



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 2021–2022 Concert Season Showcases Artists from Around the World



TOP (L to R): René Izquierdo, Dáithí Sproule, The Lost Forty duo. MIDDLE (L to R): Daniel Ho and Dani Joy Herried, Berta Rojas.
BOTTOM (L to R): Grisha Goryachev, Aniello Desiderio, Henry Johnston, the Kupiński Guitar Duo.

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A Happy Return to Sundin Music Hall!

Thank you to everyone who joined us online this past season. We shared some wonderful music making. For those who found online to be a convenient or valuable alternative, and for all who responded to our survey last month, please know that we plan to offer some of our concerts both in-person *and* online during 2021–22. Details are being settled as we go to press. Updates will be shared on our website in August and in the fall newsletter. Now we're all excited to get back to in-person listening, so let's introduce (and in two cases, welcome back) the artists for our upcoming season.

September 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, or 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.

October 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) at 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 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 been featured on MPR's *All Things Considered*, CBC Radio's *Canada Live*, and Ireland's RTE television, RTE radio, and TG4 television. He founded the

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Traditional Singers Club of the Twin Cities and 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.

November 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.

December 11 Henry Johnston

St. Paul native **Henry Johnston** is no stranger to the MGS or to the stage at Sundin Music Hall. He began studying guitar at age 6 with his father, Alan Johnston. From a young age, he enjoyed success in international competitions. At age 12, he won second place in the 2009 Guitar Foundation of America's International Guitar Competition, competing in the junior division. In April 2011, he performed at the Fitzgerald Theatre in St. Paul as one of five winners of *MN Varsity*, Minnesota Public Radio's first annual competition for young classical singers and instrumentalists. That same month he became the youngest guitarist ever to win first prize in the Schubert Club Competition, competing with guitarists nearly twice his age.

While in high school, he was the sole private student of the late classical guitarist John Holmquist. After gradua-

tion, he moved to Paris to study for a year with French guitarist Judicaël Perroy and enrolled at the Conservatoire de Musique et de Danse in Aulnay-sous-Bois, then returned to the US to earn a bachelor's degree in classical guitar performance at the University of Texas at Austin and proceeded to win numerous prizes in international competitions. In April 2018, he was selected as a recipient of the University of Texas Board of Regents' Outstanding Student Award in Arts and Humanities. He currently lives in New York City, where he is pursuing a master's degree at The Juilliard School, studying under Sharon Isbin.

January 29 Aniello Desiderio

At age 8, **Aniello Desiderio** performed in public for the first time, displaying such outstanding gifts that music critics started to speak of him as an "enfant prodige," "wunderkind," "a genius," "the Orpheus of the guitar," and "il Fenomeno." He has won 18 first-place awards in national and international competitions, and performs as a recitalist and soloist with orchestras in the Americas, Europe, Asia, and Africa in the most important theaters and at some of the most prestigious music festivals. In 1999, German Television BR/ARD produced a music film and portrait of him that was broadcast throughout Europe. Honors include an "Artist in Residence Award 1999" from German Radio DLF and the Musikfest Bremen. Recent appearances have included performances with the Bavarian Chamber Orchestra and the Istanbul State Symphony Orchestra in Turkey. He has recorded for several well-known European labels as well as for his own company, Adoro Records. He is a professor at the Conservatorio Domenico Cimarosa of Avellino (Italy). In 2017, he released his latest record, *Nocturnal*.

February 26 Berta Rojas

Berta Rojas returns to our concert series after too long an absence. Ranked among today's foremost classical guitarists, she has been nominated three times for Latin Grammy Awards. Her warmth and musicality have earned her the admiration of audiences at major venues worldwide, including Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center in New York. In 2011, with the legendary Paquito D'Rivera, she initiated the 4-year tour "In the Footsteps of Mangoré," which followed the travels of Agustín Barrios, pioneer of the classical guitar in the Americas. The duo performed in 20 Latin American and Caribbean countries, concluding the tour at the national theater of El Salvador (in the capital, San Salvador, Barrios's final resting place). Rojas

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always takes her audience on a colorful journey of sound, embracing new works by composers in diverse genres. That journey echoes in all her recordings, including the celebrated *Intimate Barrios* (2008). On her latest, *Felicidade* (2017), she pays tribute to Brazilian music; guest artists include Gilberto Gil, Toquinho, and Ivan Lins.

In her tours and masterclasses to promote the classical guitar, a priority is the music of her native Paraguay, and Latin American music in general. Equally important to her is supporting the careers of young, upcoming guitarists. With this aim, she created the first online classical guitar competition, the Barrios World Wide Web Competition, in 2009, and was the Artistic Director of the Ibero-American Guitar Festival at the Smithsonian Museum in Washington D.C. She also co-founded the Beatty Music Scholarship Competition for Classical Guitar, offering young winners the opportunity to perform at the John F. Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. After initial studies in Paraguay with Felipe Sosa and Violeta de Mestral, Rojas studied in Uruguay under Abel Carlevaro, Eduardo Fernández, and Mario Payseé, and at the Peabody Institute in Baltimore under Manuel Barrueco, Ray Chester, and Julian Gray. She recently joined Berklee College of Music in Boston as an associate professor, working with a select group of young guitarists from all over the world.


March 26 Grisha Goryachev

A native of St. Petersburg, Russia, Grisha Goryachev is renowned for his musical sensitivity and technical virtuosity in both classical and flamenco styles. Goryachev is one of a handful of guitarists in the world who are reviving the

tradition of solo flamenco guitar in a concert setting, as it was practiced by such legendary flamenco masters as Ramón Montoya and Sabicas. He strives to keep alive old flamenco masterpieces that now exist only on records by performing them in concert. Instead of merely copying them, he creates his own interpretations, using dynamics and tone colors usually associated with classical guitar. He began playing guitar at age 6, studying first with his father Dmitry, a master teacher of the instrument. At age 9, he began his performing career. His appearances before large audiences in the most prestigious concert halls in the Soviet Union were highly praised. Following a tour of Spain, Goryachev was invited to play for flamenco legend Paco de Lucía, who soon after personally intervened in support of his application for a US visa, awarded in 1997 based on “Extraordinary Ability.” In May 2005 he received the prize for Best Performance of Spanish Music at the VI International Classical Guitar Competition “Julian Arcás” in Almería, Spain. He received his BM, MM, and DMA from the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, where he studied under Eliot Fisk. In 2006, he was one of 30 people to become a fellow of the distinguished Paul & Daisy Soros Fellowship, recognizing him as exceptional in his chosen field. Since coming to the US, he has toured extensively here and abroad as a performer, instructor, and judge. A firm believer in exposing young people to the beauty of classical and flamenco guitar, he likes to include outreach performances and workshops at schools as part of his concert tours. His YouTube videos have collected over two million views. He has recorded two CDs, *Alma Flamenca* and *Homenaje a Sabicas*.

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April 30 Kupiński Guitar Duo

The Kupiński Guitar Duo is one of Europe’s most renowned guitar duos, acclaimed by both the public and critics alike for their brilliant technique, passion, quality of sound, and matchless elegance. In addition to their numerous solo achievements, after graduating from the Karol Szymanowski Academy of Music in Katowice (Poland) and the Hochschule für Musik in Weimar (Germany), **Dariusz Jablczynska** and **Ewa Kupiński** decided to establish their guitar duo, bringing to their performances a masterful sense of ensemble and charming personal chemistry. They have been honored multiple times with awards and scholarships for artistic achievement. They have played recitals throughout Europe, the US, Mexico, China, and Japan. As a result of their passion for education, they have been invited to give masterclasses in Europe, Asia, and the US. Jablczynska holds a degree in guitar performance and is a tenured professor at the Jan Długosz University in Częstochowa (Poland). Kupiński holds a doctorate in guitar performance and teaches at the Karol Szymanowski Academy of Music in Katowice (Poland). In 2018–19, the Duo resided in the US for an 18-month research and recording project at the University of Louisville, funded by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of Poland. In 2011, their debut CD, *Spanish Music*, was released, attracting fans all over the world. Their 2016 CD, *Recital*, features arrangements of music by

Chopin, Rossini, Piazzolla, and Gershwin. This year, two new CDs will be released, one with contemporary music and one with Romantic music.

June 4 Classical Guitarathon

No concert season would be complete without its annual finale, the perennially popular Classical Guitarathon. This season, as always, it is sure to feature a line-up of stellar performers, both new friends and long-time favorites of the MGS. The spring 2022 newsletter will have all the details, or stop by the MGS website for the latest, where you can also sign up for our email list.

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 Kupiński Guitar Duo
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Dear Friends,

We've got news and it's all good!

Grants. We're looking for financial support to relaunch the Youth Guitarathon and launch a Community Guitar Orchestra. We hope to have more information about these programs in the next issue. Grants have been written, and more prospects are being researched, to support our Guitar Education Programs in 2022. A grant is pending that would provide additional support for the upcoming concert series. A decision on that grant is expected by the end of July. Updates will be posted on our website in August (another reason to visit there) and reported in the fall newsletter, to be mailed in early September.

Board of Directors. It would have been far more difficult, if not impossible, to navigate the troubled waters of the last 15 months without the extraordinary efforts of our board. All its members played a vital role in giving active advice and guidance as important decisions about budgets and programs were made. In addition, board members gave of their time and expertise in these particular ways:

Resident tech consultant **Enrique Ortega** worked with every concert artist, and several long-distance studio engineers, to ensure that each video arrived on time, looked good, sounded good, and was ready to go when it was time to view the concert. He also introduced the board as a whole to the team-building Slack platform so we could more easily exchange messages, documents, and the occasional cute pet picture.

Treasurer **Bill Mask**, Finance Committee Chair **Mary Ellison**, and the other members of that committee, **David Buending** and board VP **Annett Richter**, helped us move to and learn to use a solid set of financial tracking and planning documents. David also agreed to step in as Secretary when Dan Lehn needed to step back from that role.

Jackson Simon updated and upgraded our database and is leading our move to an integrated platform that will let us do a dramatically better job of serving and staying in touch with you, our members.

Board Pres Joe Haus kept us on-task on Zoom every quarterly meeting, and made sure the Zoom version of OpenStage, if not as satisfying as the in-person real thing, at least happened on time and kept everyone connected. Doug Whorton kept us in contact with the Eggroll Queen Café, long-time home for OpenStage, and thanks to his efforts we resume in-person sessions this month (see our website page for more info).

Scott Criqui helped create our successful GiveMN campaigns. Artistic Director **Joe Hagedorn**, beyond the record-keeping, mailings, season planning, and assorted other constant tasks he normally does, made sure we kept in touch with the artists as we pivoted to pandemic-response mode. **Dan Lehn** and his great team at Cadenza Music not only provide an essential link to current and potential school partners for our education programs, but also play a key role in the care and feeding of our supply of guitars for those programs.

You, the members of the MGS, keep the ship afloat. A board of active and involved directors keeps us on course to offer world-class concerts and first-rate guitar instruction. We hope that every member of the MGS renews their membership, and stays with us for a long, long time. We also hope every member of the board is willing to serve for years. But that service does and will come to an end for each board member. In the coming months, several need to and will step down. If you, as a valued MGS member, want to make a bigger contribution to sailing along, please contact me. I'll buy the coffee and we'll talk about the great adventure of being a director on the MGS board.

Stay safe. Stay well. And once again, SEE YOU AT SUNDIN! —Paul Hintz / Email: <mgdir@mnguitar.org>

Guitar Opportunities for All Learners (GOAL)

Last year, with a grant from the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council's Arts Learning program, we launched a new program, Guitar Opportunities for All Learners (GOAL). The purpose of the GOAL program is to provide meaningful, ongoing guitar learning to students with special needs or challenges that cannot be met by standard classroom instruction.

Our first GOAL partnership was with the Special Education Department of White Bear Lake High School.

Jared Waln, a teaching artist from our GIOS team, implemented two classes in guitar instruction designed specifically for the needs of the students in that department, and worked with them twice a week for the entire 2020-21 school year. The project ended with a virtual concert done by the students and shared with their families and friends.

We hope to launch a second partnership project in the GOAL program during the 2021-22 school year.

Guitar In Our Schools (GIOS)

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 three schools and have received grants to fully fund all of 2021.

Southwest High School in Minneapolis has been a key partner from the start. We support their Guitar Orchestra class with visits by concert artists and send teaching assistants to work with director Ruth LeMay's more advanced students.

At **Roosevelt High School in Minneapolis** for a second year, we're supporting Nick Wilson (band, orchestra, general music) and their strong two-semester program of guitar classes. We hope that we can help Nick start a guitar orchestra at Roosevelt in the near future, and we're looking forward to working with his guitar class this fall.

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-

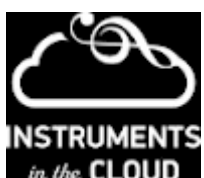
taped-together instruments and only a basic knowledge of the guitar. The class always fills, even when it's online! We didn't provide a new supply of duct tape, but we did send more than a dozen new guitars, and an energetic visiting teacher (Ben Abrahamson) who did wonderful work online with the students last year, creating special video lessons for them to use. He'll be in-person there this fall.

Distance learning presented challenges for everyone in both of our education programs this year, but our teaching artists and the teachers at our partnering schools proved to be problem-solvers one and all.

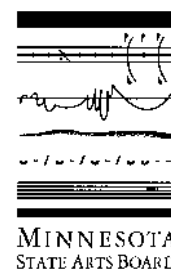
As we went to press, discussions were starting with possible additional school partners for this program.

This summer we've had two changes in our team of teachers. Jared Waln, who did so much for us (and the students he worked with) in both the GIOS and GOAL programs, has accepted a contract position with the Minneapolis school district. We hope to partner with him at the grade school where he'll be the "all-things-to-all-students" music teacher. Joining our team is Ryan Picone, a multi-faceted guitarist and DMA candidate at the U of MN with wide-ranging teaching experience. More about our team in the next issue of the newsletter.

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



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