

PRESS RELEASE

EuroStrings – the European Guitar Festival Collaborative

is pleased to announce

16th HARMONIA CORDIS INTERNATIONAL GUITAR FESTIVAL

10–15 August 2021

The 16th Harmonia Cordis International Guitar Festival 2021 in the two cities of

Târgu-Mureș and in Odorheiu Secuiesc, Romania,

will feature *EuroStrings Artists*:

Steve Cowan, Canada

François-Xavier Dangremont, France

Francisco Luís, Portugal

Marcell Nickmann, Hungary

Cristina Galletto, Italy

*winner of the 2021 Fourth EuroStrings Guitar
Competition*

and

Lovro Peretić, Poland

*winner of the 2020 Third EuroStrings Guitar
Competition*

Concerts

Wednesday 11 August 2021

Cristina Galletto and François-Xavier Dangremont at House of Culture, Odorheiu Secuiesc 18.00

Thursday 12 August 2021

Francisco Luís and Steve Cowan at House of Culture, Odorheiu Secuiesc, 18.00

Cristina Galletto, François-Xavier Dangremont and Lovro Peretić at medieval fortress of Târgu-Mureș, 19.00

Friday 13 August 2021

Lovro Peretić at House of Culture, Odorheiu Secuiesc, 18.00

Francisco Luís and Steve Cowan* at medieval fortress of Târgu-Mureș, 19.00

***Steve Cowan**, will **première** the **winning composition** of the **Harmonia Cordis National Composers Competition, *Toccata meets Serenade* by Andrei Petrache**

Saturday 14 August 2021

Marcell Nickmann at medieval fortress of Târgu-Mureș, 19.00

All concerts will be **live-streamed** on the Harmonia Cordis Facebook Page www.facebook.com/HarmoniaCordis

About EuroStrings

EuroStrings is the first platform of European guitar festivals, led by Zagreb Guitar Festival and ever expanding with an initial 14 member festivals in 2018 and reaching 17 member festivals 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 member festival also stages an international guitar competition.

EuroStrings website: <https://eurostrings.eu>

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About 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 members' guitar festivals. They are invited to take part in the EuroStrings Exchange Programme, which is delivered through the EuroStrings Curriculum. The EuroStrings Exchange Programme was created for EuroStrings Artists to help them to develop professional careers as classical guitarists.

The Canadian guitarist **Steve Cowan** has performed as a soloist and in ensemble throughout Canada, the United States and Europe. His debut album of Canadian music, *Pour guitare* (McGill Records, 2016), helped to establish him as 'one of Canada's top contemporary classical guitarists' (*Classical Guitar Magazine*). In 2018–2019, Steve Cowan made his concerto debut with Ensemble del Arte in Germany, his New York solo recital debut, and released his second solo recording *Arctic Sonata* (EMEC discos). As a chamber musician, Steve Cowan performs regularly with Forestare, a Montréal-based string ensemble; in 2022, he will tour New Zealand with flutist Hannah Darroch, as well as the Canadian Prairies with guitarist Adam Cicchillitti. The Cowan–Cicchillitti duo has premiered 15 new works and released an album of Canadian music titled *FOCUS* (Analekta, 2019); their next recording, *Impressions intimes* (Analekta, 2021), features original arrangements of Debussy, Ravel, Mompou and Tailleferre.

Steve Cowan has won awards at ten national and international competitions, including First Prize at the Tallinn Guitar Competition in Estonia. Originally from St. John's, Newfoundland, Steve Cowan holds degrees from Memorial University, the Manhattan School of Music and McGill University. His teachers include Sylvie Proulx, David Leisner and Jérôme Ducharme. Since 2019, Steve Cowan has been a guitar instructor at Schulich School of Music of McGill University in Montréal.

François-Xavier Dangremont began playing guitar at the Le Mans Conservatory in Brigitte Palisson's class, with whom he obtained his Diplôme d'étude musicale (DEM). After having followed a specialised course with Tania Chagnot at Hay-les-Roses, he entered Judicaël Perroy's class at the Pôle d'enseignement supérieur de Lille (ESMD). In 2017, he obtained his diplomas in musicology, performance (DNSPM) and pedagogy (DE). Eager to develop as an interpreter, he participated in several international competitions, winning First Prize at: the Concours International de Carry-le-Rouet in 2017, in France; Concurso Internacional de Guitarra 'Ciudad de Coria', in Spain in 2018; and at Kutna Hora International Biennial Guitar Competition, in Czechia in 2019; and Second Prize at: the Amarante International Guitar Competition, in 2018, in Portugal, the Alberto Ponce International Competition, in France, and the Forum Gitarre Wien International Competition, in Austria; as well as Third Prize at the Koblenz International Guitar Competition, in Germany.

Inspired as much by the great works of the repertoire as by the search for forgotten pieces, François-Xavier Dangremont performs early music such as Francesco da Milano, to Dionisio Aguado through to the twentieth-century composers such as Eduardo López-Chavarri and Sérgio Assad in his concerts. In 2020, he began teaching at the Conservatoire de Grenoble and also organises a guitar workshop at the Carlton Hotel in Lille, with Raphaël Feuillâtre and Antoine Fougeray.

Cristina Galiotto is a 20-year-old classical guitarist from Naples in Italy, whose guitar playing has taken her to many countries in Europe, where she has given concerts, participated in masterclasses with artists such as Aniello Desiderio and Carlo Marchione. Among the numerous international competitions that she has won, the highlights include winning First Prizes at: Rago International Guitar Competition in Stuttgart, International Competition for Young Guitarists 'Andrés Segovia' in Monheim am Rhein and the Uppsala International Guitar Festival competition in Sweden. She began her musical studies at the age of seven with his father, a guitar teacher and then attended the Music High School 'Margherita di Savoia' in Naples studying with Enzo Amat. She completed her studies at the Conservatory of Music 'San Pietro a Majella' of Naples and the Conservatory of Music 'Domenico Cimarosa' in Avellino in the class of Lucio Matarazzo with honours and a special mention and is currently studying with Paolo Pegoraro and Lukasz Kuropaczewski at the Universität für Musik und darstellende Kunst, in Graz.

Her new album *Avant l'Aube*, released at the end of 2020 (Timespan recordings), features music by composers such as Joaquín Rodrigo, Domenico Scarlatti and Alexis Rago, all of whom are representative of an intimate, delicate and passionate musical feel – characteristics that stand out in her playing and to which her audience are drawn.

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Francisco Luis, one of the rising stars of Portuguese classical guitar, was born in Caldas da Rainha, in 1998. He started his guitar studies at the age of ten with Luís Roldão, in the Conservatory of Caldas da Rainha. After five years, he began his studies at the Music School of the National Conservatory, in Lisbon; studying guitar with Eurico Pereira, chamber music with Júlio Guerreiro and Paulo Amorim and basso continuo with Helena Raposo. He completed his Bachelor degree with distinction with Carlo Marchione, at the Maastricht Conservatorium, before beginning his Masters with Zoran Dukić at the Royal Conservatoire in The Hague. Francisco Luis's numerous international awards include First Prize at both the Harmonia Cordis International Guitar Festival and the Festival Internacional de Guitarra de Guimarães, as well Second Prize at both Uppsala International Guitar Competition and the Aalborg International Guitar Competition.

In 2015, Francisco Luis was soloist in the *Concierto de Aranjuez* by Joaquín Rodrigo with the symphony orchestra of the National Conservatory of Lisbon. His varied repertoire includes transcriptions of works by Bach, Scriabin, Telemann and Rameau. He also frequently performs classical improvisations, mixing his musical knowledge with his creativity and distinctive musical personality. He has performed in venues such as Casa da Música in Porto and the Palácio da Ajuda in Lisbon.

Marcell Nickmann was born in Budapest, Hungary and started playing the classical guitar at 14 with his first teacher, Sándor Árok. He quickly achieved success in regional and national competitions, winning several first prizes, which offered opportunities such as performing with the Austro-Hungarian Haydn Chamber Orchestra in their matinée series. In 2016, he began studying with Andrea Bozóki at the Music Faculty of University of Szeged. Since 2018, he has been working with Dávid Pavlovits. In 2019, after finishing his Bachelor degree, Marcell Nickmann won Third Prize in the Tallinn International Guitar Competition and Second Prize in the Harmonia Cordis International Guitar Competition.

In February 2019, he premièred Claude Vivier's *Pour guitare* in Hungary, and with his duo partner, the guitarist Dóra Cserenyec, they premièred *Salita in discesa* – a microtonal work written for them by the electro-acoustic composer Ákos Nagy. In 2020, as well as continuing to premièred pieces in Hungary with Dóra Cserenyec, and performing Karlheinz Stockhausen's *Tierkreis*, he began to focus on early music, recently transcribing the works of the French Baroque composer Louis Couperin. In October 2020, Marcell Nickmann won First Prize in the Szeged International Guitar Competition.

Lovro Peretić was born in Zagreb in 1995 and began his guitar studies with Xhevdet Sahatxhija. Later, he graduated from the Academy of Music in Zagreb, where he studied with Darko Petrinjak. He has been successful in many national and international competitions. He has 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 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.

For full **EuroStrings Artists profiles**, visit: <https://eurostrings.eu/young-stars/eurostrings-artists-of-2020-2021>

EuroStrings Scholarship

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. The scholarship includes entry to all festival concerts, lectures and masterclasses as well as participation in the festival's international competition. The **EuroStrings Scholarship** to attend the **16th Harmonia Cordis International Guitar Festival 2021** has been awarded to the young guitarist **Cosima-Garofița Costin**.

Cosima-Garofița Costin was born in the city of Bistrița, Romania, on 6 September 1999, into a family of musicians, of mostly instrumentalists or singers. Both her mother and grandmother are gifted singers. At the age of seven, she received a classical guitar as a gift from a family friend, and immediately took to the instrument. Thus, her parents enrolled her at the 'Tudor Jarda' Music High School in Bistrița, where she studied with Ilie Valentin Pop. She has won prizes in many competitions, including national ones, while improving her instrumental technique in masterclasses at various classical guitar festivals. Currently, she is studying for her bachelor's degree in classical guitar at the 'Gheorghe Dima' National Music Academy of Cluj-Napoca, with Constantin Andrei and István Ferenc Beke.



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About Harmonia Cordis International Guitar Festival and *Competition*

The Harmonia Cordis Association was established in 2007 in order to organise cultural events involving music. In that same year, it held its first Harmonia Cordis International Guitar Festival in Târgu Mureș, Romania, which was so successful it has become an annual festival each August. The Harmonia Cordis Association organises two other guitar festivals in Romania during the year, and broadcasts its most important events live. The **Finals** of the **16th Harmonia Cordis International Guitar Competition** with **6 finalists** – **Alexandru Grecu** (Romania), **Miloš Vuković** (Serbia), **Ovidiu Pintilie** (Romania), **Jovan Mihajlović** (Serbia), **Bernadett Karácsony** (Romania/Hungary) and **Viktor Duknić** (Serbia); see <http://harmoniaccordis.org/live>

The featured artists at the **16th Harmonia Cordis International Guitar Festival** are:

- **Florian Babțan-Varga, Gabriel Guillén, Jérémy Jouve and Yamandu Costa** (Tuesday 10 August, 19.00, medieval fortress of Târgu-Mureș)
- **Cassie Martin, Venti Chiavi Guitar Trio, Beke István Ferenc** (guitar) & **Székely Alpár** (violin), and the **Pusztai Antal Band** (Wednesday 11 August, 19.00, medieval fortress of Târgu-Mureș)
- **Rovshan Mamedkuliev and András Csáki** (Thursday 12 August, 19.00, medieval fortress of Târgu-Mureș)
- **Anton Baranov and the Radu Vâlcu Quintet** (Friday 13 August, 19.00, medieval fortress of Târgu-Mureș)
- **Nejc Kuhar, Dávid Pavlovits and Alexandr Misko** (Saturday 14 August, 19.00, medieval fortress of Târgu-Mureș)
- **Girán Péter, Cenk Erdoğan, Antoine Boyer and Samuelito** (flamenco) and (Sunday 15 August, 19.00, medieval fortress of Târgu-Mureș)
- **Rudolf Forgács, Réka Prózsa and Andrei Tcaciuc** (Wednesday 11 August, 18.00, House of Culture, Odorheiu Secuiesc)
- **Beáta Vajda and Antonio Josan** (Thursday 12 August, 18.00, House of Culture, Odorheiu Secuiesc)
- **Venti Chiavi Guitar Trio** (Friday 13 August, 18.00, House of Culture, Odorheiu Secuiesc)
- **Duo Artpeggio, Antoine Boyer and Samuelito** (flamenco) (Saturday 14 August, 18.00, House of Culture, Odorheiu Secuiesc)
- As well as **Constantin Andrei, Liviu Georgescu, Kostas Sigletos**, There will also be **masterclasses, workshops, an exhibition of modern and historical instruments** by **György Lörinczi**

For the complete programme, please visit www.harmoniaccordis.org

Contact

Harmonia Cordis International Guitar Festival

website: www.harmoniaccordis.org

HC radio: www.harmoniaccordis.org/radio

István Ferenc Beke,

Chairman of the Harmonia Cordis Association

Tel. +40 744 519 678

email: harmoniaccordis@harmoniaccordis.org

EuroStrings

Executive Director: **Ružica Gelo Ciglenečki**

Comms Queries: **Dunja Stanković:**
communication@eurostrings.eu

PR Queries: **Larisa Lieberman:**
internationalpr@eurostrings.eu

EuroStrings Contact: **info@eurostrings.eu**

Website: <https://eurostrings.eu>

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