

PRESS RELEASE

7 April 2021

Florian Colombet

Wins

Third EuroStrings Composition Contest



The young **French guitarist and composer Florian Colombet** has won the **Third EuroStrings Composition Contest** with his composition **for solo classical guitar** called *Under the Willow*.

As a guitarist and a composer, Florian Colombet is passionate about a wide diversity of musical styles. From the outset of his studies, learning guitar at the Nantes Conservatory with Michel Grizard, he also played jazz and percussion. After gaining a bachelor's degree from the Pont Supérieur d'Enseignement in Rennes, where he studied with Roberto Aussel and Hervé Merlin, he obtained a master's degree in musical education and then also a master of performance in the class of guitarist and composer Dušan Bogdanovic. Florian also attended courses given by other leading figures of the guitar world, both classical and jazz such as Judicaël Perroy, Pablo Marquez and Médéric Collignon.

In 2018, Florian Colombet founded the Lumen Guitar Trio with Bogdan Mihailescu and Thomas Riamon, playing transcriptions of music by Ravel and Poulenc, among others. He also plays with the jazz saxophonist Simon Corneille. He is a member of several groups, playing a diversity of musical styles as well as also performing solo, notably at the Chanteuges festival in 2017 and La Bâtie festival in Geneva in 2018. He won the first prize at the Drôme de Guitare composition competition in 2019 and currently teaches at the Montreux-Vevey-Riviera Conservatory.

This year's EuroStrings Composition Contest was held in two rounds, with **14 contestants from 11 countries** in the Semi-Final round. The **Jury** consisted of two internationally renowned composers and guitarists: **Sérgio Assad** and **Professor Stephen Goss**, as well as the Turkish guitarist and composer, **Ozan Coşkun**, winner of the 2020 EuroStrings Composition Contest.

As well as the cash prize of €1500, First Prize includes a number of performances of the winning piece by EuroStrings Artists performing at various festivals that are part of the EuroStrings collaborative. Florian Colombet's composition, *Under the Willow*, will be the set piece for the Final of the Fourth **EuroStrings Guitar Competition**, which will be held as part of the International Guitar Festival José Tomás in Petrer, Spain in July 2021. In addition, the winning composition will be performed by the winner of the Fourth EuroStrings Guitar Competition at the 16 EuroStrings Festivals.

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Florian Colombet: Wins the Third EuroStrings Composition Contest

The **EuroStrings Composition Contest** was established in 2019 as an annual competition to encourage emerging composers of any age to write for the classical guitar, in order to build quality contemporary repertoire for the instrument. It is **open to young composers up to 35 years of age** with **either European citizenship** or who are **based and active in EU countries/territory** (this also includes European countries which are not a part of the EU, but are geographically considered part of Europe). The submitted composition must be composed for the six-stringed classical guitar and should not be a published work, or previously have received an award.

Full details are available at:

<https://eurostrings.eu/eurostrings-composition-contest-for-classical-guitar/>

EuroStrings is the first platform of European guitar festivals, led by Zagreb Guitar Festival and ever expanding with an initial 14 festival members in 2018 and reaching 17 festival members in 2021; with three Associate Festivals also added in 2021 as well as Affiliate Partners around the world, including the Americas and China, making it a truly global project.

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. Each festival member also stages an international guitar competition.

EuroStrings website:

<https://eurostrings.eu>

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