

## ***PRESS RELEASE***

***EuroStrings – the European Guitar Festival Collaborative***

is pleased to announce

**The 23rd International Guitar Festival Rust 2021**

**EuroStrings Winners Gala Concert**

**Thursday 30 September 2021**

**at the Musikverein in Vienna**

featuring ***FIVE*** EuroStrings Artists:

**Marcin Kuźniar**, Poland

**Eleonora Perretta**, Italy

**Francisco Luis**, Portugal

**Özberk Miraç Sarıgül**, Turkey

**Filip Mišković**, Croatia

Metallener Saal, Musikverein, Vienna, 20.00

Tickets available at: [www.musikverein.at/konzert/eventid/47877](http://www.musikverein.at/konzert/eventid/47877)

### **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>

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**Marcin Kuźniar** was born in Krakow, Poland, in 1992. He started studying the guitar at the age of six with Adam Makowski and, later, with Włodzimierz Lerner. During his university years, he worked with Alina Gruszka, Marcin Dylla and Paolo Pegoraro. By age 20, he had performed the *Concierto de Aranjuez* and *Fantasia para un Gentilhombre* by Joaquín Rodrigo, and *Concerto* by Heitor Villa-Lobos; and later also *Concerto del Sur* by Manuel María Ponce and *Guitar Concerto*, Op. 36 by Mauro Giuliani. By 25, he had won prizes in about 40 guitar competitions, such as Grand Prize at Ex-Aequo International Classical Guitar Competition, New York, in 2020, Special Prize for the Best Interpretation of Contemporary Music at Forum Gitarre, Vienna, in 2019.

Marcin Kuźniar has a strong interest in performing the works of contemporary composers not often heard in guitar recitals, such as Tristram Cary and Tristan Murail. His debut CD of 2018, *Song Without Words*, includes works by Richard Rodney Bennett, Alan Rawsthorne and György Ligeti complemented with a transcription of *Moments Musicaux* by Schubert (rarely performed on guitar), and music by Mertz and Tárrega/Arcas. During 2020, he released videos of *Escarraman* by Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco and *Variations on a Theme of Debussy* by Tilman Hoppstock, and began to transcribe music by Polish composers Penderecki, Weinberg, Szymanowski and Lutoslawski.

**Francisco Luis**, one of the rising stars of Portuguese classical guitar, was born in Caldas da Rainha, in 1998. He started his guitar studies at the age of ten with Luís Roldão, in the Conservatory of Caldas da Rainha. After five years, he began his studies at the Music School of the National Conservatory, in Lisbon; studying guitar with Eurico Pereira, chamber music with Júlio Guerreiro and Paulo Amorim and basso continuo with Helena Raposo. He completed his Bachelor degree with distinction with Carlo Marchione, at the Maastricht Conservatorium, before beginning his Masters with Zoran Dukić at the Royal Conservatoire in The Hague. Francisco Luis's numerous international awards include First Prize at both the Harmonia Cordis International Guitar Festival and the Festival International de Guitarra de Guimarães, as well Second Prize at both Uppsala International Guitar Competition and the Aalborg International Guitar Competition.

In 2015, Francisco Luis was soloist in the *Concierto de Aranjuez* by Joaquín Rodrigo with the symphony orchestra of the National Conservatory of Lisbon. His varied repertoire includes transcriptions of works by Bach, Scriabin, Telemann and Rameau. He also frequently performs classical improvisations, mixing his musical knowledge with his creativity and distinctive musical personality. He has performed in venues such as Casa da Música in Porto and the Palácio da Ajuda in Lisbon.

**Filip Mišković** was born in Split, Croatia, in 2002. At the age of nine, he started his guitar studies at the Music School 'Josip Hatze', Kaštela with Vicko Novak and, in 2013, he continued with Maroje Brčić. At 17, two years earlier than usual, he began studying at the Academy of Music, University of Zagreb, where is now in his second year, studying with Darko Petrinjak. Filip Mišković has won First Prize in more than 40 guitar competitions, including Anna Amalia Competition for Young Guitarists in Weimar, Rago International Guitar Competition in Stuttgart and the International Guitar Competition for Young Guitarists 'Andres Segovia' in Monheim am Rhein; he won Second Prize in the Senior Division of the GFA Annual International Youth Competition in Miami 2019. In the open age category, he won First Prize at the Poreč Fest Competition and Second Prize in the Zagreb Guitar Festival Competition. As a soloist, Filip Mišković has performed a Vivaldi *Concerto* with 'I Giovani Solisti' from the USA, conducted by Emmet Drake, and Castelnuovo-Tedesco's *Guitar Concerto* with Croatian National Theatre Orchestra in Split, conducted by Gianna Fratta. The Ministry of Science, Education and Sports awarded him five 'Oscars of Knowledge'. In 2019, he was given the title 'Splitski pupoljak' as a rising star in Split and, in 2020, he received the Rector's Prize from the University of Zagreb.

**Eleonora Perretta** was born in Naples, in 1995, and began studying the guitar at the age of six. As early as 14, Eleonora Perretta won First Prize at the International Guitar Competition 'Luigi Denza' in 2010 and has continued to win prizes in national and international guitar competitions. She won First Prize at 'Eduguitar' International Guitar Festival in 2016. In 2018, she graduated summa cum laude from the Conservatory of Music 'San Pietro a Majella', Naples, where she studied with Vincenzo Amabile. She also studied with Aniello Desiderio at 'Stefano Strata' Academy in Pisa. In 2020, Eleonora Perretta won the 'Special Edition Prize' at Koblenz International Guitar Competition and First Prize at Mottola Festival International Competition. She is currently studying with Aniello Desiderio for a Masters at the Conservatorio di Musica 'Domenico Cimarosa' in Avellino, and with Paolo Pegoraro at Segovia Guitar Academy in Pordenone, Italy.

Eleonora Perretta has several recording projects for *DotGuitar* records: as soloist, she is recording a collection of guitar sonatas, as well as an album dedicated to J.S. Bach; in duo, with Lucio Matarazzo, a première recording of music by Ida Presti for two guitars. They are also working on Perretta-Matarazzo Collection of original music and transcriptions for two guitars for the publisher Ut Orpheus; the first volume is of Scarlatti's *Sonatas*.

The Turkish guitarist **Özberk Miraç Sarıgül** was born in 2000. From a young age, he began performing not only as a soloist but also with orchestra, including performances of the *Concierto de Aranjuez* by Joaquín Rodrigo with the Bilkent Symphony Orchestra in 2017, and the *Fantasia para un Gentilhombre* by Joaquín Rodrigo with BGSO in 2019. As a soloist, he plays a broad range of repertoire, from the Elizabethan music of John Dowland, to the Baroque music of J.S. Bach to more contemporary music by Joaquín Rodrigo, Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco and Joaquín Turina.

In 2018, Özberk Miraç Sarıgül was selected for the prestigious 8th Donizetti Classical Music Awards for 'Under 18, Musician of the Year' in Turkey. He has won prizes in many national and international competitions, winning First Prize at the International Istanbul Guitar Festival Competition, at the Estonia Lions – Thomas Kuti European Classical Guitar Competition and at the Florida Guitar Foundation's Virtual Competition Intermediate Division in 2020. Sarıgül is currently studying in Bilkent University Music and Performing Arts Faculty with Kağan Korad and has had masterclasses with leading guitarists such as Leo Brouwer, Pepe Romero, Aniello Desiderio, Hopkinson Smith, David Russell and Hubert Käppel. Özberk Miraç Sarıgül has performed in duo with Mesut Özgen at the Türkiye Gitar Buluşması Festival, as well as being invited as soloist to perform there and at other festivals.

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### About International Guitar Festival Rust and the International Guitar Competition ‘Alirio Diaz’

The International Guitar Festival Rust was founded by Gabriel Guillén in 1999. Since then, the festival has grown into one of the most important guitar festivals in Europe. Initially, the festival was dedicated to international composer, tutor and journalist John W. Duarte, who passed away in 2005. Now, the International Guitar Festival Rust is dedicated to the memory of the virtuoso Venezuelan guitarist Alirio Diaz, who died in 2016. Rust’s International Guitar Competition is judged by a panel of Austrian and international experts. In 2017, a composition competition for the promotion of classical guitar music was held for the first time. It was a great success with more than 40 contributions from composers from all over the world. The Artistic Directors are now Gabriel Guillén and Jovan Pesec with the son of Alirio Diaz, Senio Alirio Diaz, as its Honorary Artistic Director.

### About International Guitar Festival Rust 2021

The artists in this year’s festival are:

- **Senio Diaz, Diana Guillén, Gabriel Guillén, IGR String Quartet, Grigory Novikov and Javier Garcia Moreno** (Opening Concert, Sunday 26 September 2021, 19.30)
- **Cristian Lavernier and Simone Onnis** (Monday 27 September 2021, 19.30)
- **Carlo Marchione, Sun Xuan Xuan and Roberto Fabbri** (Tuesday 28 September 2021, 19.30)
- **Juan Lorenzo** (Flamenco), **Giovanni Grano** and **Luciano Lombardi** (Wednesday 29 September 2021, 19.30)
- The **Gitarren Expo Rust 2021** with **Claus und Marc-Julian Voigt**, and **Amalia Ramírez** with her own guitars as well as those by **José Ramírez II, José Ramírez III** and **José Ramírez IV**.
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For concert tickets, please visit: [www.oeticket.com/eventseries/internationales-gitarrenfestival-rust-2463375/](http://www.oeticket.com/eventseries/internationales-gitarrenfestival-rust-2463375/)

The concerts of the Rust Festival are available via **Livestream** at: [www.musicstage.com](http://www.musicstage.com)

For the **complete programme**, please visit: [www.guitarfestivalrust.at/](http://www.guitarfestivalrust.at/)

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