



# EUROSTRINGS

inspiring  
classical guitarists

[eurostrings.eu](http://eurostrings.eu)



Co-funded by the  
Creative Europe Programme  
of the European Union

# Who Are We



EuroStrings is a platform of European guitar festivals, led by Zagreb Guitar Festival. As the first such platform to be established, it is ever expanding: having started with an initial 14 member festivals in 2018, it now has 17 member festivals in 2020. The project is co-funded by the Creative Europe programme of the European Union and is the first guitar project ever to receive such funding.

EuroStrings also has partners in America and China, making it a truly global project. Each member festival also stages an international guitar competition.

EuroStrings activities include audience development, the creation of new business models, research and development of resources for festival organisers and policy makers but the most important element is the development of emerging young guitarists. To this end, EuroStrings creates a host of performance opportunities for the laureates of its member festivals' guitar competition, called the EuroStrings Exchange Programme. The programme also includes an extensive educational component. Not only do the young performers attend workshops given by master guitarists but they themselves also teach schoolchildren and engage in comprehensive outreach work in the wider community with a range of different groups. The project also provides scholarships for young talented players of modest means.

The EuroStrings Artists for 2019/2020 are the laureates of the international guitar competitions organised by its 17 Platform member festivals during 2019.

EuroStrings is co-funded by the Creative Europe Programme of the European Union for the period of 2017–2021.

## EuroStrings Contacts

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## OUR OBJECTIVES

- to promote young emerging classical guitar players through concert opportunities, masterclasses, professional development and international competitions;
- to educate young emerging classical guitar players in how to deliver outreach, audience development and work in the community;
- to develop and consolidate the European guitar festival sector through collaboration, information sharing, the building of resources and new technology;
- to develop wider and sustainable audiences for the classical guitar.

## WHO ARE THE EUROSTRINGS ARTISTS

EuroStrings Artists are a group of young professional guitarists, who are the laureates of the international competitions organised by the 17 EuroStrings Platform member guitar festivals. They are invited to take part in the EuroStrings Exchange Programme which is delivered through the EuroStrings Curriculum.

## HOW TO BECOME A EUROSTRINGS ARTIST

To become a EuroStrings Artist you need to win First Prize at one of the international guitar competitions organised by the EuroStrings Platform member festivals. In some cases, another laureate, such as a second prizewinner, can become a EuroStrings Artist, if for instance the first prizewinner has already been a EuroStrings Artist in a previous year. An emerging artist can only be a EuroStrings Artist once.

## EUROSTRINGS FEATURED ARTISTS

EuroStrings Featured Artists are well-established professional master guitarists who are widely regarded as the foremost classical guitarists in the world. They will perform concerts, give masterclasses, give advice and help and serve as mentors to the emerging guitarists. They are both inspirational to and aspirational for the younger generation of budding professionals. Each EuroStrings Platform festival will invite a minimum of one EuroStrings Featured Artist to take part in their event.



“...The innovative scope of [EuroStrings] will draw the attention of many people, contributing to the expansion of the guitar audience and highlighting this most wonderful and versatile instrument.”

Assad Brothers





## EUROSTRINGS EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

The EuroStrings project's central activity is the EuroStrings Exchange Programme which was created for EuroStrings Artists to help them to develop a professional career as a classical guitarist. The programme offers opportunities that complement the academic programmes studied by the emerging guitarists in their conservatoires and universities, opening up new horizons in terms of international experiences, professional exposure and networking with their peers and a range of concert promoters, festivals, and music industry professionals.

The EuroStrings Exchange Programme is delivered through the EuroStrings Curriculum which offers the emerging players:

- **Solo concerts** at EuroStrings Platform festivals around Europe, a minimum of three per year.
- **Chamber music concerts**, with the EuroStrings Artists playing together.
- **Participation** in the EuroStrings Guitar Competition.
- **Masterclasses** with world-famous musicians, including those given by the EuroStrings Featured Artists, a group of the most respected master guitarists in the world.
- **Lectures and workshops** on a wide range of topics including marketing and PR, fundraising, audience development and professional skills.
- **Participation in the delivery of a comprehensive community education programme**, which includes giving masterclasses and workshops to children and young people, who are often new to the guitar and living in challenging circumstances, as well as work in the wider community including in youth clubs, schools and hospitals.

“

*EuroStrings brought me in contact with an amazing group of artists who I got to work with and learn from, as well as international concert performers with whom we shared the stage and received lessons. A great experience!”*

Misael Barraza Diaz, EuroStrings Artist, Year 2



“

*Winning the EuroStrings competition was one of my biggest dreams. The number of concerts I'm about to give as a winner is enormous. The most important regions of the entire world are open for me now. It's such an incredible career boost.”*



**Mateusz Kowalski**, winner of the 2nd EuroStrings Guitar Competition held in London, July 2019

## EUROSTRINGS GUITAR COMPETITION

EuroStrings Guitar Competition. The winner will receive a cash prize of €8000\* and a European tour as well as concerts in Asia and America in 2020/2021. This programme offers a unique boost at the start of an international career. The competition is open to players of 35 years and under.

The EuroStrings Guitar Competition is open only to the 17 EuroStrings Artists who are laureates of the 17 guitar competitions that are organised by the EuroStrings Platform member festivals. Each of these festivals draws competitors from all over the world and, as a result, the EuroStrings Guitar Competition welcomes and showcases the very finest young guitarists from all over the world.

The first edition of this prestigious competition took place at Zagreb Guitar Festival in 2018 and the second edition took place in London in July 2019 at IGF's Guitar Summit.

The **third edition of the EuroStrings Competition** will be held online and streamed on EuroStrings' Facebook page from **17 - 20 December 2020**.

\* The prize quoted is gross and may be subject to taxes

“  
... the beauty of our  
music and astounding  
excellence and  
virtuosity of our young  
players leaves  
no doubt in my  
mind that the  
guitar has a  
glorious future.”

David Russell





# SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

To help young people of modest means study the guitar in an international context, EuroStrings has developed an annual scholarship programme for young guitar students. Every EuroStrings Platform festival gives one scholarship, resulting in 17 scholarships being granted each year. The scholarship includes entry to all festival concerts, lectures and masterclasses as well as participation in the festival's international competition. The open call for scholarships is launched on the EuroStrings website in advance of each EuroStrings Platform festival.

[www.eurostrings.eu](http://www.eurostrings.eu)

## EUROSTRINGS SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS 2019/2020



**Emanuele Addis**  
*Italy*  
Scholarship Winner of Plovdiv  
GuitArt Festival



**Finlay Hay**  
*UK*  
Scholarship Winner of Twents  
Gitaar Festival



**Nino D'Amico**  
*Italy*  
Scholarship Winner of Harmonia  
Cordis International Guitar Festival



**Ema Kapor**  
*Serbia*  
Scholarship Winner of Tallinn  
Guitar Festival



**Sotiris Athanasiou**  
*Greece*  
Scholarship Winner of  
Montenegro International  
Guitar Competition



**Tamás Kőrös**  
*Hungary*  
Scholarship Winner of Tampere  
Guitar Festival



**Gianluca Cappetta**  
*Italy*  
Scholarship Winner of Mottola  
Guitar Festival



**Beatrix Kovács**  
*Hungary*  
Scholarship Winner of Zagreb  
Guitar Festival



**Chiara Corriero**  
*Italy*  
Scholarship Winner of London  
Guitar Festival



**Maja Kralj**  
*Slovenia*  
Scholarship Winner of Uppsala  
International Guitar Festival



**Dominic Flynn**  
*America*  
Scholarship Winner of Szeged  
International Guitar Festival



**Milica Ristić**  
*Serbia*  
Scholarship Winner of International Guitar  
Festival José Tomás Villa de Petrer



**Cristina Galietto**  
*Italy*  
Scholarship Winner of Festival  
International de Guitarra  
de Guimarães



**Stanislav Steshenko**  
*Ukraine*  
Scholarship Winner of Antwerpen  
Gitaar Festival



**Valeria Galimova**  
*Russia*  
Scholarship Winner of  
International Guitar  
Festival Rust



**Miloš Vuković**  
*Serbia*  
Scholarship Winner of Sarajevo  
International Guitar Festival



## DEVELOPING NEW BUSINESS MODELS

Each year three EuroStrings seminars will be organised, open to all professionals from the field of classical music, with different lectures and workshops in the field of audience development, marketing and PR, fundraising, cultural management, cultural tourism.

## BUILDING A KNOWLEDGE BASE ABOUT CLASSICAL GUITAR FESTIVALS

The Platform will conduct annual surveys and research, which will be published on the EuroStrings website to serve as a resource for festival organisations and policy makers and underpin the Platform's strategic planning. This knowledge base will give a comparative perspective and create an awareness of the wider European classical guitar festival community.

## HOW TO SUPPORT THE EUROSTRINGS PROJECT

EuroStrings is co-funded by the Creative Europe programme of the European Union. This co-funding programme makes possible a large part of the project's activities, however the support is not comprehensive. If you would like to support us, either as a sponsor or a donor, please contact [supporting@eurostrings.eu](mailto:supporting@eurostrings.eu)

“

*I believe the biggest treasure of EuroStrings was the networking with new and old friends. It was a pleasure to meet so many amazing people interested in guitar and music in general. The travels and performances around Europe were very exciting – thanks to EuroStrings I was able to experience these in my early career.”*

Zuzanna Wężyk, EuroStrings Artist, Year 2





# EUROSTRINGS GUITAR FESTIVALS

Paris International Guitar Festival  
*France*  
28 November - 1 December 2019

Festival Internacional de Guitarra de Guimarães  
*Portugal*  
26 – 30 December 2019

Montenegro International Guitar Competition  
*Montenegro*  
27 – 31 May 2020

Tallinn Guitar Festival  
*Estonia*  
7 – 11 June 2020

Zagreb Guitar Festival  
*Croatia*  
3 - 10 July 2020

International Festival of Guitar José Tomás Villa de Petrer  
*Spain*  
16 – 25 July 2020

Twents Gitaar Festival  
*Netherlands*  
27 July – 1 August 2020

International Guitar Festival Nürtingen  
*Germany*  
1 - 9 August 2020

Sarajevo International Guitar Festival  
*Bosnia and Herzegovina*  
September 2020

International Guitar Festival Mottola  
*Italy*  
5 – 13 September 2020

Harmonia Cordis International Classical Guitar Festival  
*Romania*  
8 – 13 September 2020

International Guitar Festival Rust  
*Austria*  
27 – 30 September 2020

Uppsala International Guitar Festival  
*Sweden*  
11 – 15 October 2020

Szeged International Guitar Festival  
*Hungary*  
15– 18 October 2020

London Guitar Festival  
*London, UK*  
22 – 25 October 2020

GuitArt Festival Plovdiv  
*Bulgaria*  
29 October - 1 November 2020

Tampere Guitar Festival  
*Finland*  
6 – 8 November 2020

# EUROSTRINGS ARTISTS 2019/2020

Nino D'Amico *Italy*

Silvio Bilić *Croatia*

Carlo Curatolo *Italy*

Jonas Egholm *Denmark*

Dávid Fellegi *Hungary*

Luís Alejandro García *Spain*

Ema Kapor *Serbia*

Maja Kralj *Slovenia*

Flavio Nati *Italy*

Agustín Nazzetta *Argentina*

Cassie Martin *France*

Pablo Menéndez *Spain*

Lovro Peretić *Croatia*

Bruno Pino Mateos *Spain*

Pavel Ralev *Bulgaria*

Zsombor Sidoo *Hungary*

George Tarlton *UK*



## Festivals and Eurostrings Artists 2019/2020

“

*It is truly impressive to see just how much positive influence the work of EuroStrings is bringing upon the development and inspiration of young guitarists globally. I believe that such positive work will positively affect popularity of the classical guitar and the mindfulness of the ever growing number of talented young guitarists. The young generation mostly needs attention and support, which gives strength and courage to persist on this tough journey. Heartfelt congratulations to EuroStrings for the dedication, work and all my best for the future!”*

Ana Vidović



# PARIS INTERNATIONAL GUITAR FESTIVAL

France, 28 November–1 December 2020

The Paris International Guitar Festival, which is celebrating its 16th edition this year, continues in its ambition to promote the classical guitar. For 35 years, Paris was a major international centre for the classical guitar which had at its heart the prestigious International Guitar Competition of Radio France, which was created by Robert J. Vidal (1925–2002). After this event ended in 1996, guitar concerts became a rarity in Parisian cultural life. Addressing this void was the impetus behind the establishment of the Paris International Guitar Festival by the Association 'Vous avez dit guitare?'.

The objective of the annual Paris International Guitar Festival is to offer a high quality programme featuring some of the most prestigious guitar players in the world giving concerts and masterclasses, and to establish an international competition, a luthier exposition and a venue for the promotion of young guitarists.



## PARIS INTERNATIONAL GUITAR FESTIVAL LAUREATE

### Cassie Martin France

Cassie Martin started playing the guitar at the age of five. By the age of nine, she started to win prizes in competitions. More recently, she won First Prize at: the International Guitar Competition in Béarn, at the Roland Dyens-Révélation International Competition Classical Guitar Magazine in 2018, and at the International Competition in Carry-le-Rouet. After training at the Conservatoire d'Orléans with Josiane Rabemananjara, she entered the Conservatoire à Rayonnement Régional in Paris, where she studied with Gérard Abiton and obtained her Diplôme d'Études Musicales.

She has participated in masterclasses with international guitarists such as Jérémy Jouve and Judicaël Perroy. In 2018, she worked with Sérgio Assad and played Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco's Guitar Concerto No. 1, conducted by Xavier Delettre with the youth orchestra of the Conservatoire, in a concert at the CRR in Paris. Presently, she divides her time between the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse in Paris, where she studies with Olivier Chassain, and performing, which is her absolute pleasure, with repertoire ranging from early to contemporary music.



# FESTIVAL INTERNACIONAL DE GUITARRA DE GUIMARÃES

Portugal, 26 – 30 December 2019

The Festival Internacional de Guitarra de Guimarães is promoted by the Sociedade Musical de Guimarães, under the artistic direction of Portuguese guitarist Nuno Cachada. It aims to strengthen the position and pedagogical approach to the classical guitar and to foster a new attitude towards the classical guitar, which is still undervalued as a solo instrument. The festival has the support of Guimarães City Council as well as several Portuguese and international universities.



Organised for the first time in 2014, the festival immediately attracted more than 100 young guitarists from Portugal and all over Europe to participate in concerts, masterclasses, workshops and its international guitar competition. The following editions have reinforced and even extended these strands to include musicological research and conferences held in partnership with the University of Minho and specialist guitar researchers. Several world-renowned guitarists and researchers have taken part in the festival in the five years since its inception.

## FESTIVAL INTERNACIONAL DE GUITARRA DE GUIMARÃES LAUREATE

### Bruno Pino Mateos

Spain

Born in Salamanca in 1997, the Spanish guitarist Bruno Pino Mateos studied at the Conservatorio Superior de Música in Salamanca, where he was awarded a degree with the highest qualifications. He continued his studies at the Conservatorio Superior de Castilla y León, studying with Fernando Espí and later with Marisa Gómez. He has participated in masterclasses with David Russell, Roberto Aussel, Marco Socías, Roland Dyens, Ricardo Gallén, Margarita Escarpa, Carles Trepát, David Martínez, Pedro Mateo, Fernando Espí, Marcin Dylla, Aniello Desiderio, Thibaut García, Carlo Marchione, Judicaël Perroy and Alex Garrobé, among others.

Bruno Pino Mateos has performed at the Teatro Liceo de Salamanca and at the festivals of Coria, Amarante and Petrer. Among his numerous awards, he received First Prize at the V International Guitar Festival of Guimarães 2018; the International Guitar Festival José Tomás Villa de Petrer Competition in the Youth category; the XIX International Guitar Competition Ciudad de Coria in the youth category; and the II Alhambra International Guitar Competition for Young People, Valencia.

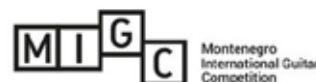




# MONTENEGRO INTERNATIONAL GUITAR COMPETITION

Montenegro, 27–31 May 2020

The Montenegro International Guitar Competition was founded in 2006 under the auspices of Niksic Guitar Festival and the patronage of the Niksic Municipality. Since then, it has established itself as a significant professional and international event, with the aim of promoting the highest achievements in the contemporary performance of classical guitar. Due to its rich prize pool, the competition has been recognised as an important opportunity in the career development of young classical guitarists. The award-winners of the previous editions have come from all over the world and many are today the leading guitarists of the younger generation.



Until recently, Montenegro International Guitar Competition had been the only professional competition for classical music in Montenegro, which was broadcast live by RTV Atlas until 2016, and since 2017, the competition is broadcast live on National Television RTCG. The competition is organised by NGO Anagastum Guitar Society and Montenegrin Music Centre.

## MONTENEGRO INTERNATIONAL GUITAR COMPETITION LAUREATE

### Silvio Bilić Croatia

Silvio Bilić started playing guitar at the age of eight in the small town of Omiš with Neno Munitić. In 2017, he enrolled at the Arts Academy of Split where he studied with Maroje Brčić. He has been active in guitar competitions since 2008. He has won 20 first prizes as a soloist and 12 first prizes as a member of chamber ensembles, at many national and international competitions such as the International Competition for Young Guitarists 'Andrés Segovia' in Velbert, Germany, the Montenegro Guitar Competition, the Concorso Internazionale di Chitarra Classica 'Enrico Mercatali' in Gorizia, Italy, and the Omiš Guitar Fest and Poreč Fest in Croatia. In 2014, 2017 and 2019, he won the award 'Oscar of Knowledge' from the Croatian Ministry of Science, Education and Sports for winning the First Prize at the National Competition both as a soloist and as a member of chamber ensembles. He has participated in masterclasses with Hubert Käppel, Carlo Marchione, Aniello Desiderio, Pavel Steidl, Łukasz Kuropaczewski, Goran Krivokapić and Darko Petrinjak. He often works in collaboration with well-known Croatian actors at various cultural events.



# TALLINN GUITAR FESTIVAL

Estonia 7 – 11 June 2020

The Tallinn Guitar Festival's objective is to develop the guitar culture in Estonia and more widely in the rest of Europe. The festival has been running since 2006 and is a significant entity in the Baltic states and in Europe generally. It offers concerts, seminars, workshops and masterclasses as well as educational events for guitar teachers.

The Tallinn Guitar Festival is a part of a cultural network of 40 different events in Estonia. It takes an active role in the cultural sector and has launched several innovative projects. Tallinn Guitar Festival also has strong connections with other European guitar festivals and professionals in the arts internationally and offers experience in music project management and international cultural affairs.



## TALLINN GUITAR FESTIVAL LAUREATE

### Ema Kapor Serbia

Ema Kapor was born in 1998 in Belgrade, where she graduated from Stanković Music School having studied with Boris Đujić. Afterwards, she completed two years of study at the Koblenz International Guitar Academy, Germany with Hubert Käppel. Currently, she is studying at the Cologne University of Music and Dance with Hubert Käppel. Ema has also taken many summer courses such as the Summer Academy at the Universität Mozarteum in Salzburg with Marco Tamayo, the Zbaszyn International Masterclass, Poland with Łukasz Kuropaczewski and the International Music Academy – MusicAlp in Tignes, France with Judicaël Perroy, as well as masterclasses with Oscar Ghiglia, Pepe Romero, David Russell, Costas Cotsiolis, Aniello Desiderio, Zoran Dukić, Alvaro Pierri and Marcin Dylla, among others.

At national and international guitar competitions, Ema has won more than 40 prizes. She has given solo concerts in Germany, Greece and Serbia and has also performed in France, Poland, Spain and Austria. As a soloist, she has performed Joaquín Rodrigo's *Fantasia para un Gentilhombre* in Timisoara, Romania and in Belgrade. Ema Kapor is promoted by the association Yehudi Menuhin Live Music Now – Cologne.



# ZAGREB GUITAR FESTIVAL

Croatia 3 – 10 July 2020

The Zagreb Guitar Festival was founded in 2015 by the Music School Bonar of Zagreb with two main development programmes in mind: Striving for Excellence and Guitar for All. Striving for Excellence includes promoting excellence on several levels by organising: concerts of the world's foremost established guitarists and the top guitarists of the younger generation, an international competition of classical guitar and masterclasses with the world's leading guitar masters. Guitar for All includes organising performances by festival orchestras, guitar exhibitions open to all visitors, a strategy designed to retain the existing success and work towards the further expansion of the audience, through the development of cultural marketing strategies to reach out to wider multicultural audiences. The ultimate goal is to promote fine music, to create a cultural experience and additionally to promote Zagreb as one of the leading cultural centres in Europe.



## ZAGREB GUITAR FESTIVAL LAUREATE

### Zsombor Sidoo Hungary

Zsombor Sidoo, who was born in Budapest in 1997, received his early musical training from József Eötvös at the Franz Liszt Academy for Music in Budapest. From 2013, he studied with Paolo Pegoraro at the Universität für Musik und darstellende Kunst in Graz. In 2016, he received a scholarship from the city of Graz for the best music student studying in Graz. In 2019, he graduated with the highest marks. Currently, he is pursuing his Masters and is already being recognised as a unique talent with great sensibility for diverse musical styles. He has also taken lessons in musical composition with Beat Furrer.



Zsombor Sidoo has won numerous competitions, such as First Prize at: the Zagreb Guitar Festival, the 15th Concorso Internazionale di Chitarra Classica 'Enrico Mercatali' in Gorizia, Italy, the International Guitar Competition 'Ida Presti' in Samobor and at the 10th Oberhausen Guitar Competition in Germany. He regularly gives concerts in Europe at prestigious venues such as the Ehrbar Saal in Vienna, the Mozarthaus in Augsburg and the Fricsay Hall in Szeged. His debut CD with three sonatas by Johann Sebastian Bach, Manuel María Ponce and Hans Werner Henze was released in October 2019.



# INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF GUITAR JOSÉ TOMÁS VILLA DE PETRER

Spain, 16 – 25 July 2020

The International Guitar Festival José Tomás Villa de Petrer has been held since 1998. In July 2019, the festival celebrated its 22nd edition which included the 18th International Guitar Competition José Tomás Villa de Petrer, its prize being an international tour in countries including Spain, Brazil, Argentina, Mexico, Portugal and Finland, with more than 30 concerts for the winners.



The festival takes place in the city of Petrer in Alicante, Spain, and offers two weeks of intensive guitar and musical activities such as masterclasses, concerts, international competitions, conferences and exhibitions. Each year, the José Tomás Honorary Guitar Award 'in memory of the Alicante teacher', is given to great teachers such as Léo Brouwer, David Russell, Carles Trepac, Hopkinson Smith, Roberto Aussel, Roland Dyens and Julian Bream.

## INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF GUITAR JOSÉ TOMÁS VILLA DE PETRER LAUREATE

### Luis Alejandro García Spain

With more than 20 national and international awards to his credit, Luis Alejandro García, who was born in Tenerife in 1993, is one of Spain's most promising guitarists of his generation. He won First Prize at: the Concurso del XXIII Festival Internacional de Guitarra de Coria, Spain in 2019, 47th Concurso Internacional de Guitarra Fernando Sor in Madrid in 2019, the Concurso Permanente de Juventudes Musicales de España in 2018 and the 'Miquel Llobet' Certamen Internacional de Guitarra in Barcelona in 2017, among many others.

He has given concerts and masterclasses throughout Spain, Germany, the United States, Austria, Chile, Argentina and Andorra, and has collaborated with orchestras such as the Tenerife Symphony Orchestra and OSLP. In 2018, he released his first CD, Lazos sobre el Atlántico (JSM Guitar Records). He is a member of Canary Guitar Quartet, who have also released their first recording, called 21.

In October 2019, he gave his debut as a soloist at the Palau de la Música Catalana in Barcelona and will be performing together with the National Radio and Television Orchestra of Spain (ORTVE) at the Teatro Monumental, in April 2020. His 2020 schedule includes concert tours in America, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina and in Europe.



# TWENTS GITAAR FESTIVAL

## Netherlands 27 July – 1 August 2020

The Twents Gitaar Festival has been held in the beautiful city of Enschede in the very east of the Netherlands for the past 14 years. Every year, the festival starts on Ascension Day. The festival offers a great variety of concerts of classical guitar, as well as of different styles such as flamenco and fingerstyle. The concerts take place in different theatres around the city and on the outdoor stage at the historic Old Market.



Most invited artists will also give masterclasses and workshops, which are open to everyone, professionals as well as amateurs. The festival ensemble is an integral part of the programme, where guitarists of all levels can enjoy the fun of playing together. As part of the festival, competitions in different categories are held such as solo guitar competitions and ensemble competitions both for guitars or guitars with other instruments.

### TWENTS GITAAR FESTIVAL LAUREATE

## Pablo Menéndez

### Spain

Pablo Menéndez was born in 1992 in Asturias, Spain. From a very early age, music captivated him and he started playing guitar at the age of ten. He completed his Bachelor's degree with Marco Socías in San Sebastian, and in 2014, began studying with Carlo Marchione at the Conservatorium Maastricht in the Netherlands. He obtained his Masters 'cum laude' in 2016. He is presently taking the Guitar Master Degree in Seville, Spain. He also studies orchestral conducting with Miguel Romea and Andrés Salado.

He has been a prizewinner in several national and international music competitions, such as the Concurso Internacional 'Juan Crisóstomo de Arriaga' in Bilbao, Spain, Twents Gitaar Festival in the Netherlands and the Gevelsberg Guitar Festival Competition in Germany. In recent years, Pablo has given solo concerts in Spain, Germany, the Netherlands and Italy. He also enjoys playing chamber music, and recorded a CD of nineteenth-century Spanish music with tenor Joaquín Pixán and pianist Mario Bernardo. He worked as an orchestral player, as a member of the Spanish Young National Orchestra during the season 2014/2015. Pablo currently combines his concert activity with teaching at the Conservatorio Nacional Superior de Música in Córdoba, Spain.



# INTERNATIONAL GUITAR FESTIVAL NÜRTINGEN

Germany 1–9 August 2020

The International Guitar Festival Nürtingen is an internationally renowned festival, which takes place every two years in the beautiful town of Nürtingen, close to Stuttgart in Germany. Since 1995, guitarists from all over the world have met in the town hall and in the Kreuzkirche (church) to enjoy around 15 concerts throughout the week. Guitar students can participate in public masterclasses or workshops held by the visiting artists and spend their leisure time either at the exhibition or in cafés nearby. The young guitar players are the future – that's why the International Guitar Festival Nürtingen places emphasis on the promotion of opportunities for young guitarists.

The international guitar competition at Nürtingen is always a major attraction for audiences and guitar students and not only because of substantial prizes. The winner of the Audience Award is invited to play a concert at the following festival.



## ANTWERPEN GUITAR FESTIVAL LAUREATE \*

### Lovro Peretić

Croatia

Lovro Peretić was born in Zagreb in 1995 and started studying guitar with Xhevdet Sahatxhija. Later, he graduated from the Academy of Music in Zagreb, where he studied with Darko Petrinjak and spent one year in a student exchange programme at L'École Supérieure Musique et Danse Hauts-de-France, Lille with Judicaël Perroy. He is a promising guitarist of the younger generation, who has been successful in many national and international competitions, winning First Prize at: the International Competition for Young Guitarists 'Andrés Segovia' in Velbert Germany; the Anna Amalia Gitarrenwettbewerb in Weimar, Germany; the Zagreb Guitar Festival in Croatia; Concorso Internazionale di Chitarra Classica 'Enrico Mercatali' in Gorizia, Italy; and the Sarajevo International Guitar Festival, among others. He represented Croatia in many important festivals such as the Vladimir Spivakov International Foundation's festival in Moscow and the European Union of Music Competitions for Youth's Young Hearts for Music in Austria and Germany. He also regularly performs in various chamber music groups including his duo with violinist Katarina Kutnar and in the guitar trio Evocación. He has performed as a soloist with the Croatian Radio and Television Symphony Orchestra, Dubrovnik Symphony Orchestra, and Zagreb Soloists, among others. Lovro was awarded the Dean's and Rector's prizes of the University of Zagreb.



\* Antwerpen Guitar Festival was part of the EuroStrings Platform in 2019



# SARAJEVO INTERNATIONAL GUITAR FESTIVAL

Bosnia and Herzegovina *September 2020*

Sarajevo International Guitar Festival has a continuing history of nourishing art music in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It was established in 2011 by the Association of Guitarists in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, with the desire to advance the art of guitar playing in the country. Since then, the festival has offered over 40 concerts by internationally renowned guitarists, while the educational component has featured lecturers and pedagogues from over 20 countries, whose workshops have been attended by over 700 young guitarists, teachers and professors.



The main goals of the festival include strengthening national and international cooperation among artists, pedagogues and instrument makers, all of whom allow students, by forging mutual ties, to elevate their own knowledge to a higher level and spread their positive artistic experiences and impressions of Bosnia and Herzegovina across the world. Thus, the Sarajevo International Guitar Festival structure is based on four fundamental elements: concerts, an international guitar competition in five categories, masterclasses and a Guitar Expo aimed at promoting regional instrument makers.

## SARAJEVO INTERNATIONAL GUITAR FESTIVAL LAUREATE

### Jonas Egholm Denmark

Jonas Egholm was born in 1997 and started playing the guitar at the age of seven. As a ten-year old, he went on his first concert tour in Denmark and Germany as part of winning the First Prize in the Danish National Symphony Orchestra's competition for young musicians. He is currently finishing his Masters in classical guitar at the Royal Danish Academy of Music in Copenhagen with professors Jesper Sivebæk and Per Pålsson. Jonas has performed as a soloist with the South Denmark Philharmonic Orchestra, Vejle Symphony Orchestra and the Fredericia City Orchestra. He regularly performs at music events and festivals in Denmark, China, Japan, Germany, Sweden and the Faroe Islands; he has upcoming concerts and tours in France, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Turkey, Faroe Islands and more. In January 2020, he will start the intensive Master in Classical Guitar Performance course at the University of Alicante, Spain, where he will study under David Russell, Manuel Barrueco, the Assad Brothers, Ignacio Rodes and Ricardo Gallén, among others.



# INTERNATIONAL GUITAR FESTIVAL MOTTOLA

Italy, 5 – 13 September 2020

The International Guitar Festival – City of Mottola, which was founded in 1992, is organised by the Associazione M. & C. Accademia della Chitarra. The distinguishing feature of the festival is its itinerant format embracing the surrounding towns of Mottola and also cities in different provincial administrations.

Usually, the Festival lasts for ten days, with an average of 70 musicians participating. The festival's guests come from all over Italy and stay in the Ionian city. They can enjoy many festival activities, such as the International Competition of Musical Performance for Guitar; the International Competition 'Young Guitarists'; concerts, masterclasses, the Biennial Exhibition of 'Luitaria' and the Orchestral Workshop for young guitarists. The festival is held in historic venues, such as Church S.S. Immacolata (Convento), Evangelical Baptist Church and the Auditorium of the A. Manzoni Junior High School.



## INTERNATIONAL GUITAR FESTIVAL MOTTOLA LAUREATE

### Carlo Curatolo Italy

Carlo Curatolo began his studies with Pino Forresu, Francesco Taranto and Stefano Palamidessi. In 2010, he graduated from the Conservatory of Taranto and, in 2016, he gained a Masters in Physics at the Sapienza University of Rome. He continued his musical studies at the Segovia Guitar Academy in Pordenone with Paolo Pegoraro and Adriano del Sal, and at the Accademia Musicale Chigiana in Siena with Oscar Ghiglia. He is currently enrolled on a postgraduate course in music performance and interpretation at the Conservatorio di Musica Arrigo Boito in Parma. He has also participated in masterclasses with Carlo Domeniconi, Judicaël Perroy, Jorge Cardoso, Léo Brouwer and Carlo Marchione. Carlo has been awarded prizes in more than 30 international competitions in Italy and abroad, such as International Guitar Competition J.K. Mertz in Bratislava, Alirio Diaz International Guitar Competition in Rust, Austria, the Concorso Internazionale di Chitarra Classica 'Enrico Mercatali' in Gorizia, Italy, Incontri Chitarristici di Gargnano, Italy, and Ruggero Chiesa International Guitar Competition in Camogli, Italy. In 2019, he was awarded First Prize at Twents International Guitar Competition in the Netherlands, the International Guitar Competition of Mottola in Italy and at the Seville International Guitar Competition in Spain. Since 2006, he has been performing both as soloist and in ensemble in Italy, Austria, Portugal, Slovakia and Hungary. He combines his performing career with a busy teaching practice in Rome.



# HARMONIA CORDIS INTERNATIONAL CLASSICAL GUITAR FESTIVAL

Romania, 8 – 13 September 2020

The Harmonia Cordis International Guitar Festival in Romania was founded in 2007 as the result of the desire to organise cultural events in the musical sphere, especially in the field of guitar and classical music. During the festival, there are numerous conferences on music. The competitions during the guitar festival are in several age categories and offer substantial prizes to the winners.

All of these activities serve two major goals: the popularisation of these kinds of musical events as well as building an educational platform for cultural instruction and exchange of experience and knowledge during these meetings. The festival was founded by Beke István Ferenc, who is a classical guitarist and chamber music teacher at the 'Gheorghe Dima' Music Academy in Cluj-Napoca.



## HARMONIA CORDIS INTERNATIONAL CLASSICAL GUITAR FESTIVAL LAUREATE

### Nino D'Amico Italy

Nino D'Amico was born in Naples in 1997. He began studying classical guitar at the age of 12 with his father, and then with Marco Caiazza preparing for entry to the Conservatorio di San Pietro a Majella in Naples, where he studied with Vincenzo Amabile. Nino has taken part in masterclasses given by Léo Brouwer, Giulio Tampalini, Frédéric Zigante, Aniello Desiderio, Andrea De Vitis, Gabriel Bianco, Peter Graneis, David Pavlovits and Csáki András, among others.

Since 2014, he has been giving concerts and also winning prizes in national and international guitar competitions. In May 2019, Nino was awarded a EuroStrings Scholarship to participate in the International Guitar Festival Harmonia Cordis in Romania, where he won First Prize in the International Guitar Competition. In the same month, he won the Special Prize at the International Paganini Guitar Festival competition in Parma for the Best Interpretation of a piece by Paganini (in a category with no age limit).



# INTERNATIONAL GUITAR FESTIVAL RUST

## Austria 27 – 30 September 2020

The International Guitar Festival Rust was founded by Gabriel Guillén in 1999. Since that time, the festival has grown into one of the most important guitar festivals in Europe. Initially, the festival was dedicated to international composer, tutor and journalist John W. Duarte, who passed away in 2005. Now, the International Guitar Festival Rust is dedicated to the memory of the virtuoso Venezuelan guitarist Alirio Diaz, who died in 2016.

The Festival consists of five concerts (inaugural concerts, recitals, the winners' gala and award ceremony), masterclasses, workshops, an international competition, and an exhibition of instruments and sheet music. Rust's International Guitar Competition is judged by a panel of Austrian and international experts. In 2017, a composition competition for the promotion of classical guitar music was held for the first time. It was a great success with more than 40 contributions from composers from all over the world.



### INTERNATIONAL GUITAR FESTIVAL RUST LAUREATE

## Agustín Nazzetta

### Argentina

Agustín Nazzetta has formed his distinctive artistic qualities by studying with the renowned Argentinian guitar players Pablo Márquez, María Isabel Siewers and Javier Bravo. Born in 1990 in Argentina, he obtained a Bachelor's degree in music from the National Arts University Institute (IUNA) Department of Musical Arts 'Carlos López Buchardo', studying with Javier Bravo. In 2012, he moved to Salzburg to pursue a Masters at the Universität Mozarteum with María Isabel Siewers. He currently studies in Basel, Switzerland with Pablo Márquez.

In February 2011, he was selected at the 2011 La Falda International Classical Guitar Meet to perform as a soloist in a series of concerts with the Orchestra of the National Congress. He won First Prize at both the Incontri Chitarristici di Gargnano in Italy and the International Guitar Festival Rust 2019 in Austria. In addition to his career as a soloist, his interest in contemporary music has led him to work with young composers, ensembles and conductors.





# UPPSALA INTERNATIONAL GUITAR FESTIVAL

Sweden 11 – 15 October 2020

Held in a beautiful university city, the Uppsala Guitar Festival is the most influential guitar event in Scandinavia; it is a meeting place for celebrating music and learning. Artists such as John Williams, Paco de Lucía, the Los Angeles Guitar Quartet, Anabel Montesinos, Marco Tamayo, Anoushka Shankar, David Russell, Duo Assad, Badi Assad, Manuel Barrueco, Pat Metheny, Joanne Shaw Taylor, Léo Brouwer and Vicente Amigo are all part of this festival's great story over the past 15 years.

The festival organises an annual International Young Talent Competition, masterclasses, workshops as well as open forums and a guitar fair. The festival was founded by Klaus Pontvik in 2003 in a small culture centre in Uppsala – Ekocaféet. Today, the festival takes place at the impressive Uppsala Concert Hall bringing audience, artists and guitar enthusiasts from all around the world.

The festival is led by Executive Director Klaus Pontvik and Stefan Löfvenius, a well-known guitarist who holds a prominent position in the field of music education in Sweden.



UPPSALA **XVI** INTERNATIONELLA  
**GITARRFESTIVAL**  
9-13 OKTOBER 2019

## UPPSALA INTERNATIONAL GUITAR FESTIVAL LAUREATE

### Maja Kralj Slovenia

Maja Kralj was born in 1999 and started playing guitar at the age of seven at the elementary music school Sežana with Nataša Črnugelj. She continued her education at the Conservatory for Music and Ballet in Ljubljana, studying with Anton Črnugelj. Maja has participated in masterclasses with guitarists such as Judicaël Perroy, Andrea De Vitis, Paolo Pegoraro, Alvaro Pierri, Brian Head, Xuefei Yang, Margarita Escarpa, Mak Grgić, Xhevdet Sahatxhija, Nejc Kuhar, Gabriel Bianco, Anders Miolin, Costas Cotsiolis, Olaf van Gonnisen and Laura Young.

She won First Prize at the Zagreb International Guitar Competition in 2017 and First Prize at the Uppsala International Guitar Festival in 2019. She now studies at the Academy of Music Ljubljana with Andrej Grafenauer.



# SZEGED INTERNATIONAL GUITAR FESTIVAL

## Hungary 15 – 18 October 2020

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The Szeged International Guitar Festival (Szeged IGF) is a multi-venue, regional festival in Hungary for open-minded and curious fans of the guitar, which presents diverse music genres, innovative combinations of various art forms, an exciting competition and a showcase for the young stars of classical guitar, as well as a networking platform for amateurs and professionals.



Since 2018, the festival has presented its wide range of programmes not only in the city of Szeged, but also in its neighbouring regions. These performances are often sold out quickly as Szeged IGF invites great guitar maestros from all over the world. The Szeged IGF was founded by the guitarist-composer Dávid Pavlovits in 1999. The aim of the festival is not only to create a long-lasting tradition in Szeged, but also to bring internationally acclaimed musicians to local audiences every year.

### SZEGED INTERNATIONAL GUITAR FESTIVAL LAUREATE

## Dávid Fellegi

### Hungary

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Born in 1995 in Pécs, Dávid Fellegi started studying the guitar at the age of eight. After winning a number of competitions, he started his studies at the High School of Arts of Pécs with Tamás Straub, where he also showed an interest in composition. In 2014, after graduating with distinction, he was accepted by the Franz Liszt Academy of Music to study with András Csáki and József Eötvös, where he completed both his Bachelor's degree with honours and his Masters. He has participated in masterclasses with Marco Tamayo, Marco Topchii, Judicaël Perroy, Dale Kavanagh, Ricardo Gallén, Costas Cotsiolis, Roberto Aussel and Margarita Escarpa. Dávid's interests cover both classical and jazz music. As a composer, he won First Prize and the 'Special Prize for Best Composition' at the 2019 International Guitar Contest of Szeged. Dávid premièred his own Sonata Fantasy for solo guitar in November 2018; and the Venti Chiavi Guitar Trio premièred his Mixations in October 2016.



# LONDON GUITAR FESTIVAL

## UK 22 – 25 October 2020

London Guitar Festival is one of four or five annual festivals which the International Guitar Foundation (IGF) presents in the UK, alongside concert series, summer schools and outreach projects in the community. IGF is a charitable organisation (non-profit) founded in May 1994. Its work is defined by the LISTEN.PLAY.CREATE programme, which features the guitar as the ideal vehicle for diverse and accessible concert and festival programming (Listen), participatory music making (Play) and an extensive new music commissioning programme (Create).



IGF stages a range of events nationwide including festivals in London, the North-East (Newcastle and Gateshead) and South-West (Bath, Bristol, Cheltenham and Shrewsbury). Two of IGF's most important objectives are young artist development and the commissioning of new music: with 92 new music commissions from mostly mainstream composers including Terry Riley, Max Richter, Kevin Volans, Léo Brouwer, Sérgio Assad, Paolo Bellinati, Howard Skempton, Laura Snowden and Errollyn Wallen. IGF has presented 96 world premières and 135 European and UK premières of works for guitar solo and in ensemble. IGF's young artist development programmes include the Young Artist and Aspire Platforms, which offer performance opportunities to young guitarists as well as training in subjects such as PR and marketing, fundraising and business skills. Many of its alumni and laureates have gone on to important international careers such as Ana Vidović, Laura Snowden, Amanda Cook and Daniela Rossi.

### LONDON GUITAR FESTIVAL LAUREATE

## George Tarlton

### UK

George Tarlton's musical career began as a boy singing with the South London-based choir 'Libera', who regularly made television appearances, recordings and concerts across the country and abroad. The guitar later became an all-consuming passion, which led him to study with Robert Brightmore and David Miller as a scholarship student at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London where he graduated with first-class honours in 2015. He has made an appearance on BBC Radio 3's 'Late Junction' and in 2015, he performed Rodrigo's Concierto de Aranjuez as a soloist with the Cerdorfa Dinas Powys Orchestra.



George thrives on collaborating with other musicians, including in chamber groups and with orchestras. In 2012, he formed the Housden-Tarlton Duo with fellow Guildhall guitar student Jiva Housden. The duo went on to perform on IGF's Young Artist Platform, including a concert at London Guitar Festival 2018, in which they premièred a work written for them by the composer Errollyn Wallen.

George is also a member of the Mela Guitar Quartet, who released their recording of Stephen Dodgson's 'Guitar Chamber Works' on Naxos CD in 2017. In 2018, the quartet released an album called Pluck, Strum, and Hammer in 2018. The Mela Guitar Quartet won First Prize in the Acerra Guitar Festival's Ensemble competition in Naples and were finalists at the Royal Over-Seas League's String Ensemble Competition.

# PLOVDIV GUITART FESTIVAL

## Bulgaria 29 October – 1 November 2020

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The GuitArt Festival is an event driven by the passion of the local musical community for the guitar and its ability to unite professional musicians and amateurs from diverse cultural backgrounds. As one of the most popular and widely played musical instruments, the guitar is celebrated in all its facets.



The festival aims to be an educational and social platform for the development of Bulgarian musical talent, and to underscore the place of the guitar in the history and development of modern music across the globe. By organising workshops with local and world-renowned guitarists and educators, panel discussions with popular local musicians, an expo of Bulgarian guitar manufacturers and musical instrument importers, free lessons, showcases, film screenings and children's activities, the festival immerses its visitors in the world of the guitar in all its colours.

### GUITART FESTIVAL PLOVDIV LAUREATE

## Pavel Ralev

### Bulgaria

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Pavel Ralev is a Bulgarian guitarist based in London. Shortly after his first guitar lessons at age twelve, Pavel was accepted as a student at the National School of Music and Dance Arts 'Dobrin Petkov' in Plovdiv, Bulgaria, studying with Milena and Valentin Valtchev, and graduating with a special mention. He went on to study with Michael Lewin at the Royal Academy of Music on a full scholarship and is currently studying towards a Masters at the University of Surrey with guitarist-composer Professor Stephen Goss. Pavel is a Licentiate of the ABRSM obtaining distinction and has won several competition prizes, most recently the first prizes in the London Strings Competition 2018 and GuitArt Plovdiv 2019.



Pavel has participated in masterclasses with world-renowned guitarists such as Fabio Zanon, David Russell, Marcin Dylla, and George Vassiliev. He has performed live for both the Bulgarian National Radio and Television, and in venues such as Duke's Hall, the University of Surrey, the House of Commons, St James's Piccadilly and the Bulgarian National Opera. In addition to his solo activities, he is a founding member of the Metropolitan Guitar Quartet, together with his friends Michael Butten, Giacomo Susani and Emmanuel Sowicz. The quartet made their public debut in October 2019.



# TAMPERE GUITAR FESTIVAL

## Finland 6 – 8 November 2020

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The Tampere Guitar Festival (TGF), which was established in 2005, presents the gems of acoustic guitar from various styles for a wide range of audiences. This world-class guitar music is heard in churches, cafés and concert halls, and also in more unusual and informal venues such as a Finnish sauna; in this way, it reaches new friends of this intimate instrument. Guitar lessons for all ages, lectures and workshops complement the programme in which half of the events are free to attend. An important part of this annual festival is The International Classical Guitar Competition of Finland.



### TAMPERE GUITAR FESTIVAL LAUREATE

## Flavio Nati

### Italy

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Flavio Nati graduated with honours from the Conservatorio Santa Cecilia in his hometown, Rome, in 2012, where he studied with Arturo Tallini. Under the guidance of Carlo Marchione, he gained his Masters in classical guitar performance at the Conservatorium Maastricht, the Netherlands. He has participated in masterclasses with Giuliano Balestra, Adriano del Sal, Paolo Pegoraro, Judicaël Perroy and Zoran Dukić, and also with Oscar Ghiglia at the Accademia Musicale Chigiana in Siena. He recently received a Masters in the Interpretation of Contemporary Music from the Conservatorio Santa Cecilia and in Guitar Performance from Conservatorio di Musica Arrigo Boito in Parma.



He regularly gives concerts in Italy and Europe and has recently performed a series of recitals in Japan and Korea, and appeared on television and in radio broadcasts in Amsterdam and for Cremona 1 TV. Since 2013, Flavio has been a member of the guitar octet Supernova, an ensemble under the direction of Arturo Tallini, formed by eight young Italian prizewinners. He has won prizes at a number of competitions, such as the Tokyo International Guitar Competition; he won First Prize at the International Guitar Competition 'Ferdinando Carulli' in the chamber music section. In 2018, he won the Respighi Prize offering him the opportunity to play as a soloist with the New York Chamber Orchestra in 2019/2020 season, in the Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall.

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*Tampere Guitar Festival (FIN)*  
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*GuitArt Festival Plovdiv (BGR)*  
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*Tallinn Guitar Festival (EST)*  
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