



Guitarist

The Minnesota Guitar Society • PO Box 14986 / Minneapolis MN 55414 • Vol. 37 No. 3 / Fall Issue 2021

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.

A Fall Harvest of Great Music



(clockwise from upper left:)

Sept 25 René Izquierdo

Oct 16 Dáithí Sproule,
and The Lost Forty

Nov 10 Daniel Ho and
Dani Joy Herreid

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STAY SAFE!

Our In-Person Concerts Plan

Our first concern is the safety and well-being of our audience and our visiting artists.

As of August 15, 2021, Hamline University has required mask-wearing and proof of vaccination for all staff, faculty, and students. As guests in Sundin Music Hall, in light of the highly transmissible Delta variant and increasing cases in Minnesota, and in line with recent announcements by major arts presenters and venues here in Minnesota and across the country, we have adopted the following COVID safety protocols for all our concerts:

Everyone will be required to wear a mask.

Everyone will be required to show proof of either full COVID-19 vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test result taken within the previous 72 hours.

We will practice social distancing. The box office and the doors to the hall itself will open at 7:00 pm, 30 minutes before the concert. While weather permits, we ask that people queue up outside the hall. You'll be let in one (group) at a time. No waiting in the lobby. To facilitate distancing and limit audience size to 50% capacity, tickets will be for assigned seating and not general admission.

Please purchase tickets online in advance of the concert.

Each concert will be presented without intermission. The audience will be encouraged to leave row-by-row.

The September and Decembers concerts will be recorded and made available for free, to be viewed on our YouTube channel any time throughout the week following the live performance.

Questions or concerns? Please contact us at <mgdir@mnguitar.org>. As conditions change or circumstances require, additional information and updates will be posted to our website and Facebook page, and emails sent to our list.

We're Happy to Return to Sundin Music Hall

Thank you to everyone who joined us online this past season. We shared some wonderful music making. Because so many of you found online to be a convenient or valuable alternative, and thanks to the feedback we received from a survey this past summer, we will offer as many of our concerts as possible both in-person *and* online during 2021–22. Please visit our website to learn more, and to make a

donation to help with the necessary added expenses for the season. Tickets for each in-person concert, as well as a limited number of season tickets, can also be purchased online, and we encourage you to do so.

The upcoming season gets off to a great start with artists of world-wide renown, some based here in the Midwest, most making their Sundin Hall debut.

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Sept 25 René Izquierdo

Cuban-born **René Izquierdo** joins us for the first time, and starts the season. He is a unique artist and educator whose career has been dedicated to inspiring individuals and connecting communities. Whether passionately performing on stage, devotedly mentoring his students, fundraising, or leading community outreach, he endeavors to enrich people's lives and add beauty to our world. He has established himself as a world-class virtuoso, celebrated for his ability to weave flawless technical command of his instrument with a gift for storytelling to share an intimate musical experience with his audience. As a solo recitalist, a chamber musician, and a guest soloist with orchestras, he has performed to critical acclaim throughout the Americas, Europe, and Asia, appearing at renowned festivals and institutions such as Carnegie Hall in New York, the Manaus Opera House in Brazil, and the National Recital Hall in Taiwan.

His concert for us will feature works by Rodrigo, Torroba, Scarlatti, Ruiz-Pipo, E. Sainz de la Maza, Falla, Brouwer, and Eduardo Martin.

Oct 16 Dáithí Sproule and The Lost Forty

We thank the Center for Irish Music in St. Paul for their support in co-sponsoring this concert.

Headlining is **Dáithí Sproule**, one of Irish music's most respected guitar accompanists and one of the first guitarists to develop DADGAD tuning for Irish music. He is also a fine singer in English and Irish. A native of Derry, Ireland, he has lived for many years in Minnesota. Sproule started his career in the influential group Skara Brae. As a member of the internationally renowned Irish band Altan, he has performed and recorded with many

great traditional Irish musicians. He has also performed and recorded with artists in other styles, including Dolly Parton, and with such Minnesota-based musicians as Laura MacKenzie, Dean Magraw, Norah Rendell, and Brian Miller. His original compositions have been recorded by Skara Brae, the Bothy Band, Altan, 10,000 Maniacs, and others. In addition to performing and recording, he teaches and lectures on guitar styles, song accompaniment, and Irish traditional music as well as Irish language, literature, and mythology. He has taught at University College Dublin, the University of Minnesota, the University of St. Thomas, and (currently) the Center for Irish Music in St. Paul.

Opening the October concert will be **The Lost Forty**, the duo of multi-instrumentalists Brian Miller and Randy Gosa. The Lost Forty revive and perform the Irish-influenced songs of workers who roamed the Great Lakes region in the days when pine was king. Both Miller and Gosa have toured the US with Irish traditional music groups. Together, they combine a passion for Northwoods history and folklore with a gift for arrangements that bring to life this rich but under-explored music.

Brian Miller fell in love with Irish traditional music 25 years ago when he attended the Winnipeg Folk Festival. He moved from his hometown of Bemidji to St. Paul and has since become one of the most sought-after musicians in North America's Irish music scene. For his research into and revival of Irish-influenced music collected in the Great Lakes region he has received grants from the Minnesota State Arts Board as well as the Parsons Fund Award from the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress. He promotes the revival of regional songs through his blog, Northwoods Songs. Miller has toured throughout the US and Canada, and has been featured on MPR's *All Things Considered*,

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CBC Radio's *Canada Live*, and Ireland's RTE television, RTE radio, and TG4 television. He founded the Traditional Singers Club of the Twin Cities and he has spoken on the Irish song tradition at University College Cork (Ireland) and on Northwoods music at the University of Wisconsin and University of Minnesota. He has also written for the *Journal of American Folklore*.

Randy Gosa has been playing Irish music since 1999. As an undergraduate at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, he studied with several renowned Irish music masters including Liz Carroll and Sheila Shigley, studied at the University of Limerick in Ireland with Niall Keegan and Sandra Joyce, and completed the UWM Celtic Studies program. A founding member of the Milwaukee-based Celtic trio Cé, he performs nationally with the band Myserk and collaborates with a number of Midwest-based musicians. In addition to performing, he teaches at the Irish Fest School of Music and is an active céilí/set dance musician in Milwaukee.

Nov 20 Daniel Ho and Dani Joy Herreid

Daniel Ho met Dani Joy Herreid in 2018 when he gave an 'ukulele workshop at her father's music store in Roseville, CA. They recognized that they shared similar musical philosophies and soon began collaborating on stage and in the studio. This resulted in their 2020 EP of original songs, *Drop in My Flower*, which *'Ukulele Magazine* heralded as "poetic ... marvelously spare and tasteful ... a revelation." Their performance for us will showcase original 'ukulele and slack key guitar instrumentals combined with English- and Hawaiian-language songs. It will be a world-of-influences blend of melodic, harmonic,

and rhythmic layers that will take listeners on a journey filled with depth and delight.

We are glad that Annett Richter, the VP of our Board of Directors, was able to connect with Daniel in August for a wide-ranging and fascinating e-interview. Space does not permit running it here, but please visit the page on our website devoted to this concert for a link to download or view the PDF of the interview.

Our Season at a Glance

- September 25 René Izquierdo
- October 16 Dáithí Sproule and The Lost Forty
- November 20 Daniel Ho and Dani Joy Herreid
- December 11 Henry Johnston
- January 29 Aniello Desiderio
- February 26 Berta Rojas
- March 26 Grisha Goryachev
- April 30 Kupański Guitar Duo
- June 4 Classical Guitarathon

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During this year of ongoing changes, many of the issues brought into sharp focus by the events of 2020 remain to be addressed, and have placed new challenges in front of us.

Fundraising. The funding landscape for small non-profit arts organizations like the MGS has fundamentally, perhaps permanently, changed. We do have grants for the rest of 2021 to support Guitar In Our Schools, and two pending grants to continue that support through 2022. We do not have grant support for our 2021–22 concerts. New priorities and guidelines of public and private grant-makers mean that it is unlikely we will return to a pre-2020 normal for fundraising. The result for organizations like ours is that we must turn to you, our members, and ask for your continuing and, where possible, increased support. One way to provide this, when it’s time to renew your membership, is to use the monthly donation option through our website. For example, a \$50 annual membership, renewed at \$8 per month, would provide critically needed and increased support. Or help us rebuild our membership from the current 153 to 180 or more by telling friends and family—even random strangers at the grocery store—about the wonderful concerts and guitar education programs the MGS provides, and how even a \$25 membership helps make those happen. Or consider volunteering in a small or large way, such as by joining the...

Board of Directors. The members who serve on our board play a critical role in guiding and sustaining our organization. First, at our quarterly (online) meetings, they provide financial oversight, guidance on program-related decisions, and advice on goals, keeping our basic mission clearly in mind. In addition, board members serve on committees and assist at concerts and other events.

In the past, a new board member would begin an indefinite term, limited only by their ability and willingness to stay. In 2019, recognizing the increased commitments so many have at every stage of life, and hoping to attract people new to the MGS, we instituted a policy of two-year terms for board members, renewable if both the board member and the board desire. As a result, there will be more regular turnover on the board and an ongoing need to recruit new board members. We thank Scott Criqui, who stepped down in August, for two years of service, and expect to announce more departures in the next newsletter. An active search for candidates includes this open letter to you!

You, the members of the MGS, keep the ship afloat. A board of active, involved directors keeps us on course to offer world-class concerts and first-rate guitar instruction. If, as a valued MGS member, you want to take a bigger hand in helping us sail along, please contact me. I’ll buy the coffee and we can talk about the wonderful experience you could have on board with the MGS.

Stay safe and well. SEE YOU AT SUNDIN! —*Paul Hintz* / Email: <mgdir@mnguitar.org>

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New Partnership

MGS members may remember when our Community Concert Series partnered with organizations and venues around the metro area, including the Banfill-Locke Center for the Arts in Fridley. Times changed, the series ended, the partnerships went on hold.

Well, new times bring new opportunities. This past summer, the BCLA, under new leadership, changed its name back to its original one, North Suburban Center for the Arts and (as of next January) found a new home right down the road in Fridley. We're hoping a renewed partnership brings benefits to both our organizations (particularly members of the MGS who live in the western suburbs).

North Suburban Center for the Arts (NSCA) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization based in Fridley, with a mission to foster community through engagement with the arts. Like the MGS, the NSCA believes the arts are a powerful tool for connection, growth, accessibility, and innovation. Their programs create opportunities that encourage a lifelong connection to the arts. They serve artists, creatives, and community members alike, highlighting the creative networks in their community.

The NSCA recently launched a North Suburban Nights program with the goal of expanding community programming for the art center. Each Thursday, gallery hours are extended until 8 pm and visitors are welcomed for activities such as gallery talks, paint and sip nights, concerts, literature readings, and more! For more info about the events, visit <www.northsuburbanarts.org>. To start our MGS partnership with NSCA, members of our Board of Directors will provide guitaristic embellishments on two of those Thursday nights.



Thursday, Sept 23, Joe Haus performs. Like many of his generation, Joe Haus was watching the Ed Sullivan Show on Sunday, February 9, 1964, when the Beatles

performed. He started guitar lessons at Traficanti Music in the summer of 1967 and used his first paycheck from the MN State Fair to buy a good electric guitar. Discovering that the members of the band Chicago met in music school, he headed to college to learn music and take up the classical guitar. He studied with James McGuire. Since then he has played at weddings, art galleries, and other events and venues as a soloist and with flutist Kay Miller. As a soloist, he performs an eclectic mix of styles and genres.



Thursday, Nov 18, Bill Mask performs. Bill Mask is a multi-faceted guitarist. He has played rock and pop music in bands including Burlesque and the Fabulous Jaguars throughout Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, and Minnesota. He studied classical guitar with Jeffrey Van. He's played jazz with local groups including the University of Minnesota Jazz Band, Hi Fly, Pizzazz Jazz, and the Elmer Pierre Quartet. As a solo performer, he performs jazz arrangements and improvisations on standards from the Great American Songbook.

The Return of OpenStage

We're happy to announce the return of regular in-person sessions at the Eggroll Queen Music Café. Join us to see old friends and make new ones while we take turns making beautiful music for each other!

For complete information, visit the page on our website. Mark your calendar or train your Virtual Digital Assistant to remind you what and why to practice, and make sure you attend!

When? Second Sunday each month, 2 till 4 pm. This fall: Sept 12, Oct 10, and Nov 14.

In GIOS, we work with un- (or under-) funded music programs at metro area K-12 public schools to support guitar classes where they exist and help create them where the full-time music teaching staff and school administration have identified a need. We provide visits by visiting international artists to give masterclasses or mini-concerts, residencies by skilled and experienced local teaching artists, and material support (curriculum, guitars, accessories). We are currently working with two schools and have grants to fully fund the rest of 2021.

Our Partners

We're happy to announce that in addition to grant funding support from the Augustine Foundation and the Minnesota State Arts Board and product donation support from the D'Addario Foundation, we have also received a generous product-purchase-credit from Reverb Gives, the charitable subsidiary of Reverb, the online musical instruments and equipment marketplace.

We're glad to be returning to **Roosevelt High School in Minneapolis** for another year to support music teacher Nick Wilson (band, orchestra, general music) and his strong two-semester program of guitar classes. Our September concert artist, René Izquierdo, will be visiting the class the day before his Sundin Hall concert to play for the students and engage in some spirited Q&A. We're looking forward to working with his guitar class this fall and hope that we can help Nick with his plan to start a guitar orchestra at Roosevelt in the near future.

Our newest partner school, **Parkway Middle School in St. Paul**, is one of the few Montessori middle schools in Minnesota. This creative, student-focused model is well-represented by Parkway music teacher Denae Olson, who single-handedly launched a guitar class with some duct-taped-together instruments and only a basic knowledge of

the guitar. The class always fills, even when it's online! We didn't provide a new supply of duct tape, but last year we did send more than a dozen new guitars, and an energetic visiting teacher (Ben Abrahamson) who did wonderful work online with the students, creating special video lessons for them to use.

We hope to establish a working relationship with at least one new school this fall. Details in the next issue.

Our Teachers

Ben Abrahamson has performed across Minnesota, including several MGS events, and beyond. He's a part of the Acoustic Guitar Showcase and a member of the flamenco community. He's also 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 team, he'll return to Parkway Middle School in St. Paul this fall and work with the guitar class every day.

The newest member of our team of teachers, **Ryan Picone**, is a multi-instrumentalist who holds a master's degree in music performance from Arizona State University, where he studied under Frank Koonce. He also studied under Lorenzo Micheli at the CSI Conservatory in Lugano, Switzerland, where he received his certificate of completion. A guitarist for over 22 years, he has been teaching and playing professionally for over 14 years. He has performed in Italy, Switzerland, Turkey, and all across the US. His teaching background includes classroom guitar for students from kindergarten to undergraduate, studio teaching, and presenting masterclasses. As a performer, he has a special interest in the "Hot Club" style of jazz pioneered by Django Reinhardt. For our team, he'll be visiting the guitar class at Roosevelt High School once a week this fall, working one-on-one with students as well as coaching them as a group.



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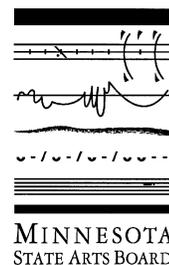
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AMP FOR SALE. Rivera R55-112 amplifier, black. Built in 1998 or 1999. 55 watts, 12-in speaker. Like-new condition, including 3-switch foot pedal effects/channel switch also in like-new condition. All-tube amp (12AX7A preamp, EL-34 power) has probably less than 10 hours on it. (Thought I would rock; but I sit and fingerpick.) This is the same basic model that Rick Nielsen used on stage for years (different paint job). \$800, local Twin Cities pick-up. Call Jim Blilie at (651) 766-8757.

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DUO INTEREST? Banjo (and guitar player) looking for guitarist to play together. I started playing banjo in June 2020. Am improving all the time, but looking to truly become a better player by being part of a duo ... or a trio if there are two of you out there. Email Melanie at <jmchristianson@comcast.net> if interested. Ideally someone from western suburbs but doesn't have to be.

The Minnesota Guitar Society

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