



EUROPEAN GUITAR  
FESTIVAL COLLABORATIVE



## **PRESS RELEASE**

*EuroStrings – the European Guitar Festival Collaborative*  
is pleased to announce the

**29th INTERNATIONAL GUITAR FESTIVAL**

**CITY of MOTTOLA 2021**

**1–11 July 2021**

*featuring*

### **EuroStrings Artists**

**Steve Cowan**, Canada

**Álvaro Miranda**, Costa Rica

**Wu Jiujiu**, China

**Eleonora Perretta**, Italy

*and*

**Lovro Peretić**, Croatia

*winner of the Third EuroStrings 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.

**Álvaro Miranda Tuesday 6 July, 7pm**

**Wu Jiujiu Wednesday 7 July, 7pm**

**Steve Cowan, Thursday 8 July, 7pm**

**Lovro Peretić, Eleonora Perretta and Steve Cowan Friday 9 July, 11am**

Daily Center for People With Disabilities, Mottola

**Chitarreinsieme – Youth Orchestra of Guitars** conducted by Leonardo Lospalluti **Sunday 11 July, 6pm**

*featuring Eleonora Perretta and Lovro Peretić as soloists*

All online events will be broadcast on their social media platforms:

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/mottolaguitarfestival>

YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/user/MottolaGuitarFest>

Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/mottolaguitarfestival/>

*Press Release 1/4*



## PRESS RELEASE

### 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 discs). 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.

**Jiujiu Wu** was born in 2001. At the age of nine, he began to learn classical guitar with his father. He later studied with Bing Wu. Jiujiu Wu has been educated and cultivated by Associate Professor Bao Xu of Sichuan Conservatory of Music and the Chinese guitarist You Wang. Jiujiu Wu's studies with Guillem Pérez-Quer at the Liceu Conservatory of Music, in Barcelona, also offered many performing opportunities. Jiujiu Wu has won awards at international competitions, including Third Prize in the 14th Boston International Guitar Festival Competition in 2019, Second Prize of Shenzhen Guitar Art Festival in 2020 and First Prize at the International Guitar Festival 'Alirio Diaz' 2020 in Rust, Austria.

As a soloist, Jiujiu Wu enjoys repertoire such as *La Maja de Goya* by Enrique Granados and *Serenata Española* by Joaquín Malats, contrasted with the virtuosic *Caprice No. 24* by Paganini. His flute and guitar repertoire includes *Valses Poéticos* by Enrique Granados, Astor Piazzolla's *Café 1930* and the *Sonatina Burlesca* by Herbert Baumann. Jiujiu Wu arranges music, from J.S. Bach's Chorales: 'Nun komm der Heiden Heiland', BWV 599 and G.F. Handel's Allegro in D minor, HWV 475, to songs from Japanese anime, such as 'I Always Smile, But My Eyes are Sad' by Keiichi Oku from *Marmalade Boy*. He also plays pop and jazz music on fingerstyle guitar.

The classical guitarist **Álvaro Miranda** was born in San José, Costa Rica in 1993. He received his first guitar lessons with Jorge Aguilar and Sergio Carrera. In 2014, he studied with Juan Carlos Laguna in Mexico for three years. In recent years, he has received virtual classes with Denis Azabagić and Carlo Marchione. Currently, he has virtual lessons with Paolo Pegoraro through the Segovia Guitar Academy in Pordenone, Italy. Álvaro Miranda won First Prize at: Florida Guitar Foundation Guitar Competition, National Guitar Competition in Costa Rica, Competition of the Latin-American Guitar Festival in Chicago and the International Music Competition 'Salzburg and Amsterdam' Grand Prize Virtuoso, among other awards.

Álvaro Miranda has participated in a movement to rescue the music and traditions of his native Costa Rica, attending different festivals of music and traditional dance around the world. In 2012, he was chosen to represent Costa Rica at the World Folkloriada in Anseong, South Korea, an event of the International Council of Organizations of Folklore Festivals and Folk Arts (CIOFF) where he performed traditional music of his country adapted to solo guitar. He has also performed in the United States, England, Mexico, Czechia and Switzerland.

*Press Release 2/4*



## ***PRESS RELEASE***

The classical guitarist **Eleonora Perretta** was born in Naples, in 1995, and began studying the guitar at the age of six. As early as 14, Eleonora Perretta won First Prize at the International Guitar Competition ‘Luigi Denza’ in 2010 and has continued to win prizes in national and international guitar competitions. She won First Prize at ‘Eduguitar’ International Guitar Festival in 2016. In 2018, she graduated summa cum laude from the Conservatory of Music ‘San Pietro a Majella’, Naples, where she studied with Vincenzo Amabile. She also studied with Aniello Desiderio at ‘Stefano Strata’ Academy in Pisa. In 2020, Eleonora Perretta won the ‘Special Edition Prize’ at Koblenz International Guitar Competition and First Prize at Mottola Festival International Competition. She is currently studying with Aniello Desiderio for a Masters at the Conservatorio di Musica ‘Domenico Cimarosa’ in Avellino, and with Paolo Pegoraro at Segovia Guitar Academy in Pordenone, Italy.

Eleonora Perretta has several recording projects for *DotGuitar* records: as soloist, she is recording a collection of guitar sonatas, as well as an album dedicated to J.S. Bach; in duo, with Lucio Matarazzo, a première recording of music by Ida Presti for two guitars. They are also working on Perretta–Matarazzo Collection of original music and transcriptions for two guitars for the publisher Ut Orpheus; the first volume is of Scarlatti’s *Sonatas*.

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 **City of Mottola 2021** has been awarded to **Sante Mileti** from Italy.

### **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>

***Press Release 3/4***





## PRESS RELEASE

### About the 29th International Guitar Festival and 27th International Competition of Musical Performance for Guitar – City of Mottola 2021

**ONLINE 1–11 July 2021**

The competition is open to guitarists of *all nationalities born after 1 January 1986*

Entry Deadline: **20 August 2021**

**27th International Competition ‘Young Guitarists’ – City of Mottola 1–11 July 2021**

[www.mottolafestival.com/en/competitions/international-competition](http://www.mottolafestival.com/en/competitions/international-competition)

- Double Concert with: **VENTO DEL SUD**: Giovanni Seneca, classical and beating guitar, Anissa Gouizi, voice and percussion, and Frida Neri, voice and guitar; and **MAURIZIO DI FULVIO TRIO**: Maurizio Di Fulvio, guitar, Alessia Martegiani, voice, and Ivano Sabatini, double bass (Thursday 1 July 2021, 8.45pm)
- Double Concert with: **REVES**: Sarita Schena, voice, Giuseppe De Trizio, guitar, and Francesco De Palma, cajon; and **ANÈT ELECTRO SWING**: Anèt, voice, guitar, Gabriele Semeraro, DJ, piano, Lorenzo Lorenzoni, trombone, Piera Carrieri, tap dancer (Saturday 3 July 2021, 8.45pm).
- Double Concert with: **ROSPIGLIOSI TRIO** (Rieko Okuma, flute; Lapo Vannucci, guitar; Luca Torrigiani, piano) and **FILIPPO COSENTINO TRIO** (Filippo Cosentino, classical and electric baritone guitars; Giuseppe Di Filippo, saxophone; Daniele Bertone, drums) (Sunday 4 July 2021, 8.45pm)
- Double Concert: **EQUInox Duo** (Fabio Montomoli, guitar; Giovanni Lanzini, clarinet); and **PAVEL STEIDL** (Monday 5 July 2021, 8.45pm)
- Double concert: **DUOS CONCERTO** (Matteo Ferrari, flute; Andrea Candeli, guitar); and **IRINA KULIKOVA** (Friday 9 July 2021, 8.45pm)
- **Platero y Yo** with Ugo Dighero, narrator and Christian Lavernier, guitar (Saturday 10 July 2021, 8.45pm)
- **Online Workshops** La Soñada, 11-string guitar, with **CARLOS GONZÁLES MARCOS** and **CHRISTIAN LAVERNIER** (Tuesday 6 July 2012)
- **Audience Development** ‘Music Today What has Changed: Resources and Opportunities’, with **CLAUDIO PRIMA**
- **The New Businesses** ‘Towards a Materialization of Publishing: The Liquid Product’ with **GIUSEPPE SALATINO** (Saturday 11 July 2021, 11am)

For the complete programme, see [www.mottolafestival.com/](http://www.mottolafestival.com/)

### Contact

#### Mottola Guitar Festival

website: [www.mottolafestival.com](http://www.mottolafestival.com)

#### Interviews

Michele Libraro, Artistic Director

Accademia della Chitarra

Via Vito Sansonetti, 64

74017 Mottola (TA), Italy

Tel. 099 886 7361 / 346 226 4572

email: [info@mottolafestival.com](mailto:info@mottolafestival.com)

#### EuroStrings

Executive Director: **Ružica Gelo Ciglenečki**

Comms Queries: **Dunja Stanković**:

[communication@eurostrings.eu](mailto:communication@eurostrings.eu)

PR Queries: **Larisa Lieberman**:

[internationalpr@eurostrings.eu](mailto:internationalpr@eurostrings.eu)

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

Website: <https://eurostrings.eu>

*Press Release 4/4*

