



EUROPEAN GUITAR
FESTIVAL COLLABORATIVE



PRESS RELEASE

EuroStrings – the European Guitar Festival Collaborative

is pleased to announce the

17th UPPSALA INTERNATIONAL GUITAR FESTIVAL 2020

8–10 October 2020

with the theme: **Made in Sweden**

broadcast live online www.dramatix.tv/uppsalagitarfestival

and featuring **SEVEN** EuroStrings Artists:

Silvio Bilić, Croatia

Nino D'Amico, Italy

Maja Kralj, Slovenia

Flavio Nati, Italy

Pablo Menéndez, Spain

Zsombor Sidoo, Hungary

and

Mateusz Kowalski, Poland

*winner of the 2019 Second EuroStrings Guitar
Competition*

Concerts

Opening Concert, Thursday 8 October 2020, Stora salen, 18.00

Mateusz Kowalski

As part of winning First Prize in the 2019 Second EuroStrings Guitar Competition, **Mateusz Kowalski** has been giving critically acclaimed concerts in Europe, America and Asia. 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. He teaches 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.

Saturday 10 October 2020

Maja Kralj Lunchtime concert, Sal D, 12.00

EuroStrings Artists Stora salen, 17.30

Tribute concert to the composer and guitarist Sergio Assad featuring the **Scandinavian première** of *The Walls* for **solo guitar and guitar orchestra** by **Sergio Assad**, conducted by **Christian Karlsen**, with **Fred Holmlund** as soloist and guitar orchestra members include the **EuroStrings Artists** and **Göran Söllscher's** students from Malmö, Stora salen, 15.00

Romance International Young Talent Competition 2020

Six finalists from **six countries** have been selected for the final round 2020. First Prize is 25,000 SEK.

The audience can vote online for the 'audience's favourite' prize. Stora salen, 20.00

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Co-funded by the
Creative Europe Programme
of the European Union

www.eurostrings.eu

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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.

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).

Maja Kralj, 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 guitarists such as Judicaël Perroy, Andrea De Vitis, Paolo Pegoraro, Alvaro Pierri, Brian Head, Xuefei Yang, Margarita Escarpa, Mak Grgić, Xhevdet Sahatxhija, Nejc Kuhar, Gabriel Bianco, Anders Miolin, Costas Cotsiolis, Olaf van Gonnisen and Laura Young. She won First Prize at the Zagreb International Guitar Competition in 2017 and 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.

Flavio Nati graduated with honours from the Conservatorio Santa Cecilia in his hometown, Rome, where he studied with Arturo Tallini. He gained his Masters in classical guitar performance, with Carlo Marchione at the Conservatorium Maastricht, the Netherlands, a Masters in the Interpretation of Contemporary Music from the Conservatorio Santa Cecilia and in Guitar Performance from Conservatorio di Musica Arrigo Boito in Parma. He regularly gives concerts and since 2013, Flavio has been a member of the guitar octet Supernova, an ensemble, directed by Arturo Tallini. In 2018, he won the Respighi Prize offering him the opportunity to play as a soloist with the New York Chamber Orchestra in 2019/2020 season, in the Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall.

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 gives concerts in Europe at prestigious venues such as the Ehrbar Saal in Vienna, the Mozarthaus in Augsburg and the Fricsay Hall in Szeged. His debut CD with three sonatas by Johann Sebastian 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 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 **Uppsala International Guitar Festival 2020** has been awarded to the young British guitarist **Eleanor Kelly**.

EuroStrings, which is co-funded by the Creative Europe Programme of the European Union, is proud to be a part of the Uppsala International Guitar Festival 2020 from 8–10 October 2020. 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**.

About Uppsala International Guitar Festival 2020

The Uppsala International Guitar Festival 2020 presents Swedish artists, Swedish music and Swedish-built instruments – a manifestation of Swedish musicians and Swedish music. It feels especially important to highlight and support the Swedish artists this year. Although we are only allowed to gather 50 people per concert, the good (and big) news is that we are making a big investment in a live broadcast, which makes the festival accessible to many more at:

<https://www.dramatix.tv/uppsalagitarrfestival>

‘We need the inspiration and energy of each other, more than ever. And we need to meet! Uppsala International Guitar Festival has for the past 17 years been an important meeting place for people and music. Even if we make it in a limited form, culture must be allowed to take place, be heard and seen in the public space.’

Klaus Pontvik, Festival Director

The **Uppsala International Guitar Festival 2020** are also featuring:

- **The Gothenburg Combo & Friends** (Thursday 8 October 2020, 20:30)
- **Emil Ernebro with friends** (Friday 9 October 2020, 18:00)
- An evening with **Lisa Nilsson, Mattias Torell** and **Mats Bergström** (Friday 9 October 2020, 20:30)
- **A Thousand and One Nights** – music from the magical world of books!

For the **complete programme**, please visit www.uppsalagitarrfestival.se

About Uppsala International Guitar Festival

Uppsala International Guitar Festival is the most influential guitar event in Scandinavia. A meeting place for music celebration and learning, international artists such as John Williams, Paco de Lucia, LAGQ, Anabel Montesinos, Anoushka Shankar, David Russell, Duo Assad, Manuel Barrueco, Leo Brouwer and Vicente Amigo are all part of its story. The Festival, which organises an annual International Young Talent Competition, masterclasses and workshops, as well as open forums and a guitar fair, was founded by Executive Director Klaus Pontvik in 2003.

Contact

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