

GUITARIST

Spring 2024
Volume 40, Issue 1



The Sounds of Spring at Sundin



Cinzia Milani will perform on Saturday, March 23, 2024.

On the evening of Saturday, March 23, **Cinzia Milani** will grace the stage at Sundin Music Hall. Milani has a diversified career as a guitarist, violinist, dancer, and singer. Her concert career began in Italy at the age of 12 when she performed on guitar in the United Kingdom, France, Spain, the United States, Canada, Mexico, South Africa, Indonesia, and South America. Her guitar performances have repeatedly caught the attention of the British and American press which have defined her as "a rare combination of beauty, grace, natural elegance..." and as having "a deep sense of music with a brilliant technique and a powerful sound and expression, considered among the best exponents of the concert artists in the world...". In addition to touring, Milani taught masterclasses at Royal Conservatory of Toronto and released CDs — *A Tribute to Teresa de Rogatis* in 2019 and *A Trib-*

ute to Ida Presti in 2017 — both with the Brilliant Classics label.

In addition to her career as a guitarist, Milani has played the violin with orchestras in Italy, Spain, and France. She performed as a guitarist, and also as a dancer and singer, in the Argentinian show *Sonatango*, and recorded the CD *Sonatango*. Milani also created the show *Venere*, about the feminine universe told through music and dance.

Venere consists of music composed and performed live by Milani in collaboration with the dance company Performing Danza.

On Friday, April 26 (yes, Friday!), at 7:30 pm, the MGS will present **Lovro Peretić**, an internationally acclaimed classical guitarist from Zagreb, Croatia. In 2022, Peretić

won the Guitar Foundation of America's International Concert Artist Competition. This prestigious GFA Competition is known for drawing the most talented competitors from around the world, and winning the competition is a coveted milestone in the careers of many young musicians. He is regarded as one of the leading guitarists of the younger generation. In addition to this GFA win in 2022, Peretić has won more than 30 other prizes in international competitions, including the Eurostrings Guitar Competition, arguably the biggest competition for guitar in Europe, which brought him an opportunity to give numerous concerts and master classes in 18 European countries. He regularly performs in various chamber music groups, including the guitar trio Evocación, which recently released its first album. As a solo artist, Peretić has per-

(continued on page 2)

MGS Mission Statement

MGS is a non-profit organization that promotes the guitar in all its stylistic and cultural diversity through sponsorship of public forums, concerts, and workshops. We serve as an educational and social link between the community and amateur and professional guitarists of all ages.

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Spring Concerts

(continued from page 1)



Lovro Peretić will perform at Sundin Hall on the evening of Friday, April 26, 2024.

formed with the Symphony Orchestra of Croatian radio television, Dubrovnik Symphony Orchestra, Zagreb Soloists, and more.

Our final concert of the season will be the MGS's annual **Youth Guitarathon**, on Saturday, May 18 at 7:00 pm (details on page 6). As always, the young, talented guitarists being showcased hail from across the state of Minnesota. Please plan to join us in recognizing and encouraging Minnesota's next generation of guitarists!



Solo Duo

Sunday, February 25
3:00 pm
Sundin Music Hall
1531 Hewitt Ave.
St. Paul, MN
Tickets \$10 - \$25
at mnguitar.org

As always, the MGS wishes to thank our generous sponsors:




AUGUSTINE FOUNDATION

Openings on the MGS Board

By Paul Hintz

The MGS currently seeks **two at-large board members**, effective immediately. Past board members have always come from the (mainly classical) guitar community, being either professionals or passionate amateurs. Future board members should have a passion for the performing arts, especially music, ideally the guitar (in any style), and an equally passionate commitment to arts education as a social need and a potentially transformative individual experience. We want our board, and our organization, to better reflect the changing demographics of the Twin Cities, in order to help ensure that our organization will be alive and relevant 40 years from now. All board members are expected to be MGS members. Current board members contribute anywhere from

the basic level up to several thousand dollars per year.

In addition to needing new board members with professional skills and experience in marketing, financial management, and strategic planning, the MGS also needs a new, volunteer **treasurer** as of the end of March. Required qualifications include working knowledge of Microsoft Excel as a platform for financial/budget recordkeeping, and past experience (professional or volunteer) as a bookkeeper, accountant, or treasurer.

Finally, at the end of May, the MGS will need a new **managing director**. For details about any of these positions, please email Paul Hintz at mgdir@mnguitar.org or visit us at mnguitar.org.

Events of Note

<p>Sunday, March 10 2:00-4:00 pm OpenStage @ Amore Coffee 879 Smith St. S. West St. Paul</p>	<p>Tuesday, March 12 6:00-9:00 pm Jazz & Fingerstyle Kyle Tennis, and the Lehto & Wright Duo @ MetroNOME Brewery 385 Broadway St., St. Paul</p>	<p>Saturday, March 23 7:30 pm International Artists Series: Cinzia Milani @ Sundin Music Hall 1531 Hewitt Ave. St. Paul</p>
<p>Sunday, April 14 2:00-4:00 pm OpenStage @ Amore Coffee 879 Smith St. S. West St. Paul</p>	<p>Tuesday, April 16 6:00-9:00 pm Jazz & Fingerstyle Solos and duos with Donohue & Dowling @ MetroNOME Brewery 385 Broadway St., St. Paul</p>	<p>Friday, April 26 7:30 pm International Artists Series: Lovro Peretić @ Sundin Music Hall 1531 Hewitt Ave. St. Paul</p>
<p>Sunday, May 12 2:00-4:00 pm OpenStage @ Amore Coffee 879 Smith St. S. West St. Paul</p>	<p>Thursday, May 23 6:00-9:00 pm Jazz & Fingerstyle "A Tribute to Evans & Hall" with Shapiro & McDonough @ MetroNOME Brewery 385 Broadway St., St. Paul</p>	<p>Saturday, May 18 7:00 pm Youth Guitarathon @ Sundin Music Hall 1531 Hewitt Ave. St. Paul</p>

Young Guitarists Prepare for Summer Competitions



Xavier Jara (L) and Soren Winikoff (R) have both been students of Alan Johnston.

Whether artistic or athletic, training for a high-level competition takes incredible commitment and determination. Just ask Soren Winikoff, a Twin Cities high school student, and Sage Kuphal, a local, home-schooled tween, who are preparing for a summer of classical guitar competitions.

Last year Winikoff competed at the James Stroud Classical Guitar Competition in Cleveland and the Guitar Foundation of America's International Youth Competition (IYC) in New York City. In 2022, the Schubert Club competition awarded him Honorable Mention for his first ever competitive performance. In 2024, Winikoff plans to compete in either the Guitar Foundation of America's IYC at Cal State Fullerton, or the Stroud competition in Cleveland, as well as the Schubert Club competition at Macalester College in St. Paul. As always, he will play a guitar that was custom-made by Christopher Dean for a guitarist's Carnegie Hall debut and later sold.

"It was amazing competing at the GFA in New York last summer although, unfortunately, I wasn't able to stay for the conference. Still, walking around, seeing or meeting classical guitarists and composers, was incredible! The highlight for me was meeting Jérémy Jouve in the hotel lobby," he says, later adding that he has done masterclasses with Jouve and Cuban-born René Izquierdo

through the MGS and the University of Minnesota respectively.

When asked about the expense of competing, Winikoff says that he doesn't have any sponsors yet, but "If you make it through the first round of competition, which is a video submission, Stroud provides you with airfare to Cleveland. The GFA doesn't offer anything like that, so that definitely makes Stroud an attractive choice for next summer."

For the past three years Winikoff has been training with his teacher, Alan Johnston, at MacPhail Center for Music. He got his start on a ukulele at the age of four after his parents found him pretending to strum his sister's cardboard violin upside-down. In addition to taking lessons with Johnston, Winikoff says he practices for an hour during his first period 'spare' at school, and for another hour at home in the evening. His favorite composer to practice is Leo Bower of Cuba.

He participates in and practices with the MacPhail Guitar Quartet, which Johnston oversees, and has been featured on NPR's "From the Top," a podcast about up-and-coming young classical musicians.

In addition to playing classical music, Winikoff is a competitive Nordic and cross-country skier, is in his second year of debate club, and occasionally jams on his classical guitar with school friends.

"We got to play at a school event once – campfire songs and sing-alongs – which was really fun!" he adds.

While Winikoff is unsure what the future will bring, he is grateful for the opportunities he currently enjoys.

"I can't thank Alan Johnston enough for being so supportive, giving so much of his time to me and to the quartet," he says. "And I really appreciate my parents' sacrifices, and for flying me around."

Meanwhile, in another part of the Twin Cities, 12 year-old Sage Kuphal is also decid-

ing which classical guitar competitions to enter. In the longer term, Kuphal says he hopes that someday his guitar skills might earn him a college scholarship, a very valid and worthwhile goal.

Kuphal currently takes online lessons with Kevin Carlson (who recently relocated to Arizona) and practices for at least 30 minutes per day. He got his start at the age of five while living in West Virginia. His father began teaching him, but he soon got a formal guitar teacher who made Kuphal really love the instrument.

"I learned to play on Dad's guitar, but it was really big for me, of course," he notes.

Kuphal plays an acoustic guitar by Gringo Starr, made in Mexico, and says he favors compositions by Jerry Reed and Jorge Morel. He also plays a Fender electric and a Taylor GS mini guitar, and loves "'70s music, but especially the Beatles, Beach Boys, and Led Zeppelin."

"I like playing Spanish and the faster jazz music best," says Kuphal. "It's really fun and challenging."

When Kuphal isn't preparing to compete, he does tae kwon do, plays soccer, and enjoys playing board games.

On behalf of the members and friends of the MGS, enjoy those exciting, new challenges, and good luck this summer!



Soren Winikoff. Photo by Jayme Halbritter.



Sage Kuphal.

Artistic Director Joseph Hagedorn Can (and Does) Really Pick Them!



Joseph Hagedorn is a guitarist, teacher, and the MGS's artistic director.

Joe Hagedorn has been on the board of the MGS since its inception in 1984. In 1992, when the MGS started to seek grant funding to bring in performers from outside Minnesota, he acquired the job of booking the coming year's International Artists Series (IAS) concerts and eventually acquired the title 'artistic director' to go with it.

"When the MGS first got started we didn't book very many concerts. We had guitarathons and we featured mostly local performers — and they were very good. Then, in 1992, we started the IAS with four concerts per season, and it has grown from there," he explains.

As the MGS's artistic director, Hagedorn spends his winters planning and coordinating the coming concert season while working with the artists that were contracted to perform during the current season.

Hagedorn says the whole process starts with a list.

"I get names of potential performers from others who are plugged into the classical guitar community, including people on our board of directors. And I'm always watching

who's going on tour in the U.S., and who's doing well at the various international guitar competitions. It used to be that I got tons of mail from guitarists asking to perform for us, sending me demo CDs and so on. Nowadays I get emails from guitarists that contain links to performances that I can watch online. It saves them an awful lot of time and money."

Next, Hagedorn determines whether the fee charged by the performers of interest make financial sense in Sundin Music Hall, a venue with a 325 seat capacity. If the artists seem affordable, he asks them how a show in the Twin Cities might fit into their tour schedule. As he weighs his options, he tries to build variety into the IAS

season, ideally balancing emerging and experienced performers, soloists, and ensembles, and occasionally non-classical or even non-guitar artists. And all the while, Hagedorn keeps close tabs on who is being booked by the other arts organizations in the Twin Cities, like the Guthrie Theater, while minding the availability of Sundin Music Hall.

"For the first season we held our concerts in Whitney Theater at the Minneapolis

"... we book the venue and the guitarist, but what if their work visa is delayed? And even if everything does fall into place, will we get a good audience?"

Community & Technical College on Hennepin Avenue. Then we moved the concerts for about five years to the College of St. Thomas, before it became a university. And finally, we settled on Sundin Music Hall, where we have remained for many, many seasons. It seats 325, which is small enough that the concerts have an intimate feel with wonderful acoustics," he says. "In fact, sometimes the guitarist's managers don't believe me when I tell them that they don't need a big sound system to be heard. You can hear a guitar soloist just fine, anywhere in the hall."

Hagedorn says the biggest hurdle in booking guitarists from outside the U.S. is

usually the expensive and time-consuming process of applying for a work visa that entitles them to perform. Although there are some guitarists who can navigate through the red tape on their own (like Jérémy Jouve, for example), Hagedorn has learned that those with management in the U.S. usually have this complex paperwork handled for them, correctly and on time.

"There definitely are risks involved for both parties," he explains. "For the performer there's the chance that they could fall ill or get hurt and be unable to perform. For us, we book the venue and the guitarist, but what if their work visa is delayed? And even if everything does fall into place, will we get a good audience?"

It's a risky business, but Hagedorn has had decades of experience booking artists from all over the world, and keeping members and friends of the MGS coming back for more IAS concerts.

"I never cease to be amazed by the new, high caliber performers who come onto the scene year after year. The world is full of such talented young people! If only it was easier to get them here and onto our stage!" he says with a chuckle. "Seriously, I love what I do for MGS. It is rewarding and also a lot of fun."

In addition to his volunteer position as the MGS's artistic director, Hagedorn has taught Applied Guitar, Class Guitar and directed the Guitar Ensemble at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls since 1988. Since his career was launched by winning the 1990 Guitar Foundation of America solo competition, he has enjoyed a fulfilling performing career as a soloist and chamber musician. In 1986 he joined the Minneapolis Guitar Quartet as one of the original members.

Hagedorn, who earned the Bachelor of Music degree at Cornell College and the Master of Music from the University of Minnesota, has one daughter and lives in Minneapolis with his wife, violinist Leslie Shank.

MGS Members Celebrate 40 Years of Music and Memories



The room was packed and abuzz with talk and laughter as members and friends of the MGS gathered to celebrate 40 years of music and memories. On the evening of Tuesday, January 30, young and old gathered to share stories, hear performances, and express their hopes to return in 10 years to celebrate the MGS at 50.

Highlights of the evening included special performances by long-time MGS volunteer Gene Swanson, past-president and *Guitarist* founder Steve Haskin, and MGS founder and past-president Tony Hauser.

Gene Swanson was the first to grace the stage and played numerous original classical pieces as well as some jazz selections.

Steve Haskin, who drove all the way from Austin, Texas to attend the party, performed with his old friends Terry Storhaug and vocalist Liz Pauly. After giving a short speech about the early days of the society, he played several bossa nova favorites followed by a few original songs.

Last but not least, Tony Hauser spoke about previous guitar organizations, founding the MGS, and filing for non-profit status before commanding the room with his classical and flamenco interpretations. He closed by encouraging the guitarists in the audience to visit his website, where he has made many of his arrangements and original compositions freely available (www.tonyhauser.com).

In addition to the performances, guests enjoyed a display that showed who had performed at MGS concerts over the years, and where in the world they had come from. Two bound sets of *Guitarist* back issues circulated the room, and the walls were hung with t-shirts that the society had printed in years gone by, listing the year's International Artists Series performers.

If you were unable to join the jubilant crowd, be sure to visit the MGS's YouTube channel where clips of the performances can be found.

The MGS wishes to warmly thank event volunteers Terry Brueck, who



In case you weren't in attendance, here are some photos of what you missed.

(1) In a short speech, Tony Hauser recalled the origins of the MGS, which at the time was focused on promoting local guitarists and a wide array of musical styles. He also described the difficulties of registering the society as a federally-recognized, non-profit organization, and the extremely intense work it was to get the new society running smoothly. (2) Gene Swanson's performance included numerous original pieces, and a

(continued on page 6)

managed the performances and venue, among other things; Kuan Teoh, who picked up and distributed cake; Matt Engstrom and Bill Eddins at MetroNOME Brewery, who hosted and created the delicious, coffee-flavored "Six String Suds" especially for the occasion; Hy-Vee's bakeries for donating enough cake to feed a small village; graphic designer Ann Wempner, who always goes above and beyond; and everyone who attended and supported the MGS.



MGS Members Celebrate 40 Years ... (continued from page 5)

few jazz and classical favorites. He also shared his recollections of laboriously processing *Guitarist* newsletters for mailing. (3) Having already impressed the audience with his initial feat of driving 1200 miles in a tiny convertible, from Austin to St. Paul, Haskin and percussionist Terry Storhaug performed several bossa nova pieces accompanied by vocals in Portuguese by Liz Pauly. Haskin followed this with a few original pieces, played with Storhaug. (4) MGS past-presidents Michael Ziegahn, Hauser, Haskin, and current president Joe Haus, proudly posed for a group photo. (5) Cake, cake, and more cake! (6) Haskin shared MGS history with the crowd. (7) A party guest and fan got his guitar autographed by Hauser. Not shown: using research by board member Steve Greenwood, maps showed where in the world MGS's IAS series performers hailed from. There was also a list of Jazz & Fingerstyle performers, and a long list of Minnesotan performers. We hope to eventually post much of this interesting information on our website at mnguitar.org.



Preparations Underway for Youth Guitarathon

With spring in the air, the MGS has begun preparing for our next Youth Guitarathon, which will take place on Saturday, May 18 at 7:00 pm in Sundin Music Hall.

The goal of the Youth Guitarathon is to nurture and encourage young guitarists of various styles and ages (6 to 21), at a variety of levels, either solo or in an ensemble. Performers will be chosen at an audition that will take place on Saturday, April 20 in the Brady Center at the University of St Thomas. Applications for auditions must be received

by March 31. The form can be found on the MGS website under the Education tab.

Auditions for the Youth Guitarathon will be heard by a panel of experienced judges who are guitarists from various 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 providing valuable, positive feedback.

The Youth Guitarathon was held annually

from 2007 to 2012, and relaunched in the 2022/23 season when funding became available. For the 2023/24 season, we have scheduled the concert in springtime to better coincide with the school year and allow the students adequate preparation time. We are grateful to our sponsors, the Augustine and D'Addario foundations, for making this event possible, and to our vice president, Annett Richter, for managing this season's event.

Please plan to join us on May 18 to encourage the next generation of local talent!

MGS Members' Classified Advertisements

Free classified ads are a benefit available to MGS members. Ads run for up to one year and can be renewed. Email mmdir@mnguitar.org for more information.

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DUO INTEREST? Looking for a duo partner to practice, get better. I have 3 years experience; I am self-taught and not good but I don't quit. Woodbury-St. Paul area. Email Brian at arrowin1066@yahoo.com.

GUITARS FOR SALE: Handmade classical guitars imported directly from Spain. Solid spruce and cedar tops in various scale lengths and all solid spruce/rosewood models. Call Chris Moody for pricing and availability at (651) 468-1942.

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GUITARS FOR SALE: 2021 Cordoba C12, spruce/Indian Rosewood, mint condition, hardshell archtop Humicase, \$1,600. **1981 Masuru Kohno 30,** signed, with case, \$3,500. If interested, email Paul at BachBeethoven@Mail2World.com.

GUITAR FOR SALE: Paul Beard Signature Series Gold Tone PBS Mahogany Square Neck Resonator Guitar. Purchased new in 2016. Lightly used. Sunburst finish. Guardian deluxe hardshell case. Scheerhorn stainless steel slide. Thumb and finger picks. Music book and TABs. Asking \$700. Call Steve at (651) 442-2351 or stevencgordon@gmail.com.

GUITARS FOR SALE: 2012 Taylor GS Mini. All mahogany, solid top. Asking \$450. **2011 Martin DCPA3.** Dreadnaught (D-14 Fret Cutaway). Solid Indian Rosewood back & sides, solid spruce top. Electronics: Fishman F1 Aura w/Tuner. Asking \$1200. Call/text Jeff (651) 276-0030 or email jkidder59@gmail.com.

GUITAR FOR SALE: 2011 Taylor 12-Fret Mahogany (later called a 512CE 12-Fret). Cedar top with a slotted headstock. 247/8 scale length. Great fingerstyle guitar. \$1,200. Call or text Fred at (612) 532-5179 or email willowfox14@aol.com.

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LUTE FOR SALE: 2012 John Rollins 10 course lute after Venere. 61.5 mm string length; 13 ribs yew / 12 ebony spacers. Perfect condition. \$3,200. Pics available on request. Email Tim at tim74644@hotmail.com.

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MGS Endowment Fund Update

By Paul Hintz

The MGS is happy and grateful. Happy that our 2023 campaign raised a total of \$36,692.75. Grateful for the 45 donors, whose names appear below. In all, our Endowment Fund balance now stands near \$90,000. Income from the interest earned by that principal amount will provide a dependable source of sustaining revenue to support both our concert series and education program in the years to come. We hope you'll continue to help us grow that support in 2024.

Our thanks to:

Brian Berggren	Joe Hagedorn	Mark Moeller
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