

PRESS RELEASE

EuroStrings – the European Guitar Festival Collaborative
is pleased to announce that, despite the difficulties of Covid-19,
and being forced to postpone the festival itself,

TWENTS GITAARFESTIVAL 2020

took the initiative early on to develop the

TGFnl 2020 online edition

July 2020

where they featured **four EuroStrings Artists**

Silvio Bilić, Croatia

Ema Kapor, Serbia

Luis Alejandro García, Spain

Maja Kralj, Slovenia

Masterclasses

TGFnl 2020 organised and **recorded masterclasses** by the **four EuroStrings Artists**
for **local guitar students** at the Kaliber Art School Enschede, on 4 July 2020.

These were **recorded and used to create a compilation video**.

Guitar in the Classroom

They recorded a **30-minute instruction video for schoolchildren**, titled:

‘What is a Guitar: How to Start Playing Guitar’.

The video was recorded on 6 and 13 July 2020 at the Studio Pim Weierink, Overdinkel.

This video has been offered to schools –
and a number of guitars, can be loaned out for use during the broadcast of the video.

They have also been collecting video material from earlier TGFnl festivals.

Visit TGFnl’s **website**, www.twentsgitaarfestival.nl/en/eurostrings-artists-tgf-2020/
as well as their **YouTube**, **Instagram**, **Facebook** and **Twitter** pages

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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.

Silvio Bilić began studying guitar at the age of eight in the small Croatian town of Omiš with Neno Munitić. In 2017, he enrolled at the Arts Academy of Split where he studied with Maroje Brčić. He has won 20 first prizes as a soloist and 12 first prizes as a member of chamber ensembles. In 2014, 2017 and 2019, he won the award ‘Oscar of Knowledge’ from the Croatian Ministry of Science, Education and Sports for winning the First Prize at the National Competition both as a soloist and as a member of chamber ensembles. He often works in collaboration with well-known Croatian actors at various cultural events.

Luis Alejandro García, who was born in Tenerife in 1993, has won more than 20 national and international awards. He won First Prize at: the Concurso del XXIII Festival Internacional de Guitarra de Coria, Spain in 2019, 47th Concurso Internacional de Guitarra Fernando Sor in Madrid in 2019 and the ‘Miquel Llobet’ Certamen Internacional de Guitarra in Barcelona in 2017, among many others. In 2018, he released his first CD, *Lazos sobre el Atlántico* (JSM Guitar Records). He is a member of Canary Guitar Quartet, who have also released their first recording, called *21*. In October 2019, he made his debut as a soloist at the Palau de la Música Catalana in Barcelona and will perform with the National Radio and Television Orchestra of Spain (ORTVE) at the Teatro Monumental, in April 2020. For 2020, he has concert tours in the USA, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina and in Europe.

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.

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.

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

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EUROPEAN GUITAR
FESTIVAL COLLABORATIVE



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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 **Twents Gitaarfestival 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 Twents Gitaarfestival 2020

Much of the programme originally planned for this year's Twents Gitaarfestival 2020 had to be postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, however, they took this opportunity to focus even more strongly on the resources that they offered through their outreach programme and Guitar in the Classroom projects. The COVID-19 pandemic has forced us all to find new ways to work and share our music. The year 2020 has been a very different one for everyone. Hopefully, in 2021, we will be able to 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 useful.

For the **complete programme** of the **Twents Gitaarfestival 2020**, see: www.twentsgitaarfestival.nl/

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