

PRESS RELEASE

EuroStrings – the European Guitar Festival Collaborative

is pleased to announce

16th London Guitar Festival

22–25 October 2020

featuring

Sérgio and Odair Assad

and

Eight 2019/2020 EuroStrings Artists:

Silvio Bilić, Croatia

Carlo Curatolo, Italy

Luis Alejandro García, Spain

Emma Kapor, Serbia

Flavio Nati, Italy

Pavel Ralev, Bulgaria

Zsombor Sidoo, Hungary

George Tarlton, United Kingdom

and

Mateusz Kowalski, Poland

winner of the 2019 Second EuroStrings Guitar Competition

As part of winning First Prize at the 2019 Second EuroStrings Guitar Competition, **Mateusz Kowalski** has embarked on an international concert tour in Europe, America and Asia, where he is being received with critical acclaim. *Classical Guitar Magazine* describes him as a ‘spectacular’ musician with ‘truly breathtaking’ interpretations. Mateusz Kowalski has been winning prizes in international guitar competitions over the past few years and is now emerging as a star on the international concert platform.

Born in Koszalin, Poland in 1995, Mateusz started learning guitar at the age of seven. He went on to study with Ryszard Bałauszko at the Fryderyk Chopin University of Music in Warsaw, where he graduated with honours. Since October 2019, he has been teaching at The Frederic Chopin University of Music in Warsaw. He was awarded a scholarship winner by the Polish KFnRD and Ministry of Culture and National Heritage programme ‘Young Poland’. Mateusz recorded his debut CD, *Mateusz Kowalski Classical Guitarist*, in 2018 with the Polish label CD Accord, distributed by NAXOS.

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 member guitar festivals. They are invited to take part in the year-long carefully curated EuroStrings Exchange Programme, which is delivered through the EuroStrings Curriculum.

Concerts

Live Stream concerts www.facebook.com/theIGF

Flavio Nati, Emma Kapor and Zsombor Sidoo – Thursday, 22 October 2020, 19.00

Silvio Bilić, Carlo Curatolo and Luis Alejandro García – Friday, 23 October 2020, 19.00

Mateusz Kowalski – Sunday, 25 October 2020, 19.00

Live and Live Stream concerts www.facebook.com/theIGF

Pavel Ralev will **première *Tree of Hundreds*** by **Louise Drewett**, commissioned by IGF

(Saturday 24 October 2020, Kings Place, Hall One, 11am)

George Tarlton as **Winner of London International Guitar Competition 2019**

(Saturday 24 October 2020, Kings Place, Hall One, 3pm).

Masterclasses

Sérgio and Odair Assad, in masterclasses with **EuroStrings Artists** – Sunday 25 October 2020

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Co-funded by the
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www.eurostrings.eu

PRESS RELEASE

EuroStrings Artists

Silvio Bilić began studying guitar at the age of eight in the small Croatian town of Omiš with Neno Munitić. In 2017, he enrolled at the Arts Academy of Split where he studied with Maroje Brčić. He has won 20 first prizes as a soloist and 12 first prizes as a member of chamber ensembles. In 2014, 2017 and 2019, he won the award ‘Oscar of Knowledge’ from the Croatian Ministry of Science, Education and Sports for winning the First Prize at the National Competition both as a soloist and as a member of chamber ensembles. He often works in collaboration with well-known Croatian actors at various cultural events.

Carlo Curatolo began his studies with Pino Forresu, Francesco Taranto and Stefano Palamidessi. In 2010, he graduated from the Conservatory of Taranto and, in 2016, he gained a Masters in Physics at the Sapienza University of Rome. He continued his musical studies at the Segovia Guitar Academy in Pordenone with Paolo Pegoraro and Adriano del Sal, and at the Accademia Musicale Chigiana in Siena with Oscar Ghiglia. He is currently enrolled on a postgraduate course in music performance and interpretation at the Conservatorio di Musica Arrigo Boito in Parma. Carlo has been awarded prizes in more than 30 international competitions in Italy and abroad. Since 2006, he has been performing both as soloist and in ensemble in Italy, Austria, Portugal, Slovakia and Hungary.

Luis Alejandro García, who was born in Tenerife in 1993, has won more than 20 national and international awards. He won First Prize at: the Concurso del XXIII Festival Internacional de Guitarra de Coria, Spain in 2019, 47th Concurso Internacional de Guitarra Fernando Sor in Madrid in 2019 and the ‘Miquel Llobet’ Certamen Internacional de Guitarra in Barcelona in 2017, among many others. In 2018, he released his first CD, *Lazos sobre el Atlántico* (JSM Guitar Records). He is a member of Canary Guitar Quartet, who have released their first recording, called *21*. In October 2019, he made his debut as a soloist at the Palau de la Música Catalana in Barcelona and will perform with the National Radio and Television Orchestra of Spain (ORTVE) at the Teatro Monumental, in April 2020.

Ema Kapor was born in 1998 in Belgrade, where she studied with Boris Đujić at the Stanković Music School. She completed two years of study at the Koblenz International Guitar Academy, Germany with Hubert Käppel. Currently, she is studying at the Cologne University of Music and Dance with Hubert Käppel. Ema has taken summer courses such as the Summer Academy at the Universität Mozarteum in Salzburg with Marco Tamayo, the Zbaszyn International Masterclass, Poland with Łukasz Kuropaczewski and the International Music Academy – MusicAlp in Tignes, France with Judicaël Perroy. At national and international guitar competitions, Ema has won more than 40 prizes and has given solo concerts throughout Europe. As a soloist, she has performed Joaquín Rodrigo’s *Fantasia para un Gentilhombre*. Ema Kapor is promoted by the association Yehudi Menuhin Live Music Now – Cologne.

Flavio Nati graduated with honours from the Conservatorio Santa Cecilia in his hometown, Rome, where he studied with Arturo Tallini. He gained his Masters in classical guitar performance, with Carlo Marchione at the Conservatorium Maastricht, the Netherlands, a Masters in the Interpretation of Contemporary Music from the Conservatorio Santa Cecilia and in Guitar Performance from Conservatorio di Musica Arrigo Boito in Parma. He regularly gives concerts and since 2013, Flavio has been a member of the guitar octet Supernova, an ensemble, directed by Arturo Tallini. In 2018, he won the Respighi Prize offering him the opportunity to play as a soloist with the New York Chamber Orchestra in 2019/2020 season, in the Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall.

Pavel Ralev is a Bulgarian guitarist based in London. Shortly after his first guitar lessons at age twelve, Pavel began studying at the National School of Music and Dance Arts ‘Dobrin Petkov’ in Plovdiv, Bulgaria, studying with Milena and Valentin Valtchev. He studied with Michael Lewin at the Royal Academy of Music, London on a full scholarship and is currently studying towards a Masters at the University of Surrey with guitarist-composer Professor Stephen Goss. In addition to his solo activities, he is a founding member of the Metropolitan Guitar Quartet, together with his friends Michael Butten, Giacomo Susani and Emmanuel Sowicz. They made their debut in October 2019.

Zsombor Sidoo received his early musical training from József Eötvös at the Franz Liszt Academy for Music in Budapest. From 2013, he studied with Paolo Pegoraro at the Universität für Musik und darstellende Kunst in Graz and graduated in 2019, with the highest marks. Currently, he is pursuing his Masters. He has also taken lessons in musical composition with Beat Furrer. Zsombor Sidoo has won many competitions and regularly performs at prestigious venues such as the Ehrbar Saal, Vienna, Mozarthaus, Augsburg and Fricsay Hall, Szeged. His debut CD with three sonatas by J.S. Bach, Manuel María Ponce and Hans Werner Henze was released in October 2019.

As a boy, **George Tarlton** sang with the South London-based choir ‘Liberia’, who regularly performed in the UK and abroad. The guitar later became an all-consuming passion and he won a scholarship to study with Robert Brightmore and David Miller at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London, graduating with first-class honours in 2015. In 2012, he formed the Housden-Tarlton Duo with guitarist Jiva Housden. The duo were accepted for the IGF’s Young Artist Platform, and premiered a work written for them by the composer Errollyn Wallen at London Guitar Festival 2018. George is also a member of the Mela Guitar Quartet, who have released two recordings: Stephen Dodgson’s *Guitar Chamber Works* on Naxos CD in 2017; and *Pluck, Strum, and Hammer* in 2018.

For full **EuroStrings Artists profiles**, visit: <https://eurostrings.eu/young-stars/eurostrings-artists-of-2019-2020/>



PRESS RELEASE

London International Guitar Competition 2020

There are six Semi-Finalists in the London International Guitar Competition 2020: Fabio Fernandes (Portugal), Kianush Robeson (UK), Kevin Loh (Singapore/UK), Jonathan Parkin (UK), Marco Carta (Italy) and Dimitris Soukaras (Greece). The Semi-Final round will be held on Friday 23 October 2020 at 14.00–16.00, with the Final of the London International Guitar Competition 2020 will be on Sunday 25 October 2020 at 17.00–19.00. The Winner ceremony will be at 21.00 on Sunday 25 October 2020 (to tune in, navigate to: www.facebook.com/theIGF 10 minutes before each event).

EuroStrings is proud to be a part of the 16th London Guitar Festival from 22–25 October 2020. EuroStrings is a **platform of European guitar festivals**, led by Zagreb Guitar Festival. As the **first such platform** to be established, it is ever expanding: having started with an initial 14 member festivals in 2018, it now has **17 member festivals in 2020**. 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. EuroStrings also has **partners in America and China**, making it a truly **global project**.

For the **complete programme**, please visit www.igf.org.uk

About the London Guitar Festival

The London Guitar Festival is one of four or five annual festivals, which the International Guitar Foundation (IGF) presents in the UK, alongside concert series, summer schools and outreach projects in the community. IGF is a charitable organisation (non-profit) founded in May 1994. Its work is defined by the LISTEN.PLAY.CREATE programme, which features the guitar as the ideal vehicle for diverse and accessible concert and festival programming (Listen), participatory music making (Play) and an extensive new music commissioning programme (Create).

IGF stages a range of events nationwide including festivals in London, the North-East (Newcastle and Gateshead) and South-West (Bath, Bristol, Cheltenham and Shrewsbury). Two of IGF’s most important objectives are young artist development and the commissioning of new music: 92 new music commissions from mostly mainstream composers including Terry Riley, Max Richter, Kevin Volans, Léo Brouwer, Sérgio Assad, Paolo Bellinati, Howard Skempton, Laura Snowden and Errollyn Wallen. IGF has presented 96 world premières and 135 European and UK premières of works for guitar solo and in ensemble. IGF’s young artist development programmes include the Young Artist and Aspire Platforms, which offer performance opportunities to young guitarists as well as training in subjects such as PR and marketing, fundraising and business skills. Many of its alumni and laureates have gone on to important international careers such as Ana Vidovic, Laura Snowden, Amanda Cook and Daniela Rossi.

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