



Guitarist

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Minnesota Guitar Society Mission Statement

Promote the guitar in all its stylistic and cultural diversity through sponsorship of public forums, concerts, and workshops.
Serve as an educational and social link between the community and amateur and professional guitarists of all ages.

Our All-Season Online Adventure Begins—Join Us!



Johan Smith
Friday
September 25



Patterson/Sutton Duo
Saturday
October 17



Amadeus Guitar Duo
Saturday
November 14

Visit www.mnguitar.org to sign up for our email list and get all the news quickly and easily.

There you can also reserve your virtual ticket for the upcoming concert each month,
and donate to help support us!

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Our Season at a Glance

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Saturday, October 17 Patterson/Sutton Duo
Saturday, November 14 Amadeus Guitar Duo
Saturday, December 5 Mimi Fox
Saturday, January 23 Acoustic Guitarathon
Saturday, February 20 Emanuele Buono
Friday, March 26 Manuel Barrueco
Saturday, June 5 Classical Guitarathon

A regular feature of our annual concert series has been the currently touring winner of the Guitar Foundation of America (GFA) International Concert Artist Competition. This year, the circumstances are different, but we're as excited as ever to present the 2019 GFA first prize winner, **Johan Smith**.

He has been invited to perform at famous festivals, in concert and as a soloist, with orchestras such as the Budapest Symphony Orchestra, Lausanne Chamber Orchestra, and Verbier Festival Orchestra. As part of his GFA award, he recorded his second album (for Naxos), and is touring (in person or livestream) until 2021 in the US, Canada, Mexico, and China.

Born in 1990 in Geneva, Switzerland, Smith started the guitar with teacher Marie-Claire Pignolo and obtained a BM (2015) and an MA in Instrumental Pedagogy (2017) at the University of Music of Lausanne, studying with Brazilian guitarist Dagoberto Linhares. In addition to teaching at the Conservatory of Morges, in 2019 he earned the most important academic title in the field of musical performance in Switzerland, the Master of Arts Specializing in Music Performance Soloist, awarded with the highest grade, and the Special Prize Max D. Jost.

His interest in contemporary music has led him to collaborate with several composers, including Arnaud Fillion, who dedicated his *Concerto for Guitar and Orchestra* to him. In a completely different musical context, he is the founder of, composer for, performer in, and graphic

designer for the extreme metal band Stortregn, with which he has recorded four albums and toured the world since 2005. Here's his program for our September 25 concert:

Aufenthalt by Franz Schubert (1797–1828)
(transcription by Johann Kaspar Mertz)

Kinderszenen, Op. 15, by Robert Schumann (1810–56)
(transcription by Johan Smith)

- I. *Von fremden Ländern und Menschen*
- II. *Kuriose Geschichte*
- III. *Hasche-Mann*
- IV. *Bittendes Kind*
- V. *Glückes genug*
- VI. *Wichtige Begebenheit*
- VII. *Träumerei*
- VIII. *Am Kamin*
- IX. *Ritter vom Steckenpferd*
- X. *Fast zu ernst*
- XI. *Fürchtenmachen*
- XII. *Kind im Einschlummern*
- XIII. *Der Dichter spricht*

Nocturnal, after John Dowland, Op. 70,
by Benjamin Britten (1913–76)

Sables Stellaires by Josquin Schwizgebel (b. 1987)

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One of the wonderful things about the guitar is how well it blends with the human voice, with other guitar(s), and with a wide range of other instruments. Our October and November concerts offer strong evidence. New to many of us may be both the pairing of classical guitar and cello, and the particular brilliance and imagination of the **Patterson/Sutton Duo**, one of the foremost young duos exploring this combination in new works, many expressly written for them.

Dr. Kimberly Patterson, cellist, holds degrees from the Juilliard School, the Cleveland Institute of Music, and the University of Colorado at Boulder. Dr. Patrick Sutton, guitarist, holds degrees from the University of Denver and the University of Colorado at Boulder. His principle teachers have been Ricardo Iznaola and Jonathan Leathwood.

Praised by *The Strad* magazine for their “wit and imagination,” the trailblazing Patterson/Sutton cello and guitar duo continue to be in demand as they bring the rich repertoire for their combined instruments to audiences around the world. The Patterson/Sutton Duo were featured artists at the 2016 Guitar Foundation of America Convention and have an ongoing relationship with The Juilliard School as Juilliard Global Visiting Artists. The Duo have been featured on *Performance Today*/American Public Media, Radio New Zealand, and Fine Music Radio South Africa, among many others.

The Duo’s debut album, *Cold Dark Matter*, was released in 2013 on MSR Classics to critical acclaim. Composer and guitarist Dušan Bogdanović declared: “Everything [on *Cold Dark Matter*] is performed with excellence and sensitivity. I especially like the beautiful tone and sense of lyricism, though the virtuosity of both is apparent.” The Duo continue to push the boundaries of the repertoire by commissioning new music for cello and guitar from top composers such as Stephen Goss and Ricardo Iznaola. Recent concert appearances include the Florida Guitar Foundation, Portland International Guitar Series, Knoxville Guitar Society, Cheyenne Guitar Society, University of Colorado Guitar Festival, Saigon Guitar Series in Vietnam, Shanghai Conservatory in China, Tulane University, University of Denver, Louisiana State University, Princeton Symphony Chamber Music Series, Strings Music Festival, and the Front Range Chamber Players. Their research in the field of cello and guitar performance has culminated in lecture-recitals at the Dublin Guitar Symposium, International Guitar Research Center Conference in the UK, and the Guitar Foundation of America Convention. *Soundboard* magazine called their GFA talk “a deeply inspiring analysis and performance.”

The Patterson/Sutton Duo are strong believers in the transformative power of educational outreach. Funded by the US State Department, the Duo held a guest-artist resi-

dency at the Afghanistan National Institute of Music in Kabul in 2014, where they worked with the budding generation of Afghan musicians and gave a performance at the Canadian Embassy of Afghanistan. More recently, the Juilliard School has sent the Duo to Bratislava, Budapest, Dublin, Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, and New York City as guest artists to perform and teach at international schools as part of the Juilliard/Nord Anglia global intuitive.

Here’s the program they’ll present on October 17th:

Sonata for Cello & Guitar (Presto)
by Mathias Duplessy (b. 1972)

Valse by Bryan Johanson (b. 1951)

Welsh Folk Songs (2008) by Stephen Goss (b. 1964)

- I. Dafydd y Garreg Wen (David of the White Rock)
- II. Wrth fyn’d hefo Deio I Dywyn
(As I went with Deio to Dywyn)
- III. Suo-gân (Lullaby)
- IV. Lliw Gwyn Rhosyn yr Haf (White Rose of Summer)
- V. Lisa Lân (Fair Lisa)
- VI. Hela’r ’Sgyfarnog (Hunting the Hare)

Sonata for Cello and Guitar
by Radames Gnattali (1906–87)

- I. Allegretto comodo
- II. Adagio
- III. Con spirito

Motherlands by Stephen Goss

- I. Incantation
- II. Roah Veroh
- III. Hymn
- IV. Kosichka
- V. Motherless Child
- VI. Beirut

Reflexões No. 6 by Jaime Zenamon (b. 1953)

- I. Fluido
- II. Doloroso
- III. Vivissimo

From *Tanzologia* by Atanas Ourkouzounov (b. 1970)

- I. Bulgarian Rock



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We're very excited to be bringing—finally!—the Amadeus Guitar Duo back to our series. A complication with the visas for their tour a year ago delayed a visit that was already long overdue. The Amadeus Guitar Duo is among the top international guitar duos, receiving enthusiastic reviews from all over the world. Canadian Dale Kavanagh and her German partner Thomas Kirchoff formed the Duo in 1991. Since then, the secret of their success, documented by more than 70 concerts per year, is their complete devotion to their instrument. Hence, they did not limit themselves to playing as a duo, but began to also focus on the repertoire for guitar and orchestra. Thanks to this commitment, this genre has emerged from its niche, and they are considered leading specialists in works for guitars and orchestra. In more than 100 cities, they have played their “Spanish Night” recital, featuring concertos for one, two, and four guitars and orchestra by Joaquin Rodrigo and the world-renowned panpipe player Gheorghe Zamfir. They regularly perform with orchestras throughout Europe.

The Amadeus Guitar Duo have so far given more than 1,800 concerts in some 70 countries in Europe, Central, South, and North America, and Asia. The Duo delight their audiences with exuberant, virtuoso performances, sensitive creative power, and a full, warm, carrying tone.

Dale Kavanagh and Thomas Kirchoff have been recorded for radio and television in the UK, the US, Canada, Germany, and elsewhere. They have also recorded 17 CDs (NAXOS International, Haenssler-Classic) that document the depth of their artistry and wide range of their repertoire. Renowned composers from many countries, including Harald Genzmer, Gheorghe Zamfir, Roland Dyens, Jaime Zenamon, Christian Jost, Carlo Domeniconi, Gerald Garcia, and Martin Herchenröder, have written orchestral concertos for them. Stephen Dodgson and others have dedicated compositions for two guitars to them. All works have been published by Schott's, Mainz - Edition Margaux, Berlin; Edition Peters, Frankfurt; and Verlag Hubertus Nogat, Essen.

In 1992, they founded the International Guitar Symposium in Iserlohn, which is today one of the most important festivals of its kind in Europe, with more than 300 participants from more than 50 countries, concerts featuring world-famous stars, master classes, lectures, exhibitions, and more. They celebrated their 25th anniversary as the Amadeus Guitar Duo in the 2016/17 season.

Today, Dale Kavanagh and Thomas Kirchoff live with their daughter Melissa-Rachel in Germany. Both are professors who have been teaching in the guitar program of the Detmold Musikhochschule since 2003.

Here's the program they'll present in November:

String Quartet No. 2 by Alexander Borodin (1833–87)
Allegro — moderato

Espagnoleta & Canarios by Gaspar Sanz (1640–1710)
(transcription by Irina Kircher)

Four Pieces by Dale Kavanagh (b. 1958)
Going Nowhere
Two Etudes
A la Fuego

Contrasts by André Jolivet / J. S. Bach
(1905–74 / 1685–1750)
Praeludio e Canonica (Sérénade 1956)
Fuga d-minor, BWV 539 (arr. T. Hoppstock)
Andante Melanconico (Sérénade 1956)
Sinfonia, BWV 29 (arr. U. Stracke)

Two Concert Etudes by Dale Kavanagh
(dedicated to Roberto Fabri)

Kaleidoscope, Op. 17, for Two Guitars by Dale Kavanagh

We thank MRAC for an Arts Project Support grant to fund our International Guitar Artists concert series.

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This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

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Dear Friends,

Grants. This fall has become a grantwriting season, as many funders have started or retooled programs to offer support to nonprofits of all kinds as we face the twin challenges of pandemic and economic recession. For the MGS, this has meant new proposals to familiar sources of support, and introductions to new funders. Most of the award announcements will come in early December, past our next issue's deadline. We'll find another way to share the news with you. Support for our current programs, as well as two new projects, is being asked for. One new project, a GuitarMarathon, will serve our members and friends; more about that in our next issue. The other new project would serve students in our guitar education programs. For that, see page 7.

Fundraising. As much as we're pursuing grant sources of support, the truth is that the MGS needs a robust, many-sided approach to fundraising. That's where you can help. We need people on our Fundraising Committee to help plan and implement events or activities to sustain the MGS, make new friends, and connect with our members. Contact me if you'd like to put the "fun" in fundraising.

Memberships. Memberships are what keep us strong. When it's time to renew yours, please consider the monthly-payment option now available through our website.

Concerts. Please join us if you can for every concert. Each concert will be available for 48 hours after the initial streaming. All the visiting artists will be providing special, pre-recorded, high-quality video-recordings. The two Guitarathons will be live-streamed from Sundin Music Hall, although at this time we expect that no in-person audience will be possible.

We intend to offer special features, printed program notes via emailed PDF to all who donate, and video-interviews with the artists. We'll ask for donations for each concert, but the concerts themselves are free.

Thank you to everyone who responded to our email survey this summer as we considered our choices in presenting this season. We all look forward to a return to live, in-person performances. We want that to be a safe and happy occasion. But for now, I can't close with the customary "See you at Sundin!" I hope every MGS member will keep in touch by visiting our website, emailing me comments and suggestions, signing up for our email list, and leaving comments on the YouTube channel during and after each concert.

Stay safe. Stay well. Every donation matters. Every membership matters.

Thanks.

—Paul Hintz / Email: <mgdir@mnguitar.org>

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We Got Guitars!

An essential part of our Guitar Education Program is providing guitars for schools, classes, and students who need but cannot afford to buy them. We're grateful to the individuals and organizations that have been helping us meet that need. This August, we received donated instruments from Ruth LeMay, head of the Guitar Department at Southwest High School in Minneapolis (one of our GIOS program partners) and the founder of GuitarsUnlocked, from our board member David Buending, and from the nonprofit organization Instruments In the Cloud. In addition, thanks to a connection provided by MGS board secretary Dan Lehn, the owner of Cadenza Music in St. Paul, we worked with the Ortega Guitar company, which provided 24 guitars at-cost and additional guitars as a donation.

While this generosity is wonderful, it only meets half the needs of our partner schools. With students at home for distance or hybrid learning, we need to send instruments to all of them! We want guitars. In playable condition. If the guitar you want to find a new home for requires some loving attention first, please consider contacting one of our fine local music stores. They need the business, as much as we need the guitars!

For more information, contact mkdir@mnguitar.org. To make a cash donation, visit <https://www.mnguitar.org/join-renew-donate>, and put "for guitars" in the comment line of the form.

We Got Teachers!

Ben Abrahamson is well-known to many of us from his performances around Minnesota, including several events for the MGS. He's a part of the Acoustic Guitar Showcase line-up at the Icehouse and elsewhere, and a member of

the flamenco music community. He's also becoming known for his original music and an innovative series of video interviews with emerging artists in various musical styles, available on his YouTube channel. For our education team, he'll be the visiting (in-person or online) teacher at Parkway Middle School this year.

Milena Petković is establishing a reputation as both a solo classical guitarist and in the M & M duo with Maja Radovanlija (U-MN professor and member of the Minneapolis Guitar Quartet). She was featured in a Showcase concert for the MGS in 2019, and can be found on YouTube, especially a performance of *Asturias* recorded for MPR. She has been part of the GIOS team from the start and will be visiting teacher at Roosevelt HS this year.

Jared Waln introduced himself to many of us in the MGS community with his performance at the 2019 Classical Guitarathon. An active studio teacher for over a decade, he was a visiting teacher for us at Southwest HS last year and has worked extensively with Ruth LeMay since then. He's pursuing his M.M.Ed. at the University of St. Thomas, where he is also an Adjunct Instructor in guitar.

We Got Partners!

Guitar Opportunities for All Learners

Thanks to a year-long grant we received last spring from the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council's Arts Learning Program, this fall we launched this new program. Our first partnership is with the Special Education Department at White Bear Lake High School and their teacher David Melvin. Jared Waln will be the visiting teacher, twice a week, all year long, working with one class using standard guitars and with a second class using adaptive guitars and a methodology developed by Ruth LeMay.

Continued on page 7

We thank the following for their support of our Guitar Education Programs:



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We thank MRAC for its support with a grant to fund Guitar Opportunities for All Learners.

This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.



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Guitar In Our Schools

A partner school since the start of GIOS, Southwest High School in Minneapolis remains an essential ingredient in this program. We won't be able to support Ruth LeMay's Guitar Orchestra class with visits by international concert artists this season, but we do hope to provide online lesson support to students who'd benefit from individual attention this fall. Perhaps, by spring, we'll be able to send another teaching assistant to work with her and learn about her amazing approach to adaptive guitar education for students with special needs.

Last season, we were glad to start working with Roosevelt High School in Minneapolis, where teacher Nick Wilson (band, orchestra, and general music) has been building a strong 2-semester program of guitar classes. We're looking forward to partnering with Nick to create enough interest to start a guitar orchestra at Roosevelt, and hope that this year we can provide distance lessons for some of his students.

Our newest partner school, Parkway Middle School in St. Paul, is one of the few Montessori middle schools in Minnesota. This creativity and student-focused model is well-represented by music teacher Denae Olson, who single-handedly launched a guitar class with a handful of duct-taped-together instruments and only a basic knowledge of the instrument. The class is always filled to capacity, and we're looking forward to starting our collaboration with her this fall. We won't offer a new supply of duct tape, but we have new guitars, an energetic instructor, and plenty of curriculum resources to send.

Let's Hear You!

Distance learning is going to present challenges for us in both our education programs this year but the models of what programs like ours in other cities are accomplishing and the willingness of our partners to work with us in finding creative solutions are reasons for optimism.

In addition, we believe there's more we can offer to the partner schools and their students. We have applied for grant support to launch a new project, Let's Hear You! In

this project, we will video-record students in both GIOS and GOAL programs playing music they've learned, and music they might create. The videos will be shared with the students, with their families and friends, and with the wider world on the MGS YouTube channel. We hope to have more details about this new project in our next issue.



MGS board secretary Dan Lehn, owner of Cadenza Music in St. Paul (left) and MGS managing director Paul Hintz (right), pausing for a moment while inspecting the batch of Ortega guitars we purchased for our GIOS and GOAL programs with funds raised during the statewide GiveMNatHome campaign in April, and from the Guitar Raffle we did during last season.



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We thank these foundations for their support of our Guitar Education Program through grants to fund Guitar In Our Schools.



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