

PRESS RELEASE

EuroStrings – the European Guitar Festival Collaborative

is pleased to announce the

‘Online Music Delights’ of the

6th ZAGREB GUITAR FESTIVAL 2020

July–September 2020 featuring guest artists

Tilman Hoppstock, Goran Krivokapić and Ana Vidović

and *five* EuroStrings Artists

Nino D’Amico, Luis Alejandro Garcia, Bruno Pino Mateos, David Fellegi and Pavel

Ralev

EuroStrings winners, Mateusz Kowalski and Jesse Flowers will give an

online concert and Q&A session on Friday 7 August 2020

The ZGF International Competition will be held online on Sunday 20

September – Tuesday 22 September 2020

streamed via their Facebook and YouTube

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. 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 Bałauszko 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.

Jesse Flowers, Australia/Germany

winner of the 2018 First EuroStrings Guitar Competition

Currently based in Berlin, Jesse Flowers is developing a reputation as an exciting talent among the next generation of classical guitarists. Further recent awards include the Musicians’ Company Award 2018/2019 New Elizabethan Award. In 2017/2018, he performed over 20 chamber music recitals throughout Germany as part of the Bundesauswahl Konzerte für Jünger Künstler.

Born in Sydney, Flowers was inspired to pursue a career in music from a young age. He completed his Bachelor of Music at the Australian National University under Minh Le Hoang and Timothy Kain. In 2014, he moved to Germany to further his studies with Tilman Hoppstock at the Akademie für Tonkunst Darmstadt. He completed his Masters of Music at the Universität der Künste Berlin under Thomas Müller-Pering. The composer Phillip Houghton was an important mentor throughout his studies.

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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.

Born in 1995 in Pécs, **David Fellegi** started studying the guitar at the age of eight. After winning a number of competitions, he started his studies at the High School of Arts in Pécs with Tamás Straub, where he also showed an interest in composition. In 2014, after graduating with distinction, he was accepted by the Franz Liszt Academy of Music to study with András Csáki and József Eötvös, where he completed both his Bachelor's degree with honours and his Masters. He has participated in masterclasses with Marco Tamayo, Marco Topchii, Judicaël Perroy, Dale Kavanagh, Ricardo Gallén, Costas Cotsiolis, Roberto Aussel and Margarita Escarpa. David's interests cover both classical and jazz music. As a composer, he won First Prize and the 'Special Prize for Best Composition' at the 2019 International Guitar Contest of Szeged. David premiered his own Sonata Fantasy for solo guitar in November 2018; and the Venti Chiavi Guitar Trio premiered his Mixations in October 2016.

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).

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. 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.

Bruno Pino Mateos was born in Salamanca in 1997. He studied at the Conservatorio Superior de Música in Salamanca, and then he continued his studies at the Conservatorio Superior de Castilla y León. Bruno Pino Mateos has performed at the Teatro Liceo de Salamanca and at the festivals of Coria, Amarante and Petrer. Among his numerous awards, he received First Prize at the V International Guitar Festival of Guimarães 2018; the International Guitar Festival José Tomás Villa de Petrer Competition in the Youth category; the XIX International Guitar Competition Ciudad de Coria in the youth category; and the II Alhambra International Guitar Competition for Young People, Valencia.

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/>

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EuroStrings is proud to be a part of the **6th Zagreb Guitar Festival** from **3 July–22 September 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**.

Masterclasses with Tilman Hoppstock on Friday 3 July 2020, from 17:00

- four EuroStrings Artists and four ZGF giveaway winners
- followed by live a Q&A session, at 19:00
- Salon concert by candlelight at 21:00

Masterclasses with Goran Krivokapić on Friday 10 July 2020, from 17:00

- four EuroStrings Artists and four ZGF giveaway winners
- followed by live a Q&A session, at 19:00
- Salon concert by candlelight at 21:00

Ana Vidović online concert on Friday 24 July 2020, from 17:00

- followed by a Q&A session, at 19:00

All streamed on the Zagreb Guitar Festival Facebook page and YouTube channel

Masterclasses with EuroStrings Artists (held online in July and August)

- attended by students from Croatia

For the **complete programme**, please visit <https://zagrebguitarfest.com/concerts/>

About ZGF International Competition

The **ZGF International Competition** will be held online from Sunday 20 September–Tuesday 22 September 2020.

The competition this year has **no age limit**.

Applications via Zagreb Guitar Festival website: <https://zagrebguitarfest.com/apply/>

The **jury** for **ZGF Online Guitar Competition** in the **First Round**:

Danijel Cerović (Montenegro), **Đani Šehu** (Bosnia and Herzegovina), **Neno Munitić** (Croatia), **Josip Dragić** (Croatia), **Nejc Kuhar** (Slovenia), **Maroje Brčić** (Croatia) and Antonio **Rumenović** (Croatia) and will also include: **Mak Grgić** (Slovenia) and **Goran Krivokapić** (Montenegro) in the **Final Round**

For the **complete details** of the ZGF International Competition 2020, see: <https://zagrebguitarfest.com/competition/>

Contact

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