

## ***PRESS RELEASE***

*EuroStrings – the European Guitar Festival Collaborative*

is pleased to announce the

***online edition***

**9th SARAJEVO INTERNATIONAL GUITAR FESTIVAL 2020**

**8 November–December 2020**



featuring ***FIVE*** EuroStrings Artists:

**Carlo Curatolo**, Italy

**Pavel Ralev**, Bulgaria

**Maja Kralj**, Slovenia

**Zsombor Sidoo**, Hungary

**Pablo Menéndez**, Spain

in

***EuroStrings Artist Online Concerts***

beginning with

**Pablo Menéndez** – Sunday 8 November 2020, 20.30, Sarajevo Festival Facebook page

***Online Masterclasses***

**Goran Krivokapić** will give masterclasses to the EuroStrings Artists

The International Competition will be held in the last week of November 2020 with no age limit for entrants.

The entry deadline is **15 November 2020**. For full details, see [www.sigf.ba/competition-2/](http://www.sigf.ba/competition-2/)

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### About the EuroStrings Artists

The EuroStrings Artists are a selected group of young professionals, winners of international competitions of the festivals that are members of the EuroStrings Platform. 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.

**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.

**Maja Kralj** was born in 1999 and started playing guitar at the age of seven at the elementary music school Sežana with Nataša Črnugelj. She continued her education at the Conservatory for Music and Ballet in Ljubljana, studying with Anton Črnugelj. Maja has participated in masterclasses with Judicaël Perroy, Andrea De Vitis, Paolo Pegoraro, Alvaro Pierri, Xuefei Yang, among many others. Maja won First Prize at the Zagreb International Guitar Competition in 2017 and First Prize at the Uppsala International Guitar Festival in 2019. She now studies at the Academy of Music Ljubljana with Andrej Grafenauer.

**Pablo Menéndez** was born in 1992 in Asturias, Spain and started playing guitar at the age of ten. He completed his Bachelor's degree with Marco Socías in San Sebastian, and obtained his Masters 'cum laude' after studying with Carlo Marchione at the Conservatorium Maastricht in the Netherlands. He also studies orchestral conducting. He has won prizes in several international music competitions and has given

solo concerts in Spain, Germany, the Netherlands and Italy. He recorded a CD of nineteenth-century Spanish music with tenor Joaquín Pixán and pianist Mario Bernardo. Pablo combines his concert activity with teaching at the Conservatorio Nacional Superior de Música in Córdoba, Spain.

**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 Batten, Giacomo Susani and Emmanuel Sowicz. They made their public 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.

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

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**EuroStrings**, which is co-funded by the Creative Europe Programme of the European Union, is proud to be a part of the Sarajevo International Guitar Festival and Competition 2020 from 8 November–December 2020. 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.

### **About Sarajevo International Guitar Festival 2020**

The Sarajevo International Guitar Festival is celebrating its 9th anniversary in 2020. Most of the concerts, as with the competition, are being held online. On Sunday 8 November 2020, they will begin with daily online concerts of five EuroStrings Artists.

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.

For the **complete programme** of the Sarajevo International Guitar Festival 2020, see: [www.sigf.ba](http://www.sigf.ba)

### **Contact**

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