

GUITARIST

Summer 2023
Volume 39, Issue 2

Young Talent Dominates 40th Season

There are unmistakable commonalities between the artists slated to perform in MGS's 2023/24 International Concert Series season. Most have toured for decades although they still brim with youthful energy. Most have a passion for pedagogy, teaching guitar at universities around the world, and hosting master classes while on tour. Many are women.

MGS artistic director Joseph Hagedorn says that the musical lineup for our 40th anniversary represents a balance of these things and more. "We can look forward to a wonderful group of dynamic, talented musicians from across Europe and the U.S.," he says. "I hope to see Sundin Hall filled with MGS members, supporters and friends!"

(continued on page 2)



Cinzia Milani will perform in March 2024.

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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A Summer of Strings

Summertime doesn't have to mean living without the joys of live guitar performance! Join MGS at MetroNOME Brewery mid-month for fabulous performances by a variety of **jazz and fingerstyle** guitarists. These concerts feature solo artists and duos, with low or no amplification, and occasional vocal additions. MGS members are welcomed for free; non-members are encouraged to join or donate to MGS educational programs. (Read more about the jazz and fingerstyle concert series on page 4.)

Plus, on the second Sunday of each month, drop by Amore Café for **OpenStage**. Begun in 2002 at the initiative of an MGS member, the late Dennis Burns, OpenStage provides a fun, supportive, and informal way for guitarists of every level to experience the thrill of playing in public. OpenStage focuses primarily on acoustic, fingerstyle, and classical guitar performance, and maintains a format similar to many other open mic events. Performances run from 2:00 till 4:00 PM, at Amore Café, 879 Smith Ave. S., West St. Paul. For more information about the Jazz & Fingerstyle Concert Series or OpenStage, visit our web site at mnguitar.org.

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Our 40th Season Lineup (continued from page 1)

The concert lineup is as follows:

The 2023/24 season begins with

September 23, 2023 Stephanie Jones

October 14, 2023 Irina Kulikova

November 18, 2023 Xavier Jara

December 9, 2023 Classical
Guitarathon

February 25, 2024 SoloDuo

March 23, 2024 Cinzia Milani

April 26, 2024 Lovro Peretić

May 18, 2024 Youth Guitarathon

Stephanie Jones' performance on September 23. Jones is a world-renowned soloist and chamber musician. Based in Germany, she teaches at the Universität Augsburg while performing and giving masterclasses around the world. She has released three solo albums: *Open Sky* (2020); *Colours of Spain* (2015); and *Bach, the Fly, and the Microphone* (2009). She was a member of the acclaimed Weimar Guitar Quartet, releasing their debut album in 2019, and also collaborated with Karen Gomyo on her album "A Piazzolla Trilogy".

On October 14 we will hear from **Irina Kulikova**. By the age of 12 Kulikova was a child star playing all across Russia and at festivals in Europe. She has received over 30 awards for her artistry, including first prizes at the most prestigious international competitions. She has recorded seven albums, founded a guitar program for the Russian School of Music in Irvine, and made California her second home.

On November 18 **Xavier Jara** will perform. In 2016, he won the coveted First Prize of the Guitar Foundation of America International Concert Artist Competition, which awarded him a 60-concert tour. A native of Minnesota, Jara studied with Alan Johnston at the MacPhail Center for Music in Minneapolis until 2011, when he moved to Paris to

study at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Paris. He teaches, performs around the world, and joined the United States Guitar Orchestra as a soloist in 2022 on their tour of Spain.

MGS will host the annual **Classical Guitarathon** on December 9. At this event we plan to celebrate MGS's 40th anniversary, so you will definitely want to be in attendance!

We will take a short break in January and continue our season on February 24 with an earlier than usual (3:00 PM) performance by **SoloDuo** —Matteo Mela and Lorenzo Micheli. Mela resides in Geneva, Switzerland and teaches at the Conservatoire Populaire, while Micheli lives in Milan, Italy and teaches at the University School of Music in Lugano, Switzerland. Since 2015, they have been Artists in Residence at the University of Colorado-Boulder. A performance by SoloDuo was described by *The Washington Post* as "nothing less than rapturous – profound and unforgettable musicianship of the highest order."

Cinzia Milani will grace the stage on March 23. Milani caught the attention of the British and American press, which 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 her career as a guitarist, she plays the violin and has played in various orchestras in Italy, Spain and France.

On April 26 we will be treated to a performance by **Lovro Peretić** of Zagreb, Croatia. He has won first prize at numerous competitions, including the International Competition for Young Guitarists 'Andrés Segovia' in Velbert, Germany and the Sarajevo International Guitar Festival. Peretić has represented Croatia at many important music festivals and regularly performs in various chamber



Virtuoso Stephanie Jones will perform in September 2023.

music groups including his duo with violinist Katarina Kutnar and the guitar trio Evocación.

Finally, on May 18 the **Youth Guitarathon** will take place, showcasing young, local talent. Join us in recognizing and encouraging Minnesota's next generation of musical talent at this fun, annual event.

"I think this is a very exciting line-up of concerts that sets a vibrant, upbeat tone for MGS's 40th anniversary," says Hagedorn with regard to the International Artists Series. "As long as no one's luggage gets lost."



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20 Things to Love About MGS on Our 40th Birthday

This concert season MGS will be celebrating 40 years promoting all things guitar-related in Minnesota. Get to know your guitar society with these 20 fun facts:

- 1) In 1984 the Guitar & Lute Society folded. Some of its members, including local guitarist Anthony (Tony) Hauser, took this opportunity to form the Minnesota Guitar Society.



Tony Hauser is center right in this Classical Guitarathon

- 2) We plan to start earnestly celebrating MGS's birthday in December 2024 at the Classical Guitarathon. Stay tuned!
- 3) MGS is modeled after the American Guitar Society, which was founded in 1923 by Vahdah Olcott Bickford. She was born in Norwalk, Ohio, in 1885 and died in Los Angeles in 1980.
- 4) Our president, Joe Haus, has been involved in MGS since that founding in 1984! Read more about Haus on page 6.
- 5) In its Sept/Oct 1986 newsletter MGS announced that it was officially a non-profit. Our 501(c)3 status enables us to receive donations without paying tax on them, among other benefits.
- 6) Our artistic director, Joseph Hagedorn, was one of the founding members of the Minneapolis Guitar Quartet in 1986 and has been involved in MGS since the 1980s!



The Minneapolis Guitar Quartet in 2018. Hagedorn is on the far right.

- 7) Be proud! MGS is supported by one of the largest dues-paying memberships among the 60-plus guitar societies in the U.S.
- 8) Our vice-president, Annett Richter, is a musicologist at Concordia College in Moorhead, MN, where she explores "interrelationships among music, art, society, culture, and place."
- 9) As of June 1, MGS has about 2000 Facebook followers some of whom hail from faraway Mexico, Myanmar and Brazil.
- 10) MGS has had blues, jazz, flamenco and a variety of other guitar-a-thons, as well as guitar recitals with accompanying vocalists.
- 11) MGS's members come from a range of socioeconomic backgrounds, a reflection of the cross-cultural appeal of the guitar and guitar-related music.
- 12) Former board member, Doug Whorton, attended a six-week workshop in Quebec, Canada with luthier Joshia

de Jonge. He left with the beautiful guitar that he built!

- 13) MGS's managing director, Paul Hintz, plays the six, seven and 12-string guitar as well as bass, piano, and ukulele!
- 14) The Jazz and Fingerstyle concert series at MetroNOME Brewery is sponsored and organized by long-time MGS member Terry Brueck (continued on page 4).
- 15) We're proud to report that a rock band which formed at Harding High School, made up of students who participated in our GIOS program, played for the entire school at their Pride Festival!



Annett Richter with guitar virtuoso Bokyung Byun in 2019.

- 16) As of June 1, MGS has about 700 Instagram followers.
- 17) In the March/April 1987 issue of "Guitarist," MGS promoted a concert at Orchestra Hall by the legendary Andrés Segovia. Dreamy!
- 18) In 1990 Joe Hagedorn was the first prize winner of the prestigious Guitar Foundation of America International Concert Artist Competition.

19) MGS's first guitarathon was in 1985.

20) We are a volunteer organization. If you are interested in lending a hand, we would love to hear from you!

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MGS to Continue Popular Jazz & Fingerstyle Concert Series



Terry Brueck soothing the savage beasts in Matanuska Valley, Alaska, in May 2023.

Terry Brueck is a bit of a magician: he can tell you which local artists play the best guitar in any style you can name, as well as where they routinely perform, on which days and at what times. So it's no accident that Brueck, who has been an MGS member and concert-goer for about 35 years, was the one to conceive of, orchestrate and sponsor the Jazz & Fingerstyle Concert Series.

"After Covid, all the local artists were saying that there weren't any places left to play in, so I approached MGS and, once I got the green light, I made the arrangements with Bill," he explains.

Eddins, himself an accomplished musician and conductor. He co-founded MetroNOME Brewery, located near the Saints stadium in Lowertown, St. Paul, with the dream of owning a taproom and music venue that channels a portion of its proceeds to music education groups in the Twin Cities area. In fact, the NOME in MetroNOME stands for Nurturing Outstanding Music Education. Knowing this, Brueck felt that MetroNOME and MGS missions dovetailed beautifully (read about Guitars in Our Schools on page 5) and got to work scheduling acts starting in June 2022.

The series was set to run for one year, ending in May 2023. Now MGS and Terry Brueck are pleased to announce that the Jazz & Fingerstyle Concert Series is being extended for another year, until May 2024.

"I'm trying to mix the styles at each show, and whenever possible, I book more emergent artists for the first time slot, followed by performers who are more experienced on the local scene," Brueck says before excitedly describing

some of the performers he has booked for the summer.

Bill Eddins is equally enthusiastic about the concert series' continuance. "MetroNOME has a great atmosphere for the concert series, and turnout for the shows has been great," he says.

He adds that the MetroNOME Foundation is having its "soft launch" this summer, fulfilling the dream of supporting music education groups. "Setting up a foundation requires a lot of complicated paperwork and takes a long time, as it should," he notes. "But the taproom is doing well and we're close with the paperwork. I'm excited that, with the foundation in place, it won't be long before we'll be able to do much more than provide a music venue."

Brueck and Eddins are delighted to be working together to make the Jazz & Fingerstyle Concert Series an even bigger success in 2023/24. Our board thanks them both for their hard work and enthusiasm, and encourages you as MGS members to join us (free admission!) at MetroNOME for a taste of the local guitar and brewing scene.

Jazz & Fingerstyle Summertime Lineup



(Left and below)
July 12:
Dan Schwartz,
6:00 PM,
and PK Mayo.,
7:00 PM.



(Above)
August 23: The Dean's List, 6:00 PM. (Seriously, four guys named Dean!)

Guitars In Our Schools Helps Kids Discover New Passions



Salzburg Guitar Trio at Harding High School.

The purpose of the Guitars in Our Schools (GIOS) program, now in its fourth year, is to give Twin Cities music students the opportunity to experience extraordinary, live performances by world-class, touring guitarists — and perhaps spark in those students a new passion and creative outlet in the guitar.

According to Ben Abrahamson, our GIOS team teacher at Harding High School in St. Paul, this year a student who had participated in the GIOS program practiced electric guitar solos from Hmong rock songs he had learned from his dad, who he counts as a major musical and cultural role model.

Another group of Harding students in the GIOS program formed a band, Los del Hache (i.e., the “kids from period H” in the

school day), that rehearsed music from Latin America and were scheduled to perform at a school function.

Meanwhile, Ryan Picone (GIOS team teacher at Roosevelt High School in Minneapolis), told us that several GIOS participants formed a band that played at school functions, including Roosevelt’s Pride Festival.

Additionally, GIOS provides partnering schools with teaching artists from the local, professional guitar community who do extended residencies to support guitar classes in schools.

During the 2022/23 season the GIOS program provided three school visits by guitarists featured in our International Artists Concert Series. In February 2023 the Salzburg Guitar Trio performed for a first-year guitar class at Harding High School. Trio member Katie Lonson said of their classroom visits “Being able to perform for the students and chat with them is a great opportunity to remove the barrier that normally exists between us as performers and the audience. The students were able to ask any questions they wanted! They were super curious about such

things as how fast we could get a piece performance-ready, the history of our ensemble; how we met and started to play together, and the reasons behind why we chose to study music. We hope to have left a positive impression with the students.”

In March Guitar virtuoso Raphaël Feuillâtre dropped jaws at Roosevelt High School and, one month later, Jérémy Jouve wowed his young audience at Southwest High School in Minneapolis. The teachers who welcomed MGS’s performers into their classrooms had very positive things to say about their students’ experiences.

Abrahamson and Picone both report solid progress in developing goals and activities for the students, including recording original music and performing. Jennifer Greupner, the Harding High School band director, says she created a rehearsal room when she found herself able to purchase an electric guitar, bass, amps and a drum set this past year.

Fortunately, the GIOS program will continue this fall: MGS received grants from the Augustine Foundation and the D’Addario Foundation that guarantee we can make commitments for the fall 2023 semester. Other fundraising plans will be made to ensure that we can continue into 2024, and we hope to expand GIOS to more schools and other parts of the metro. At Southwest High School, an original member of our GIOS team of teaching artists, Jared Waln, has taken over the guitar program and is keen to bring MGS’s 40th anniversary guitarists into his classroom.

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We want to hear from you! If you have comments about performances, communications or anything else MGS-related, please come and speak to one of us. MGS is a non-profit organization run by *very approachable volunteer MGS members* and one paid, part-time,



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No Ordinary Joe



Joe Haus (or "Joe Cool"?) in about 1973.

MGS president Joe Haus started playing the electric guitar in the '60s while listening to the Beatles and the Monkees. Inspired to study music by the educated musicians in the band Chicago, he enrolled in the University of Minnesota's music program where he came to love classical guitar.

Haus is now retired professionally, but not from guitar playing or performance. He enjoys practicing, playing monthly at MGS's OpenStage (see story on page 1), and "talking shop" with fellow musicians.

The times may be a changin', but Haus has kept his cool: he is currently a member of the band "Dundas Stock" that will perform songs from 1968-1972 at his 50th high school reunion in July.

Haus has been the president of the MGS intermittently since 2001, and involved with the organization since its founding in 1984. He says that he continues to find volunteering for MGS rewarding, especially when he sees audience members spill out of Sundin Hall at intermission looking awe-struck by a great performance.

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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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GUITAR FOR SALE: 1979 Jose Ramirez Model 1a. Signed by Jose Ramirez III. Made in the famous Ramirez Guitar Shop in Madrid. Solid Brazilian rosewood back and sides. Solid Spanish cedar top. Ebony fingerboard. Scale is 665 mm; nut 53 mm. Original Ramirez tuners; original case. Guitar is in nearly new condition. \$6,000.00. If interested, text (651) 485-8699 or email jamesmoline@me.com

GUITARS FOR SALE: 2022 Cordoba Master Series Hauser, spruce/Indian rosewood, mint condition, \$3,399. **2015 Cordoba Master Series Torres,** Indian rosewood, 640 mm scale, 51 mm nut, French polish, excellent condition, \$3,399. A hardshell case is included with each guitar. If interested, email Paul at BachBeethoven@Mail2World.com

GUITAR FOR SALE: Cordoba F7. "Paco Flamenco." Solid cedar top, laminated Indian rosewood back/sides, mahogany neck, pau ferro fingerboard. Sound is characteristically flamenco with the added warmth that cedar imparts. Neck is Cordoba's "C" shape "fusion" style. Mint condition. Original shipping boxes and protective film still on the tap plate. \$550. Call or message Michael at (612) 787-8196.

GUITAR FOR SALE: 1964 Martin D12-20 12-string. Mahogany back/ sides; rosewood bridge/fingerboard; original tortoise style pickguard. Original bridge, frets, tuners. Top and sides show 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, numerous picks. \$3,000. For pics or more info, call/text Dave Buending at (952) 486-0836 or email ad2b@arrl.net

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

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New Endowment Fund Has MGS Seeing Double

There aren't many ways to double your money. Bank interest rates are low, stocks are volatile and risky, and we don't condone gambling.

MGS has found a way to double your money. In the fall of 2022 a long-time MGS member donated \$50,000 to start the MGS Endowment Fund. **This member has pledged to match all donations dedicated to the fund that we receive in 2023, up to an additional \$50,000.** In other words, your \$100 donation to the fund becomes \$200. Your \$250 donation to the fund becomes \$500. Through the income derived from interest earned, the MGS Endowment Fund will provide a stable and ongoing source of support for our concert series and GIOS for years to come.

Help us celebrate 40 years of phenomenal, intimate and affordable guitar performances, community events and educational outreach. Help us raise the money for this matching opportunity — by December 31, 2023, as stipulated by the donor. Your gift, in any amount, dedicated to the MGS Endowment Fund, will move us closer to our goal of an additional \$50,000 in matched funds.

Helen Keller famously said, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much". Your donation, combined with the matched funds made available through the new MGS Endowment Fund, will essentially double your contribution and do so much for the local music scene, music education and more! Together, we can ensure that MGS is able to continue to nurture the next generations of guitar music lovers.

For more information about the MGS Endowment Fund, please contact our managing director, Paul Hintz, at mmdir@mnguitar.org

Thank you!



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