

PRESS RELEASE

EuroStrings – the European Guitar Festival Collaborative

is pleased to announce

Paris International Guitar Festival

25–27 November 2021

featuring **EuroStrings Artists**

Jack Hancher, UK
Marcell Nickmann, Hungary

Özberk Miraç Sarıgül, Turkey
Bianka Szalaty, Poland

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.

Concerts

Thursday 25 November 2021

Jack Hancher, Marcell Nickmann, Özberk Miraç Sarıgül, Bianka Szalaty

Institut National des Jeunes Aveugles (Institute for Young Blind People), 13.00, followed by discussions, 14.30

Saturday 27 November 2021

Jack Hancher, Marcell Nickmann, Özberk Miraç Sarıgül, Bianka Szalaty

Théâtre Traversière, 15 bis rue Traversière, 75012 Paris, 14.30

Sunday 28 November 2021

Lovro Peretić and Rémi Jousselme

Théâtre Traversière, 17.30

Masterclasses

Friday 26 November 2021

Anabel Montesinos gives masterclasses to the EuroStrings Artists, 9.30–13.00

EuroStrings Artists give masterclasses to young pupils of the Conservatoire Paul Dukas, Paris, 16.00

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.

Press Release 1/3

PRESS RELEASE

Jack Hancher is an award winning classical guitarist. He completed his Master in Performance at the Royal College of Music (RCM), London in 2018 where he studied with Gary Ryan and Chris Stell and won the RCM Guitar Award 2014 while still in his second year as an undergraduate. In 2020, Jack Hancher won First Prize at both the Zagreb Guitar Festival Competition and the Plovdiv GuitArt Festival Competition. He was also awarded Fourth Prize at the Changsha International Guitar Competition 2020. In 2015, in duo with the guitarist Haydn Bateman, he performed for the IGF Aspire Stage Concert at Kings Place, and later that year as a soloist at Proms at St Jude's performing music by Rodrigo, Piazzolla and Houghton. In 2017, he was accepted onto the International Guitar Foundation (IGF) Young Artists Platform, and performed at the IGF London Guitar Festival at Kings Place in October that year. Jack Hancher made his debut at Wigmore Hall, London, in July 2018, performing his arrangements of Albeniz's piano music and at the Cheltenham Contemporary Arts Festival with music by Arnold, Britten and Dowland. He has performed in European venues such as the Großer Ehrbar Saal, Vienna and the Conservatorio Giuseppe Verdi, Turin.

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.

The Turkish guitarist **Özberk Miraç Sarıgül** was born in 2000. From a young age, he began performing not only as a soloist but also with orchestra, including performances of the *Concierto de Aranjuez* by Joaquín Rodrigo with the Bilkent Symphony Orchestra in 2017, and the *Fantasia para un Gentilhombre* by Joaquín Rodrigo with BGSO in 2019. As a soloist, he plays a broad range of repertoire, from the Elizabethan music of John Dowland, to the Baroque music of J.S. Bach to more contemporary music by Joaquín Rodrigo, Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco and Joaquín Turina. In 2018, Özberk Miraç Sarıgül was selected for the prestigious 8th Donizetti Classical Music Awards for 'Under 18, Musician of the Year' in Turkey. He has won prizes in many national and international competitions, winning First Prize at the International Istanbul Guitar Festival Competition, at the Estonia Lions – Thomas Kuti European Classical Guitar Competition and at the Florida Guitar Foundation's Virtual Competition Intermediate Division in 2020. Sarıgül is currently studying in Bilkent University Music and Performing Arts Faculty with Kağan Korad and has had masterclasses with leading guitarists such as Leo Brouwer, Pepe Romero, Aniello Desiderio, Hopkinson Smith, David Russell and Hubert Kappel. Özberk Miraç Sarıgül has performed in duo with Mesut Özgen at the Türkiye Gitar Buluşması Festival, as well as being invited as soloist to perform there and at other festivals.

Bianka Szalaty was born in Wrocław, Poland, in 1994. She first performed with orchestra at the age of 13 – *Concerto in D* by Antonio Vivaldi with the Koszalin Philharmonic Orchestra; since then Bianka Szalaty has played the guitar concertos by Joaquín Rodrigo, Manuel María Ponce and Heitor Villa-Lobos. Currently, she is preparing for her Konzertexamen with Tomasz Zawierucha at the Folkwang Universität der Künste in Essen. She completed her Masters at the Ignacy Jan Paderewski Academy of Music in Poznań with Łukasz Kuropaczewski. As a soloist, Bianka Szalaty has been a prizewinner at numerous international competitions – she won First prize at the 10th J.S. Bach International Guitar Competition in Tokyo, Concorso Internazionale di Chitarra 'Alirio Diaz' in Rome and at the International Guitar Competition Nürtingen in Germany – and has received scholarships from the Ministry of Culture and Prime Minister of Poland. She performs music by John Dowland and J.S. Bach, as well as more modern music by Leo Brouwer, Stephen Dodgson and Peteris Vasks. Bianka Szalaty has given solo and duo concerts at many international festivals in Moscow, Brno and Copenhagen. She has a duo with the lyric mezzo-soprano, Ewelina Koniec, Meninas Duo, for which she transcribes the music of Leonard Bernstein, Benjamin Britten, Francis Poulenc as well as Manuel de Falla and Karol Szymanowski.

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

Press Release 2/3

PRESS RELEASE

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>

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 **Paris International Festival** has been awarded to the young guitarist **Pooya Hossein Mirzaei Beni**.

About Paris International Festival

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, created by Robert J. Vidal (1925–2002). When 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.

About Paris International Festival 2021

This year's festival features **two artists at each evening concert**:

- **Johan Fostier, Quatuor Eclisses** (Thursday 25 November 2021, 20.30)
- **Petra Poláčeková, Anabel Montesinos** (Friday 26 November 2021, 20.30)
- **Lovro Peretić and Rémi Jusselme** (Sunday 28 November 2021, 17.30)
- **Cassi Martin** (Friday 26 November 2021, 18.30)
- **Guitar-Making Exhibition** (Saturday 27 November, 12–19.00 and Sunday 28 November 2021, 10.00–16.30)
- **Meeting the Artists** session with **Johan Fostier** and **Quatuor Eclisses** (Sunday 28 November 2021, 11.00)

For the **complete programme**, please visit <http://festivalguitareparis.fr/en/>

About the Paris International Guitar Festival Competition

The Final of the third Paris International Guitar Competition will be on Saturday 27 November 2021, 20.00 at the Théâtre Traversière, 15 bis rue Traversière, 75012 Paris.

Contact

For more information about
Paris International Guitar Festival
website: <http://festivalguitareparis.fr/en/>

Interviews

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Press Release 3/3



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