



EUROPEAN GUITAR
FESTIVAL COLLABORATIVE



PRESS RELEASE

EuroStrings – the European Guitar Festival Collaborative

is pleased to announce the

TAMPERE GUITAR FESTIVAL 2020

1–8 November 2020

will feature *FIVE* EuroStrings Artists:

Carlo Curatolo, Italy

Lovro Peretić, Croatia

Ema Kapor, Serbia

George Tarlton, United Kingdom

Agustín Nazzetta, Argentina

and

Mateusz Kowalski, Poland

winner of the 2019 Second EuroStrings Guitar Competition

Sunday 8 November 2020 [Online Concert](#)

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 Bałuszko 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.

EuroStrings Artist [Online Concerts](#)

Carlo Curatolo – Sunday 1 November 2020

Ema Kapor – Monday 2 November 2020

Agustin Nazzetta – Tuesday 3 November 2020

George Tarlton – Wednesday 4 November 2020

Lovro Peretić – Thursday 5 November 2020

[Online Masterclasses](#)

Marco Socías will give **masterclasses to the EuroStrings Artists**

The **EuroStrings Artists** will give **masterclasses to young students** from Finland

EuroStrings Artists will also be involved in **outreach projects** during October–November, with **Guitar for**

All at the Sofiakylä care home for disabled people and the 35 Koukkuniemi retirement homes in Tampere.

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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.

Ema Kapor was born in 1998 in Belgrade, where she studied with Boris Đujić at the Stanković Music School and then with Hubert Käppel at the Koblenz International Guitar Academy, Germany. She is now 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. Ema has won more than 40 prizes at national and international guitar competitions 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.

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.

Lovro Peretić was born in Zagreb in 1995 and started studying guitar with Xhevdet Sahatxhija. He later studied with Darko Petrinjak the Academy of Music in Zagreb, and for one year at L'École Supérieure Musique et Danse Hauts-de-France, Lille with Judicaël Perroy. He represented Croatia in many important festivals such as the Vladimir Spivakov International Foundation's festival in Moscow and the European Union of Music Competitions for Youth's Young Hearts for Music in Austria and Germany. He also regularly performs in his duo with violinist Katarina Kutnar and in the guitar trio Evocación. He has performed as a soloist with the Croatian Radio and Television Symphony Orchestra, Dubrovnik Symphony Orchestra and Zagreb Soloists, among others. Lovro was awarded the Dean's and Rector's prizes of the University of Zagreb.

As a boy, **George Tarlton** sang with the South London-based choir 'Libera', 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 premièred 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/>

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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 Tampere Guitar Festival and Competition 2020 from 15 July–8 November 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 Tampere Guitar Festival and Competition 2020

Tampere Guitar Festival is celebrating its 16th anniversary in 2020. Most of the concerts, as with the competition, are being held online. In November, we start with daily online concerts of five EuroStrings Artists. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the only live concerts will be performed by artists from Finland: featuring the leading Finnish classical guitarists **Petri Kumela** and **Ismo Eskelinen**, who will both be releasing their new albums in concerts that are also being streamed online for worldwide viewing.

This is the *3rd* International Classical Guitar Competition of Finland, organised by Tampere Guitar Festival in association with Tampere Music Academy. This year, with the international Covid-19 situation, Tampere began its competition in July 2020: it was organised as a 2 in 1 Online Competition together with Guitar Festival of Petrer, Spain. The **Final of the International Classical Guitar Competition of Finland** will be on **Sunday, 8 November 2020**. The **Youth Category of the 3rd Classical Guitar Competition of Finland**, which is in three separate ages groups, will be held on **7–8 November 2020 as an online competition**.

For more details about the Competition, see https://tgf.fi/guitar_competition.

Guitar for All – all over Europe

The Guitar for All project aims to bring guitar music to new locations and to people who are not able to enjoy culture so easily. This year, for example, the Tampere Guitar Festival in Finland will provide classical guitar concerts for the elderly, in collaboration with the Koukkuniemi retirement home, bringing music to the people who are not able to leave their homes or beds. The COVID-19 pandemic has forced us all to find new ways – since visits are not allowed at the moment, the musical greetings will be done online. In this way, the music can be distributed to all 35 units of the retirement home and hundreds of seniors may enjoy listening to the music together. Another example is Sofiakylä, a care home for disabled people, where again, due to restrictions, online concerts will be given. Music has been proved to have a relaxing and therapeutic influence.

The year 2020 has been a very different one for everyone. Hopefully, in 2021, everything will go back to normal and move from online concerts back to live events, however, some of the best new practices which have been developed during the lockdown could also be continued and hopefully will keep evolving.

For the **complete programme** of the Tampere Guitar Festival and *Competition 2020*, see: <https://tgf.fi/home>

Contact

For more information about Tampere Guitar Festival and Competition,
website: www.tgf.fi

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