

PRESS RELEASE

EuroStrings – the European Guitar Festival Collaborative

is pleased to announce the

17th TAMPERE GUITAR FESTIVAL 2021

will be held online

with the theme of ‘*Close*’ bringing us all closer together,

all events are **free to access** and **available globally**

featuring *FIVE* EuroStrings Artists:

Marcell Nickmann, Hungary – Tuesday **8 June 2021**

Jiujiu Wu, China – Wednesday **9 June 2021**

Steve Cowan, Canada – Thursday **10 June 2021**

Álvaro Miranda, Costa Rica – Friday **11 June 2021**

Lovro Peretic, Croatia – Saturday **12 June 2021**

All concerts are **online** via **YouTube** channel and **Facebook** page of TGF

EuroStrings Artists masterclasses

Online via Zoom with **Ricardo Gallén** – Saturday **12 June 2021**

The International Classical Guitar 2 In 1 Online Competition 2.0

organised by **Tampere Guitar Festival** and **José Tomás Villa de Petrér**

International Guitar Competition

Youth Category of the 4th Classical Guitar Competition of Finland

Online live via Zoom **Saturday–Sunday 29–30 May 2021**

Scholarship round for 2 In 1 Online Competition*: **1–13 June 2021**

Round One of 2 In 1 Online Competition: **1–7 August 2021**

Semifinal of 2 In 1 Online Competition: **18 September 2021**

Final of 2 In 1 Online Competition: **31 October 2021**

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

* Scholarships to participate in the competition for free for guitarists suffering from financial issues caused by the global crisis.

Press Release 1/3

PRESS RELEASE

The Canadian guitarist **Steve Cowan** has performed as a soloist and in ensemble throughout Canada, the United States and Europe. His debut album of Canadian music, *Pour guitare* (McGill Records, 2016), helped to establish him as 'one of Canada's top contemporary classical guitarists' (*Classical Guitar Magazine*). In 2018–2019, Steve Cowan made his concerto debut with Ensemble del Arte in Germany, his New York solo recital debut, and released his second solo recording *Arctic Sonata* (EMEC discos). As a chamber musician, Steve Cowan performs regularly with Forestare, a Montréal-based string ensemble; in 2022, he will tour New Zealand with flutist Hannah Darroch, as well as the Canadian Prairies with guitarist Adam Cicchillitti. The Cowan–Cicchillitti duo has premiered 15 new works and released an album of Canadian music titled *FOCUS* (Analekta, 2019); their next recording, *Impressions intimes* (Analekta, 2021), features original arrangements of Debussy, Ravel, Mompou and Tailleferre.

Steve Cowan has won awards at ten national and international competitions, including First Prize at the Tallinn Guitar Competition in Estonia. Originally from St. John's, Newfoundland, Steve Cowan holds degrees from Memorial University, the Manhattan School of Music and McGill University. His teachers include Sylvie Proulx, David Leisner and Jérôme Ducharme. Since 2019, Steve Cowan has been a guitar instructor at Schulich School of Music of McGill University in Montréal.

Álvaro Miranda was born in San José, Costa Rica in 1993. He received his first guitar lessons with Jorge Aguilar and Sergio Carrera. In 2014, he studied with Juan Carlos Laguna in Mexico for three years. In recent years, he has received virtual classes with Denis Azabagić and Carlo Marchione. Currently, he has virtual lessons with Paolo Pegoraro through the Segovia Guitar Academy in Pordenone, Italy. Álvaro Miranda won First Prize at: Florida Guitar Foundation Guitar Competition, National Guitar Competition in Costa Rica, Competition of the Latin-American Guitar Festival in Chicago and the International Music Competition 'Salzburg and Amsterdam' Grand Prize Virtuoso, among other awards.

Álvaro Miranda has participated in a movement to rescue the music and traditions of his native Costa Rica, attending different festivals of music and traditional dance around the world. In 2012, he was chosen to represent Costa Rica at the World Folkloriada in Anseong, South Korea, an event of the International Council of Organizations of Folklore Festivals and Folk Arts (CIOFF) where he performed traditional music of his country adapted to solo guitar. He has also performed in the United States, England, Mexico, Czechia and Switzerland.

Marcell Nickmann was born in Budapest, Hungary and started playing the classical guitar at 14 with his first teacher, Sándor Árok. He quickly achieved success in regional and national competitions, winning several first prizes, which offered opportunities such as performing with the Austro-Hungarian Haydn Chamber Orchestra in their matinée series. In 2016, he began studying with Andrea Bozóki at the Music Faculty of University of Szeged. Since 2018, he has been working with Dávid Pavlovits. In 2019, after finishing his

For full **EuroStrings Artists profiles**, visit: <https://eurostrings.eu/young-stars/eurostrings-artists-of-2020-2021/>

Bachelor degree, Marcell Nickmann won Third Prize in the Tallinn International Guitar Competition and Second Prize in the Harmonia Cordis International Guitar Competition.

In February 2019, he premiered Claude Vivier's *Pour guitare* in Hungary, and with his duo partner, the guitarist Dóra Cserenyec, they premiered *Salita in discesa* – a microtonal work written for them by the electro-acoustic composer Ákos Nagy. In 2020, as well as continuing to première pieces in Hungary with Dóra Cserenyec, and performing Karlheinz Stockhausen's *Tierkreis*, he began to focus on early music, recently transcribing the works of the French Baroque composer Louis Couperin. In October 2020, Marcell Nickmann won First Prize in the Szeged International Guitar Competition.

Lovro Peretic, Cr Peretić was born in Zagreb in 1995 and started studying guitar with Xhevdet Sahatxhija. Later, he graduated from the Academy of Music in Zagreb, where he studied with Darko Petrinjak and spent one year in a student exchange programme at L'École Supérieure Musique et Danse Hauts-de-France, Lille with Judicaël Perroy. He has been successful in many national and international competitions. He has 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.

Jiujiu Wu was born in 2001. At the age of nine, he began to learn classical guitar with his father. He later studied with Bing Wu. Jiujiu Wu has been educated and cultivated by Associate Professor Bao Xu of Sichuan Conservatory of Music and the Chinese guitarist You Wang. Jiujiu Wu's studies with Guillem Pérez-Quer at the Liceu Conservatory of Music, in Barcelona, also offered many performing opportunities. Jiujiu Wu has won awards at international competitions, including Third Prize in the 14th Boston International Guitar Festival Competition in 2019, Second Prize of Shenzhen Guitar Art Festival in 2020 and First Prize at the International Guitar Festival 'Alirio Diaz' 2020 in Rust, Austria.

As a soloist, Jiujiu Wu enjoys repertoire such as *La Maja de Goya* by Enrique Granados and *Serenata Española* by Joaquín Malats, contrasted with the virtuosic *Caprice No. 24* by Paganini. His flute and guitar repertoire includes *Valses Poéticos* by Enrique Granados, Astor Piazzolla's *Café 1930* and the *Sonatina Búrlesca* by Herbert Baumann. Jiujiu Wu arranges music, from J.S. Bach's Chorales: 'Nun komm der Heiden Heiland', BWV 599 and G.F. Handel's Allegro in D minor, HWV 475, to songs from Japanese anime, such as 'I Always Smile, But My Eyes are Sad' by Keiichi Oku from *Marmalade Boy*. He also plays pop and jazz music on fingerstyle guitar.

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 members' guitar festivals. They are invited to take part in the EuroStrings Exchange Programme, which is delivered through the EuroStrings Curriculum. The EuroStrings Exchange Programme was created for EuroStrings Artists to help them to develop professional careers as classical guitarists.

For full EuroStrings Artists profiles, visit: <https://eurostrings.eu/young-stars/eurostrings-artists-of-2020-2021/>

About EuroStrings

EuroStrings is the first platform of European guitar festivals, led by Zagreb Guitar Festival and ever expanding with an initial 14 member festivals in 2018 and reaching 17 member festivals in 2021; with three Associate Festivals also added in 2021 as well as Affiliate Partners around the world, including the Americas and China, making it a truly global project.

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. Each member festival also stages an international guitar competition.

EuroStrings website: <https://eurostrings.eu>

About Tampere Guitar Festival and Competition 2021

Tampere Guitar Festival is celebrating its 17th anniversary in 2021. All of the concerts, as with the competition, are being held online with worldwide free access. As well as the concerts of the five EuroStrings Artists – Marcell Nickmann (Tuesday 8 June 2021), Jiujiu Wu (Wednesday 9 June 2021), Steve Cowan (Thursday 10 June 2021), Álvaro Miranda (Friday 11 June 2021) and Lovro Peretic (Saturday 12 June 2021) – the **Finnish guitarist Osmo Palmu** will give a concert on Sunday 13 June 2021.

Tampere Guitar Festival Outreach activities feature online concerts in June 2021 for people in need at the Sofiakylä: a care home for disabled people, and at the Finnish Red Cross, reception centre for emigrants

This is the 4th 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, once more Tampere has organised a **2 in 1 Online Competition together with José Tomás Villa de Petrér International Guitar Competition**, Spain.

For the **complete programme** of the Tampere Guitar Festival and *Competition 2021*, see: <https://tgf.fi/home>

Contact

Tampere Guitar Festival and Competition

website: www.tgf.fi

Interviews

Tomi Tolvanen, Festival Director

Tel. +358 44 5633 949

email: tomi@tgf.fi

EuroStrings

Executive Director: **Ružica Gelo Ciglencečki**

Comms Queries: **Dunja Stanković:**
communication@eurostrings.eu

PR Queries: **Larisa Lieberman:**
internationalpr@eurostrings.eu

EuroStrings Contact: **info@eurostrings.eu**

Website: <https://eurostrings.eu>

Press Release 3/3

