

PRESS RELEASE

EuroStrings – the European Guitar Festival Collaborative

is pleased to announce the

online edition

10th SARAJEVO INTERNATIONAL GUITAR FESTIVAL 2021

from May–November 2021

features ***FIVE*** EuroStrings Artists:

Opening Concert with

Winner of the 3rd EuroStrings Guitar Competition

Lovro Peretić, Croatia –Wednesday 26 May 2021

and monthly concerts with

Álvaro Toscano, Italy

Kevin Loh, UK

François-Xavier Dangremont, France

Bianka Szalaty, Poland

Masterclasses for EuroStrings Artists

Goran Krivokapić [online](#)

Sarajevo International Guitar Festival Competition

will be held **1–5 July 2021**

in three categories: Junior, Senior and Pro

The **entry deadline** is **5 June 2021**

For full details, see www.sigf.ba/competition-2021-2

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.

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

EuroStrings Artists

featured at

10th Sarajevo International Guitar Festival 2021

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.

Born in Singapore, **Kevin Loh** is one of the leading classical guitarists of his generation, having won many international awards, including the Cambridge University Musical Society Concerto Competition and, in 2020, London International Guitar Competition. Kevin Loh has performed at Wigmore Hall, London, Konzerthaus Berlin and Suntory Hall, Tokyo. In 2013, he premiered the *Guitar Concerto* by Bernard Tan with the Singapore Symphony Orchestra. In 2019, as Singapore Symphony Orchestra's 'President's Young Performer', he performed the *Concierto de Aranjuez* by Joaquín Rodrigo. Kevin Loh's broad repertoire includes Bach, Dowland and Weiss, his arrangements and transcriptions of Schubert and Schumann, as well as modern works by Stephen Dodgson, Graham Fitkin and Steve Reich.

Kevin Loh is passionate about giving back to society. He actively visits schools to share more about the guitar and music education. He also raises funds in Singapore and in the region for various charities and initiatives such as ChildAid, to provide opportunities for underprivileged children to have exposure in the arts.

Kevin Loh studied with Richard Wright for seven years at the Yehudi Menuhin School in Britain. After finishing two years of mandatory military service in the Singapore Armed Forces, he is now pursuing his undergraduate degree in Music at Girton College, University of Cambridge as the College Music Scholar and a scholar of the Loke Cheng-Kim Foundation.

Press Release 2/4



PRESS RELEASE

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 and spent one year in a student exchange programme at L'École Supérieure Musique et Danse Hauts-de-France, Lille with Judicaël Perroy. 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.

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.

The musical qualities of the classical guitarist **Álvaro Toscano** have been endorsed by his winning of more than 15 international awards, among which are First Prize at: 96th Concurso Permanente de Juventudes Musicales of Spain and Festival Internacional de Guitarra de Guimarães in Portugal. He is also proud to have won several 'Audience' prizes that reflect his immense communication skills as a musician. Apart from his solo work, Álvaro Toscano was the soloist with the Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra performing music by Enrique Baños. In ensemble, he has also performed with the F.I.P Guadalquivir Ensemble and the Leonor Quartet, among others, and premiered *Proserpina* and *Brumas del Guadalquivir* by Antonio Blanco Tejero at the Teatro Góngora in Cordoba. Álvaro Toscano has offered more than 70 recitals throughout Europe, highlights include his participation in the Szeged International Guitar Festival in Hungary, International Festival of Guitar José Tomás Villa de Petrer, Lope de Vega Theatre in Seville and International Guitar Festival 'Ciudad de Coria', in Cáceres. He also offers recitals in unusual venues such as 'Sofar Sounds', trying to bring classical music closer to all kinds of public. His 2021 programme, titled 'The Cosmic Guitar', comprises music based on ethereal, spatial and natural themes by Frederic Mompou, Antonio Blanco Tejero, Vicente Asencio and Marco Smaili.

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

Press Release 3/4





EUROPEAN GUITAR
FESTIVAL COLLABORATIVE



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>

About Sarajevo International Guitar Festival

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.

About Sarajevo International Guitar Festival and Competition 2021

The Sarajevo International Guitar Festival is celebrating its 10th anniversary in 2021. Most of the concerts, as with the competition, are being held online, running from May until November 2021, with updates, subject to the Covid-19 restrictions.

For the **complete programme** of the Sarajevo International Guitar Festival 2021, see: <https://sigf.ba>

Contact

Sarajevo International Guitar Festival

Đani Šehu, Festival Director

website: <https://sigf.ba>

email: info@sigf.ba

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>

Press Release 4/4



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