

# **Uppsala International Guitar Festival**



EUROPEAN GUITAR  
FESTIVAL COLLABORATIVE



UPPSALA <sup>XVI</sup> INTERNATIONELLA  
**GITARRFESTIVAL**  
9-13 OKTOBER 2019

## ***PRESS RELEASE***

***EuroStrings – the European Guitar Festival Collaborative***

is pleased to announce

**UPPSALA INTERNATIONAL GUITAR FESTIVAL 2019**

**9–13 October 2019**

The 16th Uppsala International Guitar Festival 2019 in **Uppsala, Sweden**,  
will feature **SIX EuroStrings Artists**:

**Giulia Ballaré, Italy**

**Katarzyna Smolarek, Poland**

**Mateusz Kowalski, Poland**

**Dimitris Soukaras, Greece**

**Yuki Saito, Japan**

**Zuzanna Wężyk, Poland**

## ***Concerts***

**Monday–Wednesday 7–9 October 2019**

School concerts in Uppsala

**Friday 11 October 2019**

Giulia Ballaré, Mateusz Kowalski and Zuzanna Wężyk  
Uppsala Konsert och Kongress, Hall B, 18.00

**Sunday 13 October 2019**

Concert with Four Hands – Börje Sandquist and Mats Norrefalk – and guitar orchestra  
Uppsala Konsert och Kongress, Hall B, 18.00

## ***Masterclasses***

**Thursday 10 October 2019**

EuroStrings Artists Masterclass with duo Sequiera-Lima  
Uppsala Konsert och Kongress, Hall B, 10.15

**Friday 11 October 2019**

EuroStrings Artists Masterclass with Gohar Vardanyan  
Uppsala Konsert och Kongress, Hall B, 10.15

**Saturday–Sunday 12–13 October 2019**

EuroStrings Artists Masterclasses with Ricardo Gallén  
Uppsala Konsert och Kongress, Hall B, 10.15

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Co-funded by the  
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[www.eurostrings.eu](http://www.eurostrings.eu)



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### About the EuroStrings Artists

The EuroStrings Artists are a selected group of young professionals, winners of international competitions, which took place at the various EuroStrings Platform member festivals. These artists are awarded a year-long touring programme, focusing on festival visits within Europe, following a carefully curated programme, including the creation of audience development opportunities – the EuroStrings Curriculum.

**Giulia Ballaré** released her first recording in 2013, *Lirically Spain* (dotGuitar) and since then has been regularly winning competitions. She has already won over 25 classical guitar prizes, despite her young age. She has been a D'Addario Artist since 2018. Giulia Ballaré has performed as soloist with Alessandria's Orchestra in Italy and Musica Viva's Orchestra of Moscow.

**Mateusz Kowalski** has been winning prizes in international guitar competition over the past few years. He recorded his debut CD in 2018 with the Polish label CD Accord, distributed by NAXOS. He is also a scholarship winner of the Polish KfRD and Ministry of Culture and National Heritage programme "Young Poland". He won First Prize in the 2nd EuroStrings Guitar Competition in July 2019.

The early studies of guitarist **Yuki Saito** in Tokyo included composition, French horn and double bass. Since 2016, he has been combining studies in Weimar, Germany with continuing success on the international competition circuit.

After her initial studies in Poland, **Katarzyna Smolarek** received her Bachelor's degree from the Mozarteum University in Salzburg, winning prizes in competitions across the globe from Austria to Australia.

**Dimitris Soukaras** is presently a Masters student at the Royal Academy of Music, London. Among his recent competition successes, he won First Prize at the 2018 Mottola International Guitar Competition and Festival. Dimitris is also interested in music composition, especially for the theatre. Since 2016, he has been cooperating with the Theatrical Organization of Hiliomodi at Corinth (Greece) and has already composed music for three theatre productions.

**Zuzanna Wężyk** was born in Gdańsk in Poland where she started playing guitar at the age of seven. In June 2018, she completed her Bachelor of Arts degree, studying with the Marco Diaz-Tamayo at Mozarteum University Salzburg in Austria. She is currently based in London, where she is working on her Master's degree in Composing For Film and TV at Kingston University in London.

For full **EuroStrings Artists profiles**, visit: <https://eurostrings.eu/young-stars/eurostrings-artists-of-2018-2019/>

### EuroStrings Scholarship

EuroStrings offers the opportunity for a young guitarist of modest means to attend one of the **17 EuroStrings festivals**, where in addition to attending concerts, they participate in workshops, masterclasses and outreach activities. The **EuroStrings Scholarship** to attend the **Uppsala International Guitar Festival 2019** has been awarded to the young Slovenian guitarist **Maja Kralj**.

**EuroStrings**, which is co-funded by the Creative Europe Programme of the European Union, is proud to be a part of the Harmonia Cordis International Guitar Festival and Competition 2019 from 6–11 August 2019. EuroStrings is the **first global collaborative platform of Classical Guitar Festivals**, focusing on fostering European musical excellence. It is an ever-expanding collaboration of **17 European Festival partners** with **global partners in the USA and Asia**. EuroStrings fosters excellence in musicianship, outreach work within the community, the creation of audience development opportunities, networking and, last but not least, world-class education for emerging young guitarists.

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### **About Uppsala International Guitar Festival 2019**

The featured artists at this year's Uppsala International Guitar Festival 2019 are:

- **Gohar Vardanyan** (Thursday 10 October, 17.00, Hall B)
- **Yamandu Costa with guests: Dos Mas Uno** (Thursday 10 October, 19.00, Big Hall)
- **Freak Kitchen** featuring **Mohini Dey** (Thursday 10 October, 21.00, Big Hall)
- **Bill Frisell and Erica Haden** in concert (Friday 11 October, 21.00, Big Hall)
- **Duo Siqueira-Lima** (Saturday 12 October, 14.30, Hall B)
- **Niño Josele, Sandra Carrasco and Robi Svärd** flamenco (Saturday 12 October, 19.30, Big Hall)
- **Ricardo Gallén** (Sunday 13 October, 13.00, Hall B)
- **Romancero Gitano and Tangomässan Abrazo** (Sunday 13 October, 16.00, Uppsala University Hall)
- **The Guitar Fair** (Friday 11 October, 11.00–18.00, Floor 3)

For the **complete programme**, please visit [www.upsalagitarrfestival.se](http://www.upsalagitarrfestival.se)

### **About Uppsala International Guitar Festival**

Uppsala International Guitar Festival is the most influential guitar event in Scandinavia. A meeting place for music celebration and learning, international artists such as John Williams, Paco de Lucia, LAGQ, Anabel Montesinos, Anoushka Shankar, David Russell, Duo Assad, Manuel Barrueco Leo Brouwer and Vicente Amigo are all part of its story. The Festival, which organizes an annual International Young Talent Competition, masterclasses, workshops, as well as open forums and a guitar fair, was founded by Executive Director Klaus Pontvik in 2003. It is now led by Klaus Pontvik with Stefan Löfvenius, a leading guitarist in music education in Sweden.

## **Contact**

For more information about **Uppsala International Guitar Festival**  
website: <https://www.upsalagitarrfestival.se/en>

### **Interviews**

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### **EuroStrings**

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