

PRESS RELEASE

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

15th TWENTS GITAARFESTIVAL

22–24 October 2021

featuring

four EuroStrings Artists

Jack Hancher, UK
Francisco Luis, Portugal

Marcell Nickmann, Hungary
Özberk Miraç Sarıgül, Turkey

Concerts

Friday 22 October 2021

Marcell Nickmann and Özberk Miraç Sarıgül,
solos and in ensemble and post-concert interview – Vestzaktheater, Enschede, 15.00

Sunday 24 October 2021

Francisco Luis and Jack Hancher,
solos and in ensemble and post-concert interview – Theater Mystiek, Enschede, 13.00
Marcell Nickmann and Özberk Miraç Sarıgül,
at Guitar Builder's Fair – Theater Mystiek, 15.00

Masterclasses

Friday 22 October 2021

with **Anabel Montesinos** – Kaliber Kunstenschool, Enschede

Saturday 23 October 2021

EuroStrings Artists give masterclasses – Kaliber Kunstenschool, Enschede, 14.00

Outreach Activities

Friday 22 October 2021

Francisco Luis – Villa de Maere, dementia home, Enschede, 16.00
Jack Hancher – Stevenfennehuis, home for the elderly, Enschede, 16.30

Saturday 23 October 2021

EuroStrings Artists, Discovery Tour to the Guitar for children and parents,
– Concordia Theater, Enschede, 12.30

Marcell Nickmann – De Boei Community Center, Enschede, 17.00

Sunday 24 October 2021

Özberk Miraç Sarıgül – De Boei Community Center, Enschede, 10.00

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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.

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 International 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 repertoire includes transcriptions of works by Bach, Scriabin, Telemann and Rameau. He also frequently performs classical improvisation. 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.

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 won the prestigious 8th Donizetti Classical Music Awards for 'Under 18, Musician of the Year' in Turkey. He has won 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 Käppel. 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.

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EUROPEAN GUITAR
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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.

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

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 Twents Gitaarfestival 2021

The Twents Gitaarfestival 2021 programme will feature both live and online events on 22–24 October 2021, adopting some of the best new practices which have been developed during the COVID-19 lockdown. Twents will continue its outreach programme and Guitar in the Classroom projects. The pandemic has compelled us all to find new ways to work and share our music and we have grown stronger through this experience.

For the **complete programme** of the **Twents Gitaarfestival 2021**, see: www.twentsgitaarfestival.nl/

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