the evening's challenging repertoire aimed to highlight the guitar as an instrument of great versatility and elegance.

The evening began with Samantha Goodwin's perfect execution of "Prelude, BMV. 999" by J.S Bach. Her poised and focused style quickly captured the audience's attention while her attention to carving each note paid respects to the complexity of Bach's technique. Following her, Joel Jackson's passionate rendition of "Un Dia de Noviembre" by composer Leo Brouwer captured the composer's nostalgia for a lost era. Both pieces were rivaled only by the selections performed when both soloists joined their director to create a formidable trio.

In the most memorable part of the night, Dr. Mitchell surprised the audience with a solo performance with the house lights off. At the end of the piece, Kathy Cashen Hall erupted in applause and appreciation for all three musicians.

When asked how they felt to have worked alongside Professor Mitchell both musicians held no complaints. "It's been great," Ms. Goodwin quickly responded. "He has a different perspective more focused on repertoire and less on technique." Mr. Jackson agreed with Ms. Goodwin with no second thoughts. "It's been wonderful. He's a great instructor."

Truly, Guitar Night showcased some of the best musical talent available on the UWG campus. If it is true that practice makes perfect, one can only anxiously await the surprises the UWG Guitar ensemble will hold for students in the upcoming 2008-2009 school year.