



# Guitarist

## 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.

The Minnesota Guitar Society • PO Box 14986 / Minneapolis MN 55414 • Vol. 38 No. 2 / Summer Issue 2022

## The 2022–2023 Season at Sundin Music Hall



Top row: Bokyung Byun (performing in September),  
Darko Bageski (performing in October), Emma Rush (performing in December).

Middle row: Salzburg Guitar Trio (performing in February),  
Raphaël Feuillâtre (performing in March).

At right: Jérémy Jouve (performing in April).

**IN THIS ISSUE . . .** International Artists concert information, pages 2 to 5;  
Society news (including the return of the Youth Guitarathon), page 6;  
Guitar in Our Schools update, page 7.

The 2022–23 concert series at Sundin Music Hall promises to be especially exciting. Beyond our hopes that the season will reflect a return to a more normal concert experience, we are pleased to start and end the season with return visits by two very memorable artists. In between, we will be introducing our audiences to artists from Macedonia, Canada, Germany, England, and France who are all visiting Minnesota for the first time. We thank the Guitar Foundation of America for their support in making three concerts—by Bokyung Byun, Salzburg Guitar Trio, and Raphaël Feuillâtre—possible as a result of the artists' first prize awards in GFA competitions.

## September 24: Bokyung Byun

Bokyung Byun's first concert here, in the fall of 2019, was a highlight of that pandemic-shortened season. At that time, she had already established a reputation as a gifted artist.

Praised by *Classical Guitar Magazine* as “confident and quite extraordinary,” Korean guitarist Bokyung Byun enjoys a reputation as one of the most sought-after guitarists of her generation. Byun holds the distinction of being the first female winner of the prestigious JoAnn Falletta International Guitar Concerto Competition, where Falletta herself described Byun's performance as “stunning, showcasing her gorgeous tone, immaculate technique, and sophisticated musicianship.” This win is among many. Byun has excelled in the competitive circuit. Her return to our concert series this

season is part of a year-long concert tour awarded for winning the Guitar Foundation of America's International Concert Artist Competition grand prize in 2021, known as the most prestigious guitar competition in the world.

Many orchestras, festivals, workshops, and guitar societies look to Byun for solo performances and masterclasses. In recent seasons, she has performed as a soloist with such orchestras as the Buffalo Philharmonic, the Utah Symphony, West Los Angeles Symphony, New Juilliard Ensemble, and the Aspen Music Festival Orchestra. Solo recital highlights include performances at the Kumho Young Artist Series, Philadelphia Guitar Festival, Aspen-Salida Concert Series, Toronto Guitar Weekend, Guitar Montréal, Ellnora/The Guitar Festival, and San Diego Guitar Festival. She was praised for performing “eloquently through a diverse and challenging program,” by Michelle Fratus, president of the board of the Knoxville Guitar Society, and for having “confidence, passion, excellent projection, and great dynamic contrast” by Heather Morand Clark, president of the Guitar Society of Toronto.

Committed to expanding the role of a 21st-century musician, Byun's concert program often features contemporary music alongside traditional repertoire. As she herself says, “it's vital and exciting to audiences for concerts to join the new with the old. For guitar music to continue to grow, I believe that new works must

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actively be cultivated in programming, and it is my hope that audiences leave my performances with new experiences.” Her skill at navigating both classic repertoire and fresh work led her to co-found Sounding Board: The New Music Initiative for Guitarists and Composers. This project focuses on promoting collaborative relationships between composers and performers to create new works for guitar. Its inaugural festival in Besançon, France in 2019 was described as “extraordinary, in the strict sense of the word,” by *La Presse de Gray* in France.

Byun’s debut recording in 2020 was praised in *Soundboard* magazine as “a very beautiful disc. From the first notes of the “Gallarda” from Castelnuovo-Tedesco’s *Escarraman*, we are treated to extraordinary musicianship, technical assurance, and beauty of sound.” The reviewer in *American Record Guide* wrote of the CD’s selections that “Byun’s interpretation enlivens them with creative phrasings, articulations, spacing, and dynamics, which take the listener beyond most performances I have heard.”

Born in Seoul, Korea, Byun began playing guitar at the age of six. At 11, she took the stage for her first solo recital, leading to an early start performing numerous concert tours around Korea. She received enthusiastic responses, including millions of views on YouTube. By her teen years, she had gained national attention for first-prize finishes in three renowned competitions: the Korea Guitar Association, the Music Association of Korea, and the Guitar Foundation of America International Youth Competition.

Byun soon moved to the United States, where she briefly studied in Los Angeles before moving to New York City, where she entered The Juilliard School at the age of 16. She holds Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees from The Juilliard School and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Southern California. She is grateful for the masterful instruction of her teachers, who include Scott Tennant, William Kanengiser, Chen Zhi, Tae-soo Kim, and Sharon Isbin.

In 2020, Byun co-founded Guitarlab, an innovative online learning platform offering cutting-edge classes designed for young professionals around the world. Byun is currently on the guitar faculty of California State University Fullerton.

She is sponsored by Augustine Strings and plays a guitar by Dieter Mueller (2019).

## **October 22: Darko Bageski**

Darko Bageski was born in 1981 in Skopje, the capital and largest city of North Macedonia. He started his education in music (primary and part of secondary education) as a student in the DMBUC (State Music and Ballet Educational Centre) Ilija Nikolovski Luj in Skopje.

Further on, Bageski graduated from secondary school (Pavao Markovac in Zagreb, Croatia), continued his education at The Liszt School of Music Weimar, Germany, and, after graduation, did post-graduate studies at the State Conservatory of Thessaloniki, Greece, where he earned his master’s degree.

In the course of his education Bageski participated in numerous professional masterclasses by eminent professors and pedagogues of classical guitar, including Zoran Krajishnik (Serbia), Thomas Miller Pering (Germany), Laura Young (Canada), Zoran Dukić (Croatia), Aniello Desiderio (Italy), Nikita Koshkin (Russia), Ernesto Bitetti (Argentina), Carlo Marchione (Italy), and Odair Assad (Brazil).

Bageski has given many solo concerts and performances in Macedonia, Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria, Germany, Greece, Sweden, and the US, including performances as a soloist in many chamber orchestras and with the Macedonian Philharmonic Orchestra. He currently works as a full-time guitar professor at the Faculty of Fine Arts-Music in Skopje.

## **November 19: Youth Guitarathon**

This annual (2007–2012) event will be showcased at Sundin Music Hall for the first time. Specially priced tickets will be sold separately for this event. See page 7 for more information.

## **December 10: Emma Rush**

Over the past decade, Emma Rush has established herself as one of Canada’s preeminent classical guitarists, known for her innovative programming, powerful stage presence, warm sound, and virtuosic technique.

Rush’s concert career has commanded world recognition. Recent touring highlights include a four-city tour in China, starting with the Altamira Shanghai International Guitar Festival, appearances at major guitar festivals including Festival de Guitarras Lagos de Moreno (Mexico), the Nyköping Gitaarseminarium (Sweden), and a prestigious concert at the Internationales Gitarren Symposium, Iserlohn (Germany). She performs frequently in Europe and tours throughout North America. In 2016–17, she toured extensively in Eastern Canada as a Debut Atlantic artist. She performs regularly with flutist Sara Traficante as the Azuline Duo. In 2018–19 the duo toured Western Canada through the Yukon, British Columbia, and Alberta. Rush recently appeared in the McMichael Gallery’s Group of Seven Guitar Project documentary alongside such notable guitarists as Bruce Cockburn, Jesse Cook, and Don Ross. In 2018, Rush completed two residencies to both create and do research at the Sointula Art Shed in British Columbia and in Lübeck, Germany.

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Rush is passionate about bringing classical music to unusual spaces and unusual music to classical spaces. She regularly tours rural, remote, and other communities where live music experiences are rare. Her concerts are intimate and engaging and feature rarely heard historical works, little-known gems of the Latin American guitar repertoire, folkloric music from around the world, and, always, music by female composers.

*Wake the Sigh* is Rush's latest project. This program, recorded and released in 2020, showcases music written for guitar by women in the 19th century. In this significant contribution to the guitar library, works by seven largely unknown composers are brought to light. The compositions on all but three of the tracks are previously unrecorded. An earlier recording, *Canadiana* (2017), features arrangements of songs by classic Canadian songwriters (Joni Mitchell, Gordon Lightfoot, Stan Rogers) and a suite dedicated to Emma Rush by Canadian composer William Beauvais. Her debut album, *Folklorica* (2014), takes listeners to four continents with works inspired by folk music and legend.

Composers are eager for Rush to perform their music. She has had works dedicated to her by the Canadian composers William Beauvais and Timothy Phelan, Mexican composer Winy Kellner, and Brazilian composer Jaime Zenamon. Rush is enthusiastic about expanding the Canadian guitar catalogue and has commissioned new works from Amy Brandon, Dale Kavanagh, Jeffrey McFadden, and Craig Visser.

Rush is an avid collaborator. In addition to her activities with Azuline Duo, Rush performs Guitar Magic concerts with acoustic guitarist James Bryan (Philosopher Kings, Prozzak). The two perform high-energy sets that showcase classical and fingerstyle guitar playing and how the two styles can come together. Rush has toured with Canadian guitarist Timothy Phelan and German guitarist Eva Beneke.

Rush is an award-winning artist and was a prizewinner at the Columbus International Guitar Competition and the Great Lakes Guitar Competition. She has received three City of Hamilton Arts Awards. Her work has been supported by the Canada Council for the Arts, Ontario Arts Council, Hamilton City Enrichment Fund, and FACTOR.

Rush completed graduate studies at the Hochschule für Musik in Detmold, Germany (2006), after receiving an honors Bachelor of Music degree from Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia (2002).

## February 25: Salzburg Guitar Trio

Rapidly achieving international recognition as one of the leading guitar ensembles of the new generation, the Salz-

burg Guitar Trio engages its audiences with their energetic presence and deeply emotional performances. Their unique repertoire includes newly commissioned works for guitar trio and transcriptions of orchestral and keyboard works by the finest composers.

Salzburg Guitar Trio has performed extensively throughout Europe. Recent highlights include a televised concert at the Garrigues Guitar Festival, a tour of the northwestern provinces of Spain, and concerts at music festivals such as the Costa Dourada Music Festival, the Ciutat d'Elx Guitar Festival, the Valle dei Laghi International Guitar Festival, and the Stuttgart International Classic Guitar Festival.

One of the trio's most exciting projects was their time spent as artists in residence based in Gaudi's famous modernist building, "La Pedrera," in Barcelona. During the residency, Catalan composer Jose Galeote dedicated his work *La Pedrera—En Construcció* to the trio. Inspired by Gaudi's remarkable architecture, the trio had the pleasure of premiering the work inside La Pedrera.

The trio has won first prizes at the Ciutat d'Elx Guitar Festival in Spain, the Corelli-Savarez Chamber Music Competition in Salzburg, the Valle dei Laghi Guitar Festival in Italy, and, most recently, the Guitar Foundation of America's International Ensemble Competition in 2021. At the Gorizia Guitar Competition and the Paganini Guitar Festival in Parma, Italy, the trio received second and third prizes, respectively.

Salzburg Guitar Trio consists of Katie Lonson (Canada), Stefan Volpp (Germany) and Andrew Booth (England). It was formed while members were finishing their postgraduate solo guitar studies at the Mozarteum University in Salzburg, Austria. Volpp joined the trio in 2020, replacing original member Izan Rubio (Spain).

## March 25: Raphaël Feuillâtre

We are especially happy to present Raphaël Feuillâtre as part of this season. His originally scheduled concert, in April of 2020, was cancelled due to the pandemic shutdown which began the month before and brought an abrupt, early end to our concert series that season.

Raphaël Feuillâtre is a young Paris-based virtuoso of the classical guitar. Born in 1996, he started classical guitar lessons at the age of nine, first with Hacène Addadi at Cholet Conservatory and later with Michel Grizard in Nantes. In 2014, he was accepted by the Paris National Superior Conservatory of Music and Dance (CNSMDP) into the class of Roland Dyens and his assistant Jean-Marc Zvellenreuther and obtained his Bachelor of Performing Arts degree in 2017 with highest honors. He is currently working on his master's degree in classical guitar performance with Tristan Manoukian. Various internships and training courses contributed to

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his musical development, in particular those with Arnaud Sans, Gabriel Bianco, and Judicaël Perroy.

Feuillâtre likes to enrich his repertoire by arranging the works of J. S. Bach, D. Scarlatti, and E. Granados for the classical guitar.

He is regularly invited to perform chamber music and solo repertoire at multiple guitar festivals in France. He has given concerts in Seville, Spain, with the Nantes Conservatory String Orchestra, and made a five-concert tour with the Pau orchestral ensemble.

Feuillâtre has won prizes at numerous classical guitar competitions. Among them, in 2017, he won First Prize at the International Guitar Competition Jose Tomas—Villa Petrer in Spain, and Third Prize in the Kutna Hora International Biennial Guitar Competition in the Czech Republic. His performance on our Sundin Music Hall concert series this season a rescheduled part of the 50-concert international tour arranged by the Guitar Foundation of America as part of his First Prize, awarded at the 2018 GFA International Concert Artist Competition.

## April 15: Jérémy Jouve

Acclaimed by international radio FIP as “the ambassador for classical guitar worldwide,” Jérémy Jouve combines international tours, recordings, and collaborations with the greatest performers and composers.

His studies at the Ecole Normale de Musique and at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse (CNSMD) in Paris, where he followed the teaching of the great masters Alberto Ponce and Roland Dyens, oriented him towards a committed and poetic approach to music, an incessant search for beautiful sound, and a deep love and respect for the original compositions.

His career as a young prodigy began with a first concerto performance with an orchestra at age 10, a gold medal awarded by the conservatory at 13, and a first European tour at 16. He won the prestigious Guitar Foundation of America (GFA) International Concert Artist competition first prize at the age of 24 in Mexico.

From this extraordinary start, Jouve brings a strong mark of sincerity that he transmits today with passion to his students at the Conservatoire à rayonnement régional de Paris and the Pôle Supérieur Paris Boulogne-Billancourt, as well as during the masterclasses he delivers while touring.

In 2003, the GFA Prize opened the doors to a five-month North American tour and a first recording with Naxos records. Jouve then released, in 2008 and 2011, on the same label, two albums devoted to the challenging works for solo guitar of Joaquín Rodrigo. Following this, a Melbay Concert Live DVD (released in 2009) and a Reference Recordings album, *Traveling Sonata*, with

flutist Viviana Guzman (nominated for a Grammy award in 2012) completed this cycle of recordings.

The album *Cavalcade* (released in 2015), the fruit of Jouve’s encounter with French composer Mathias Duplessy, opens the way to a series of collaborations with renowned composers such as Thierry Escaich, Karol Beffa, and François Meïmoun, as well as with great chamber musicians such as François Salque and Pierre Fouchenneret, and artists performing world music such as Prabhu Edouard. Jouve is also the artistic director of a festival he founded in 2019, the International Festival “Guitare en Alpes” in Savoie (France), of which Cecilia Rodrigo, daughter of the famous composer, is the god-mother. Combining chamber music including the guitar and new compositions, this is a one-of-a-kind festival that brings together the greatest talents around classical guitar and greatly contributes to the growth of the instrument’s repertoire.

Jouve is currently devoted to the recording of two new albums, one featuring new chamber music compositions by Mathias Duplessy and the other with his long-time accomplice, violinist Pierre Fouchenneret.

Jouve recently premiered Thierry Escaich’s very first concerto for guitar and string orchestra, with the Orchestre des Pays de Savoie. In 2023 he will premiere several new works by François Meïmoun, including a concerto for guitar and percussion with Adélaïde Ferrière and the Orchestre des Pays de Savoie.

Jérémy Jouve plays on Savarez Alliance red and Cantiga Premium blue strings.

## May 20: The Classical Guitarathon

No season would be complete without this annual celebration of new and established regional artists. Watch for details in the spring 2023 issue of this newsletter, and as always visit our website for updates on all our concerts and other programs.

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## Youth Guitarathon Returns!

We're delighted to announce the relaunch of our annual Youth Guitarathon concert. We're able to bring this back thanks to a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board to support our Guitar Education programs. We're grateful for the willingness of Youth Guitarathon founder Brent Weaver and co-coordinator Christopher Becknell to return and help us do this right.

The concert will be held on Saturday, November 19 at Sundin Music Hall. We expect to present the performers in two one-hour segments, the first from 5:30 pm till 6:30 pm for younger students, and the second from 7:30 pm till 8:30 pm for students ages 14 to 21.

Performers will be chosen by audition in mid-October, at a location TBD. This is not a competitive event—no one will be declared a “winner” in the Guitarathon. We will have a panel of three experienced judges who are guitarists from different backgrounds. Criteria for the selection of soloists and ensembles will be based on musicianship, skill level, stage presence, and diversity of style. All guitarists who audition will receive a comment sheet from the judges. We will strive to make this process a friendly, supportive environment while providing the players with valuable, positive feedback.

Our goal is to nurture and encourage young guitarists. This event will celebrate up and coming young guitar students of various styles, ages (6 to 21), and levels, solo or in an ensemble.

Players who are unable to attend the audition may send a video of their playing before the audition date.

As many of our readers know, the Minnesota Guitar Society has presented guitarathons for years. In fact, our first concert was a guitarathon. These have featured primarily adult, professional-level performers in various styles. When students have participated they have always been well received.

But concerts focused only on student guitarists have been limited. Most often, to perform in public as a student means stressful competitions and contests intended for only classical guitarists. The Youth Guitarathon is different from, and broader than, that.

We want to offer a new opportunity for all young guitarists.

We will include an application form in the fall issue of our newsletter, and we will also have it available on a page of our website devoted to the Youth Guitarathon. Look for that in early August.

Applications must be received by September 30.

We will be asking a small (\$5) registration fee per student. If that is any obstacle to anyone participating, please make a note of that on the registration form and we'll waive the fee.

Questions?

Please contact Paul Hintz at [mmdir@mnguitar.org](mailto:mmdir@mnguitar.org).

## We Need Volunteers

Since its beginning, the MGS has depended on volunteers to do the tasks related to our concert series, our newsletter, and other publicity. For the past 20 years, the MGS has relied on the services of a part-time, paid Managing Director to coordinate and fill in any gaps around those tasks. But he sure can't do it alone! Here's a summary of what we need now:

First, we want to plan a series of fundraising events including, but not limited to, a raffle and a special concert or gathering of some kind. We need an Events Committee to fine-tune the ideas and do the work of putting the pieces together.

Second, we need a Publicity Committee. We want to connect with more members of the general guitar community. We need ideas, and interested folks who will meet to discuss and, most importantly, implement some of those ideas (to see which ones work).

Third, we want to start a Concerts Committee to help with transportation of visiting artists, pre-concert chores in the lobby at Sundin, and maybe even...bringing the refreshments for intermission. No experience necessary.

Lastly, we need someone with social media and (especially) video editing skills to help with our online presence and to be available if we need or want to record and upload (to our YouTube channel) one or more of our concerts next season.

The time commitment varies for each of these roles. But they're all important parts of making our concert season happen. If you're interested, please contact Paul Hintz at [<mmdir@mnguitar.org>](mailto:mmdir@mnguitar.org).

## Board of Directors Update

We're happy to welcome two new members to our board. Long-time MGS member Mark DelCogliano has taken on the vacant Secretary position. Craig Stacey, a newcomer to the MGS, brings decades of experience in marketing and promotion and enthusiasm for all things guitar.

## OpenStage Has A New Home!

We've begun meeting at Amore coffeehouse in West St. Paul. Still the second Sunday each month and a 2:00 pm start time. Visit our website for details. Plan to join us to play or just listen. The menu there is great, too.

## Event in the West Metro

Thanks to MGS board member Mark Chase, we're participating in an outdoor artisan market called Artimer that is hosted each month by Back Channel Brewery in Spring Park (on Lake Minnetonka). We'll be there on Wednesday, June 29 from 5 till 8 pm. We'll have a table with information about the MGS, and provide live music. Mark is doing a solo set of originals and covers, followed by the duo of Ben Abrahamson and Ryan Picone. For more info visit [<www.backchannelbrewing.com/events>](http://www.backchannelbrewing.com/events).



**W**e're very happy to announce that our Guitar In Our Schools program was awarded two large grants this past January. We continue (for the 4th consecutive year) to receive support and encouragement from the Augustine Foundation, whose initial grant enabled us to launch the GIOS program in 2019. In addition, for the second year in a row, we have received a grant (this time, the largest single grant in our history) from the Minnesota State Arts Board Creative Support for Organizations program. That grant includes support for us to relaunch the Youth Guitarathon annual concert. Lastly, we have also received a grant from the D'Addario Foundation that includes both financial support and an in-kind donation of enough strings to restring our entire inventory of GIOS guitars!

Taken together, these grants guarantee that we can continue to send our team of teaching artists to work with students at our partnering schools in Minneapolis and St. Paul. This spring we worked with three schools. Ryan Picone was at Roosevelt High School in Minneapolis. Ben Abrahamson was at Harding High School and Parkway Middle School in St. Paul. Next fall will see changes in our partners, as both the Minneapolis and St. Paul districts are dealing with declining enrollment and decreased revenue. Meetings are scheduled with the teachers we worked with at those schools. We hope that we'll have teaching artists at up to four schools, and that our fall concert artists will each do a school visit as part of their weekend with us.



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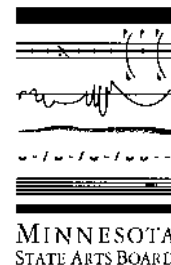
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**DUO INTEREST?** Banjo (and guitar player) looking for guitarist to play together. I started playing banjo in June 2020. Am improving all the time, but looking to truly become a better player by being part of a duo ... or a trio if there are two of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

**BANJOS FOR SALE: Deering Boston 5 string banjo.** Excellent condition. \$1,500 or best offer. **Bacon and Day tenor banjo.** Circa 1930. Price TBD. Contact Don Martin at <martindonald67@yahoo.com>.

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**GUITAR FOR SALE: 1964 C. F. Martin D12-20 12-string, S/N 198954.** Mahogany back and sides; rosewood bridge and fingerboard; original tortoise style pickguard. Original bridge, frets and tuners. Top and sides show some normal wear from almost 60 years of use, but no cracks or bowing. Tunes easily and maintains the tuning. Comes with padded, velvet-lined hard-shell case, capos, and numerous picks. \$3,000. For pics or more info, call/text Dave Buending at (952) 486-0836 or email <ad2b@arrrl.net>.

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**GUITARS FOR SALE: 2021 Cordoba C12,** spruce/Indian rosewood, 650 mm scale, 52 mm nut, mint condition, \$1,549. **2005 Sakurai-Kohno Pro J,** spruce/Brazilian rosewood, 650 mm scale, 52 mm nut, mint condition, \$5,999. **2015 Cordoba Master Series Hauser,** spruce/Indian Rosewood, 640 mm scale, 51 mm nut, excellent condition, \$3,499. A hardshell case is included with each guitar. Email Paul at <BachBeethoven@Mail2World.com>.

**The Minnesota Guitar Society**

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