

PRESS RELEASE

EuroStrings – the European Guitar Festival Collaborative

is pleased to announce

21st Szeged International Guitar Festival (Szeged IGF)

15–18 October 2020

ONLINE Szeged IGF Facebook page and YouTube channel

featuring

Judicaël Perroy

and

FIVE 2019/2020 EuroStrings Artists:

Nino D'Amico, Italy
Jonas Egholm, Denmark
Maja Kralj, Slovenia

Agustín Nazzetta, Argentina
Pavel Ralev, Bulgaria

and

Mateusz Kowalski, Poland

winner of the

2019 Second EuroStrings Guitar Competition

As part of winning First Prize, **Mateusz Kowalski** has since 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 Balauszko 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.

Concerts

Live on the Szeged IGF Facebook and YouTube

Mateusz Kowalski and Agustín Nazzetta – Thursday 15 October 2020, 20.00

EuroStrings Artists – Outreach concert – Friday 16 October 2020, 11.00

Pavel Ralev and Dóra Cserenyec – Friday 16 October 2020, 20.00

Jonas Egholm and Maja Kralj – Saturday 17 October 2020, 20.00

Nino D'Amico and Judicaël Perroy – Sunday 18 October 2020, 20.00

Lecture by Judicaël Perroy and the EuroStrings Artists via Zoom – Saturday 17 October 2020, 18.00

Press Release 1/3



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 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.

Nino D'Amico was born in Naples in 1997. He began studying classical guitar at the age of 12 with his father, and then with Marco Caiazza preparing for entry to the Conservatorio di San Pietro a Majella in Naples, where he studied with Vincenzo Amabile. Since 2014, he has been giving concerts and also winning prizes in national and international guitar competitions. In May 2019, Nino won First Prize in the International Guitar Competition and the Special Prize at the International Paganini Guitar Festival competition in Parma for the Best Interpretation of a piece by Paganini (in a category with no age limit).

Jonas Egholm was born in 1997 and started playing the guitar at the age of seven. As a ten-year old, his first concert tour in Denmark and Germany, was part of the First Prize in the Danish National Symphony Orchestra's competition for young musicians. He is currently finishing his Masters in classical guitar at the Royal Danish Academy of Music in Copenhagen with professors Jesper Sivebæk and Per Pålsson. Jonas has performed as a soloist with the South Denmark Philharmonic Orchestra, Vejle Symphony Orchestra and the Fredericia City Orchestra. He regularly performs in Denmark, China, Japan, Germany, Sweden and the Faroe Islands; he has upcoming concerts and tours in France, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Turkey, Faroe Islands and more. In January 2020, he began the intensive Master in Classical Guitar Performance course at the University of Alicante, Spain.

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 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.

Born in 1990 in Argentina, **Agustín Nazzetta**, obtained a Bachelor's degree in music from the National Arts University Institute (IUNA) Department of Musical Arts 'Carlos López Buchardo', studying with Javier Bravo. In 2012, he moved to Salzburg to pursue a Masters at the Universität Mozarteum with María Isabel Siewers. He currently studies in Basel, Switzerland with Pablo Márquez. He won First Prize at both the Incontri Chitarristici di Gargnano in Italy and the International Guitar Festival Rust 2019 in Austria. In addition to his career as a soloist, his interest in contemporary music has led him to work with young composers, ensembles and conductors.

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 public debut in October 2019.

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



EUROPEAN GUITAR
FESTIVAL COLLABORATIVE



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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 **21st Szeged International Guitar Festival** has been awarded to the Romanian guitarist **Florian Babțan-Varga**.

EuroStrings is proud to be a part of the 21st Szeged International Guitar Festival from 15–18 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.gitarfesztival.hu/hu/programok

About the Szeged International Guitar Festival

The Szeged International Guitar Festival (Szeged IGF) is a multi-venue, regional festival in Hungary and Serbia for open-minded and curious fans of the guitar, which presents diverse music genres, innovative combinations of various art forms, an exciting competition and a showcase for the young stars of classical guitar, as well as a networking platform for amateurs and professionals. Since 2018, the festival has presented its wide range of programmes not only in the city of Szeged, but also in its neighbouring regions. These performances are often sold out quickly as Szeged IGF invites great guitar maestros from all over the world. The Szeged IGF was founded by the guitarist-composer Dávid Pavlovits in 1999. The aim of the festival is not only to create a long-lasting tradition in Szeged, but also to bring internationally acclaimed musicians to local audiences every year.

Contact

Szeged International Guitar Festival

email: szeged.igf@gmail.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/SzegedIGF
Instagram: [szeged_igf](https://www.instagram.com/szeged_igf)
website: www.gitarfesztival.hu

Interviews

Artistic Director, David Pavlovits
email: paavlovits@gmail.com

EuroStrings

Artistic Director: Mak Grgić, email:
mak@eurostrings.eu
PR Queries: Larisa Lieberman, email:
internationalpr@eurostrings.eu
Comms Queries, email:
communication@eurostrings.eu
Website: <https://eurostrings.eu>

For more information and photographs, please contact:
Larisa Lieberman email: internationalpr@eurostrings.eu

Press Release 3/3



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