MIAMI INTERNATIONAL GUITAR ART FESTIVAL 2020

at The Wertheim

February 17-23, 2020

CONCERTS - LECTURES - MASTER CLASSES

COMPOSITION COMPETITION

LUTHIERS EXPO
Miami International GuitART Festival 2020

Production Personnel

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Events Manager: Nathalie Brenner
Financial Analyst: Yusimay Lorenzo Gonzalez
Account Manager: Michelle Vires
Coordinator of Admin. Services: Maria Fernandez-Sobera
CARTA Finance Manager: Rashida Taylor
Human Resources Manager: Sunem Roque
Technical Manager: Paul Steinsland
Web Master: Hansel de Haro

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Mark B. Rosenberg
President, Florida International University
Kenneth G. Furton
Provost and Executive Vice President, FIU
Brian Schriner
Dean, FIU College of Architecture + the Arts
Karen S. Fuller-Veloz
Interim Director, FIU School of Music
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FIU Professor Emeritus of Music, Composer
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Director, Mohsin & Fauzia Jaffer Center for Muslim World Studies
Yesim Darici
Director, FIU Center for Women’s and Gender Studies

ADDITIONAL THANKS TO

Michael S. Stock
Radio Host, WLRN Folk and Acoustic
Eliana Hernandez
Junior Special Events Manager, FIU Graham Center
Roberto Rodriguez
FIU Guitar Alumnus, B.M.’17

A note to our audiences:
Please keep your program during the festival, as we have printed a finite number of festival program books.

Thank you.
WELCOME!

Welcome to the fifth edition of MIGF at the FIU School of Music. It is my honor and privilege to serve as the Artistic Director of MIGF. Since the inaugural edition of the MIGF in 2016, the festival continues to present successful programs to more and more audiences, local, national, and international. We will be presenting another wonderful group of artists in the 2020 festival with eight concerts, five masterclasses, three lectures, and a round-table composers panel.

The MIGF has been a successful annual event thanks to all the guest artists, our generous sponsors at all levels, our tireless student volunteers, and our audiences. Without you, it wouldn’t have been possible for us to accomplish this tremendous task of organizing a major international festival and making it a successful contribution to the lives of South Florida residents and to the music and guitar world. Thank you so much for sharing our excitement and joy of being part of this great festival.

Featured artists participating in the festival this year include virtuoso guitarist and composer Benjamin Verdery (U.S.A.), Massimo Delle Cese (Italy), Bekir Küçükay (Turkey), Marco Battaglia (Italy), Arthur Dente and Valentine Dente (France), Sinan Ersahin (Turkey), Daniela D’Ingiullo (Italy/U.S.A.) as well as FIU Faculty artists Federico Bonacossa, David Dolata, and myself. The festival opening concert will feature the world premiere of Guitar Concerto by the award-winning composer Fredrick Kaufman, commissioned by MIGF through a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

The MIGF annual composition competition judges Orlando Jacinto Garcia (FIU), Jacob Sudol (FIU), and Carlos Rafael Rivera (UM) evaluated 53 submissions by composers from 22 countries and the winners will be announced in the festival opening concert, February 17, 2020, and will be posted online on the festival website. In addition to presenting concerts, the festival artists will present masterclasses and lectures, which are open and free to the public and which will give you informative and entertaining opportunities to study with master musicians and learn more about guitar music, technique, and repertoire.

I hope you enjoy all the exciting events during the festival, as we celebrate music, our beloved instrument, and Art in general.

Sincerely,

Mesut Özgen
Artistic Director and Founder
¡BIENVENIDOS!

Bienvenidos a la quinta edición del MIGF en el FIU School of Music. Es mi honor y privilegio servir como el director artístico del MIGF. Desde su edición inaugural en el 2016, el MIGF continua presentando exitosos programas a un creciente público del ámbito local, nacional, e internacional. En esta edición del MIGF les presentaremos ocho conciertos, cinco clases magistrales, tres presentaciones, y un panel mesa-redonda de compositores.

Gracias a la alta calidad de los artistas invitados, a nuestros generosos patrocinadores, al trabajo incansable de estudiantes voluntarios, y a nuestra audiencia, el MIGF, en ya su quinta edición, ha siempre gozado de éxito. Sin ustedes no hubiéramos podido lograr esta hercúlea tarea de organizar un festival internacional de gran escala y hacer un aporte en la vida cultural de los residentes del sur de la Florida, y en el mundo de la guitarra y la música en general. Gracias por compartir nuestro entusiasmo siendo parte de este gran festival.

Les presentaremos un extraordinario conjunto de artistas del ámbito nacional e internacional. Entre estos artistas están el virtuoso guitarrista y compositor Benjamin Verdery (U.S.A.), Massimo Delle Cese (Italia), Bekir Küçükay (Turquía), Marco Battaglia (Italia), Arthur Dente y Valentine Dente (Francia), Sinan Ersahin (Turquía), Daniela D'Ingiullo (Italia/U.S.A.), al igual que Federico Bonacossa, David Dolata, y quien les escribe, artistas de la facultad de la FIU School of Music. En el concierto inaugural se tocará la premier mundial del Guitar Concerto del galardonado compositor Fredrick Kaufman, a comisión del MIGF mediante una subvención del National Endowment for the Arts.

El jurado de la competencia anual de composición del MIGF, compuesto por Orlando Jacinto García (FIU), Jacob Sudol (FIU), y Carlos Rafael Rivera (UM), evaluó 53 entradas de compositores de 22 países, y los ganadores serán anunciados e inscritos en el sitio web del MIGF el 17 de febrero del 2020 en el concierto inaugural. Además de los conciertos, los artistas invitados impartirán clases magistrales y conferencias, las cuales serán gratis y abiertas al público, y en las que ustedes tendrán la oportunidad de aprender de músicos maestros sobre diversos temas como el repertorio y la técnica guitarrística.

Espero que disfruten de los grandes eventos durante este festival, en el que celebramos la música, nuestro querido instrumento, y el Arte en general.

Sinceramente,

Mesut Özgen
Director Artístico y Fundador
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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
2020 MIAMI INTERNATIONAL GUITART FESTIVAL

Monday, February 17
7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. Concert: Kaufman Concerto Premiere with Mesut Özgen, soloist, and FIU Festival Orchestra, directed by Javier Jose Mendoza – WPAC Concert Hall (170)

Tuesday, February 18
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Master Class: Bekir Küçükay – WPAC Concert Hall (170)
11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Lecture: Lutorama by David Dolata – WPAC Instrumental Hall (157)
7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. Concert: Massimo Delle Cese – WPAC Concert Hall (170)

Wednesday, February 19
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Master Class: Massimo Delle Cese – WPAC Concert Hall (170)
7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. Concert: Alla Turca with Bekir Küçükay & Sinan Ersahin – WPAC Concert Hall

Thursday, February 20
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Master Class: Sinan Ersahin – WPAC Concert Hall (170)
11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Lecture: The Guitar in Early 19th Century by Marco Battaglia – WPAC Instrumental Hall (157)
7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. Concert: Daniela D’Ingiullo, soprano, & Federico Bonacossa, guitar – WPAC Concert Hall (170)

Friday, February 21
12:30 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Concert for Children: Benjamin Verdery – Somerset Academy Prep
2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Master Class: Benjamin Verdery – WPAC Recital Hall (150)
7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. Concert: 19th Century Guitar Art Music with Marco Battaglia – WPAC Concert Hall (170)

Saturday, February 22
4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Master Class: Marco Battaglia – WPAC Instrumental Hall (157)
5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Lecture: Iberian Peninsula Meets World Music by Arthur Dente – WPAC Instrumental Hall (157)
7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. Concert: Benjamin Verdery “From Aristotle” – WPAC Concert Hall (170)

Sunday, February 23
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Composers Panel – WPAC Recital Hall (150)
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Concert: FIU Miami Guitar Orchestra – WPAC Concert Hall (170)
7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. Concert: Duo Alto Plano – WPAC Concert Hall (170)
The MIGF contributes to FIU’s best qualities in pursuit of our mission. The Arts in general are essential to FIU’s life of the mind, and music has the potential for engagement at many levels. I would like to welcome all of you to this festival and enjoy wonderful musical performances representing different cultures and traditions around the world.

- Mark B. Rosenberg  
President, Florida International University

The Miami International GuitART Festival brings renowned artists from around the world to our School of Music to celebrate music and culture. It’s a great opportunity to enjoy the wonderful musical performances and to experience Miami and FIU at our best!

- Kenneth G. Furton  
Provost and Executive Vice President, Florida International University

I couldn’t be more proud of Dr. Mesut Özgen and the FIU School of Music for hosting the Miami International GuitART Festival. I encourage you to participate in this wonderful celebration of culture and artistic talent!

- Brian Schriner  
Dean, FIU College of Architecture + The Arts

Welcome to the Fifth Miami International GuitART Festival! A festival that brings wonderful world-renowned guitarists to The Wertheim! I do hope you enjoy the full array of guest artists that Dr. Mesut Özgen has produced this year and encourage you to come back to The Wertheim throughout the year! Thank you for your support.

- Karen S. Fuller-Veloz  
Interim Director, FIU School of Music
OPENING CONCERT
Monday, February 17, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.
Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center Concert Hall

KAUFMAN CONCERTO PREMIERE
FIU Festival Orchestra, directed by Javier José Mendoza; Mesut Özgen, guitar soloist
Luis David Aguilar, assistant conductor; Federico Bonacossa, guitar

Rumeli Türküsü* for two guitars
MESUT ÖZGEN
(b. 1960)
Federico Bonacossa and Mesut Özgen

Concerto for guitar and orchestra (2019)
FREDRICK KAUFMAN
(b.1936)
I. Andante y Allegretto, II. Lento quasi Adagio, III. Allegro
Soloist: Mesut Özgen, guitar; Conductor: Javier José Mendoza
World Premiere - Commissioned through a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts

INTERMISSION

The Unanswered Question
CHARLES IVES
(1874-1954)
Conductor: Luis David Aguilar

Symphony No. 3 in F major, Op. 90
JOHANNES BRAHMS
(1883-1897)
I. Allegro con brio, II. Andante, III. Poco allegretto, IV. Allegro – Un poco sostenuto
Conductor: Luis David Aguilar

* Recorded on the CD “Anatolian Fantasy” by Özgen.

Guitar Concerto

In 2018 classical guitarist Mesut Özgen commissioned me to write a concerto for him that would open the 2020 Miami International GuitArt Festival. I set about writing the work in the late spring of 2019 and in earnest during that summer.

Even though I have written over 140 compositions in my lifetime, this was the first opportunity I had to write a serious work for this beautiful instrument. I set about writing this work by studying the concertos and etudes of several 20th and 21st century masters that I have long admired, namely: Villa-Lobos, Castelnuovo-Tedesco. Leo Brower, and Rodrigo as recorded by artists such as John Williams. Julian Bream, Pepe Romero, Sharon Isbin and Christopher Parkening.
I have long been intrigued and excited about the complex rhythms found in Bulgarian and Turkish folk music, which is the cultural heritage of Dr. Özgen. Inspired by these exciting complex rhythms, which became the basis of the 3rd movement of the Concerto, I set to work. The formula I used was: melodic exploration/beauty & rhythm within the traditional 3 movement form of a classical concerto.

For the first time in my professional career as a composer I started writing the 3rd movement first. In addition to using the vast technical language of the classical guitar on a challenging cadenza that falls two thirds of the way into the third movement, I emulated the complex rhythmic patterns found in the folk music of Turkey and Bulgaria with a basic rhythmic pattern of 3+2+2+2+3(+1) just as Don Ellis did in his exciting big band jazz recording Bulgarian Bulge. I also employed traditional jazz patterns of call & response and a pizzicato walking bass line doubled on cello and other compositional devices that I am comfortable employing. The music came quickly to me and I finished the movement in less than 3 weeks.

The second movement was an easy one for me to write. In contrast to the 3rd movement, I explored the atmosphere and beauty of the classical guitar sound using it as a solo instrument enhanced with the magic and elegance of flute with the gentle support of the string section.

The first movement is where I encountered a real challenge. I slaved over it for next three months before the multiple divergent threads converged into a creative strategy and sound that I wove into a layered exaltation of the instrument itself. I wrote several versions of this movement and experimented with many contrasting ideas that seemed to mesh well together before I settled on the current version.

Ultimately, as in my Guernica Piano Concerto, I started the concerto off with a solo statement by the soloist. Here I did not immediately introduce the main theme until the gentle solo line of the guitarist set up a deceptive mood with harmonies and melodic lines that would be used throughout the movement. Contrary to my usual mode of writing where I “hear” entire movements and then take mental dictation, this one was an evolving process of pushing and pulling forces.

The relationship between composer and soloist is powerful. For a composer there is no greater pleasure than to work with a world class musician. The guitarist, Dr. Mesut Özgen, has been the epitome of patience, inspiration and positive energy that was invaluable to me as I wrote this work.

It is therefore with the sincerest pleasure that I dedicate this work to him.

Fredrick Kaufman
FIU Festival Orchestra Roster

Dr. Javier José Mendoza, Conductor
Luis David Aguilar, Assistant Conductor

Violin 1
José Antonio Guédez
Ruben Sabando
Ebert Ceballos*
Fabiana Escalona*
Daniela Montero
Wilmary Pérez*
Andrea Mayz
Mateja Kalajian
Bethany Xiques
Meghan Hall

Flute
Alexa Lugones
Alejandra Mayz

Oboe
Edymar Urdaneta
Juan Domínguez

Clarinet
Eddy Santiesteban
Heriberto Castro

Violin 2
Daniel Simon
Amaloha Farfán*
Hernando Borrego
Monica Barrios
Christa Morera
Jacy Dimia
Julian Rodríguez

Bassoon
Kahlil Josephs

French Horn
Kahlil Josephs

Trumpet
Dan Medina
Sofía Alves Da Silva

French Horn
Javier Aragón
Nicolás Andrade
Andrew Dunakin
Shane Starman
Alisabeth Sanchez

Viola
Jesús Carnero*
Francia Bueno*
Alexander Liu
Genny Triana
Caroline Senko
Carolina de León

Trombone
Andreas Buss
Karla Gonzalez
Javier Ayala

Cello
Ramses García*
Sada Adam
Loretta Pozo
Santiago Luna
Benjamin Bush
Iztel Manon

Timpani
Karlyn Viña

Bass
Elisha Martin
Paola García
Harold Hines

Percussion
Luis Vargas

*Member of the Kameristika Chamber Orchestra
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Fredrick Kaufman
FIU Festival Orchestra Roster

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Luis David Aguilar, Assistant Conductor

Violin 1
José Antonio Guédez
Ruben Sabando
Ebert Ceballos*
Fabiana Escalona*
Daniela Montero
Wilmary Pérez*
Andrea Mayz
Mateja Kalajian
Bethany Xiques
Meghan Hall

Violin 2
Daniel Simon
Amaloha Farfán*
Hernando Borrego
Monica Barrios
Christa Morera
Jacy Dimia
Julian Rodríguez

Viola
Jesús Carnero*
Francia Bueno*
Alexander Liu
Genny Triana
Caroline Senko
Carolina de León

Cello
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Sada Adam
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Itzel Manon

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French Horn
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Andreas Buss
Karla Gonzalez
Javier Ayala

Timpani
Karlyn Viña

Percussion
Luis Vargas

*Member of the Kameristika Chamber Orchestra
Tuesday, February 18, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.
Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center Concert Hall

MASSIMO DELLE CESE

Chaconne in d minor, BWV 1004
JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH
(1685-1750)

Rossiniana No.1, op. 119
MAURO GIULIANI
(1781-1829)

Asturias (Leyenda)
ISAAC ALBENIZ
(1860-1909)

INTERMISSION

Tribute to Keith Jarrett (dedicated to M. Delle Cese)
SIMONE IANNARELLI
(b. 1970)

Invocación y Danza
Joaquin Rodrigo
(1901-1999)

Three Valses Venezolanos
I. El Marabino, II. Carora, III. Valzer Criollo
ANTONIO LAURO
(1917-1986)

Odeon
Transcribed by M. Delle Cese
ERNESTO NAZARETH
(1863-1934)

Co-sponsored by
ALLA TURCA
BEKIR KÜÇÜKAY & SINAN ERSAHIN

Bekir Küçükay, guitar

BEKIR KÜÇÜKAY
(b. 1958)

Agıt (Elegy)
Halay (Dance)

Diyalog I – II (Dialogue I - II)

Serenat (Serenade)
Dostluk (Friendship)

Bodrum (Prelude – Allegro)

Bosluk (Emptiness)
Monolog 5 (Monologue No. 5)

Bahar Etüdü (Spring Study)
Moda Blues

Derin Uyku (Deep Sleep)
Uyanis (Awakening)

INTERMISSION

Sinan Ersahin, guitar

Shaman Ayini (Commissioned by the Roger Shapiro Fund for New Music)
Shaman Ritual: Cancion – Danza

Uzun ince bir yoldayım
Arranged by S. Ersahin

Three Turkish Dances
Horon – Zeybek - Trakya

SINAN ERSAHIN
(b. 1973)

ASIK VEYSEL
(1894-1973)

SINAN ERSAHIN

Co-sponsored by

Turkish Airlines

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DANIELA D’INGIULLO, soprano
FEDERICO BONACOSSA, guitar

Renka I for soprano and guitar

TOSHIO HOSOKAWA
(b. 1955)

Etudes 1, 2, 3, 6 10, 11 (from 14 Etudes for guitar)

FEDERICO BONACOSSA
(b. 1977)

Poemas de la Sala e Masajes for soprano and guitar

JAVIÉR G. COMPÉAN
(b. 1978)

INTERMISSION

Notturno for soprano and guitar

FEDERICO BONACOSSA

Timbres Artificiales 3 for guitar

ORLANDO JACINTO GARCIA
(b. 1954)

Aria for soprano and guitar

from Bachianas Brasileiras No. 5 for voice and 8 cellos,
transcribed for soprano and guitar by the composer

HEITOR VILLA-LOBOS
(b. 1978)
CONCERT PROGRAMS
2020 MIAMI INTERNATIONAL GUITART FESTIVAL

Friday, February 21, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.
Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center Concert Hall

FROM NATURE AND OPERA:
ART MUSIC OF THE 19th CENTURY GUITAR

MARCO BATTAGLIA
Guitar built by Gennaro Fabricatore, Naples, 1811
(once belonged to the Italian Patriot Giuseppe Mazzini, owned by Battaglia since 2005)

"Choice of my dearest flowers" or "the Emblematic Bouquet" op. 46
MAURO GIULIANI
(1781-1829)
I. The myrtle, Andantino
II. The pansy, Allegretto
III. The lily, Grazioso
IV. The jasmine, Andantino
V. The rosemary, Andante con espressione
VI. The carnation, Allegro vivace
VII. The narcissus, Andantino espressivo
VIII. The violet, Grazioso
IX. The rose, Andante grazioso
X. The laurel, Allegro maestoso

"Opern-Revue" op. 8, no. 8
JOHANN KASPAR MERTZ
Fantasy on themes of the "Elisir d’amore" by Gaetano Donizetti (1797-1848) (1806-1856)
I. Introduction - Allegretto
II. Quanto è bella, quanto è cara! - Larghetto
III. Una furtive lagrima - Andante, Presto
IV. Una tenera occhiatina, un sorriso, una carezza – Un poco allegretto, Brillante
V. Io son ricco e tu sei bella, io ducati e vezzi hai tu - Andantino

6 Brilliant Variations op. 87
MAURO GIULIANI
(1781-1829)
on the favorite cavatina “Di tanti palpiti”
from Tancredi by Gioachino Rossini (1792-1868)

Fantasy op. 16
NAPOLÉON COSTE
(1815-1883)
on motifs of the “Norma” by Vincenzo Bellini (1801-1835)
"Ah! Bello a me ritorna / del fido amor primiero" (Act I, Scene IV)
Torna basato su “Guerra, Guerra! Le galliche selve / Quanto han querce producon Guerrier.” (Coro, Act II, Scene VI)
“Si fin all’ore extreme / Compagna tua m’avrai” (Adalgisa – Norma, Act II, Scene III)

Two themes divide the parts of the concert, nature and the Opera. Ten flowers are the inspirational material of many pieces of the greatest guitarist of the early nineteenth century, Mauro Giuliani, who almost seems to recall an ideal Arcadia, with a happiness of invention that immediately leads to think of Franz Schubert. With some languid, and sometimes ironic, famous themes of the “Elisir d’amore” by Gaetano Donizetti, the second part opens, in a version for our instrument of the important Hungarian master Johann Kaspar Mertz mixing original parts of the Opera with other ones originally written by the guitarist himself in which virtuosity often emerges suddenly. Even the music of Gioachino Rossini is remembered in Giuliani’s “set” of variations on a famous theme of “Tancredi”. In conclusion it is proposed to listen to a fantasy that includes a series of transcriptions of parts from Vincenzo Bellini’s Norma by the great artist of the six strings of French Romanticism, Napoléon Coste.
Saturday, February 22, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.  
Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center Concert Hall

FROM ARISTOTLE

BENJAMIN VERDERY

Joaquin is Dreaming (Joaquin Soñando) (2008)  
(written for Benjamin Verdery)  

I. Joaquin imagines a Part of His History – Joaquin imaginarse una Parte de su Historia  
II. Joaquin Foresees a Future – Joaquin Preve un Futuro  
III. Joaquin is Sleeping, Joaquin is Dreaming – Joaquin durmiente, Joaquin Soñando

Prelude from Cello Suite No. 6, BWV 1012 (arr. Benjamin Verdery)  
JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH  
(1685-1750)

Gottes Zeit ist die allerbeste Zeit, BWV 106 (arr. Benjamin Verdery)  

Allegro from Prelude, Fugue and Allegro, BWV 998

From Aristotle (2015-6)  
With special guest Mark Martin, mixed vocals  

i. The Poet Being an Imitator: things as they were or are, things as they are said or thought to be, or things as they ought to be  
ii. A Noun: A noun is a composite significant sound, not marking time, of which no part is in itself significant  
iii. A Verb: A verb is a composite significant sound, marking time, in which, as in the noun, no part is in itself significant. For ‘man’ or ‘white’ does not express the idea of ‘when’; but ‘he walks’ or ‘he has walked’ does connote time, present or past  
iv. The Wineless Cup

INTERMISSION

the rain falls equally on all things, a fantasy (2017)  
(revised 2019)

1. rain clouds approach  
2. in rain  
3. separate drops fall together  
4. heavy water  
5. as the wind sings to the rain  
6. after a rain (the smell, the mist)  
7. the wind’s forgotten melody  
8. partial recall of a storm  
9. gentle rain underwater  
10. liquid sunshine  
11. rain returns  
12. a downpour’s secret  
13. the calming of the water  
14. a child’s first rainbow  
15. discovering the rain falls equally on all things

I was talking to Palestrina when my mother told me  
Takemitsu was on the phone...An Homage to Leo Brouwer  
For solo guitar and pre-recorded voice of Leo Brouwer

From Some Towns and Cities (1990)  
Capitola CA - Kaenae HI - Milwaukee WI

Benjamin Verdery uses D’Addario strings and plays a guitar built by Garrett Lee.  
Follow Ben on Facebook, Twitter @benverdery, Instagram | www.benjaminverdery.com
Sunday, February 23, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.
Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center Concert Hall

FIU MIAMI GUITAR ORCHESTRA
directed by MESUT ÖZGEN

Carnavalito
arranged by John Zarradin

Contrapunctus No. 1 (from the Art of Fugue)
arranged by Mesut Özgen

Tango

God of the Northern Forest
Eloy Rios, guitar

Yemen Türküsü*
Eloy Rios and Oscar Rodriguez, guitars

Turkish Folk Songs*
Luciana Kube, voice; Eloy Rios, guitar

Musha Study and Middle Ten

Callecitas de mi Pueblo
(Colombia)

La Perica (Joropo)
arranged by Luciana Kube

Scenes from Ellis Island

FIU MIAMI GUITAR ORCHESTRA
Directed by Mesut Özgen

Guitars: Eloy Rios, Oscar Rodriguez, Gabriel Marinuchi, Nicholas Pedraza, Cynthia Candelaria, Wilfredo Aiello, Lizandro Herrera-Blitman, Jose Tadeo Pineda**; Quatro: Luciana Kube; Quena: Paco Moreno; Vocals: Luciana Kube, Eloy Rios; Cajun: Paco Moreno

Special guest artist: Benjamin Verdery, classical and electric guitars

* Recorded on the CD “Anatolian Fantasy” by Özgen.
** Student of Alvaro Bermudez in Ronald W. Reagan Doral Senior High School.
DUO ALTO PLANO
VALENTINE DENTE, flute; ARTHUR DENTE, guitar

Chaconne in d minor (solo guitar)  
JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH  
(1685-1750)

As a mystical introduction to the following program of original compositions by Arthur Dente.
Eight compositions constructed on a poetic search.
A reference to humanity’s roots.
A concert in which world music, contemporary music and classical expression come together.

The Speculative Indian (flute and guitar)  
ARTHUR DENTE  
(b. 1962)
Built on three movements as three psychological states related to intellectual speculation.

The Flying Indian (flute and guitar)  
A journey through space and time.
Different times and different places.

The Indian Dominant (flute and guitar)  
An animist Indian towering his wild land.

The Lost Indian (flute and guitar)  
A dark and calm melody emerges, evoking the distant margins of the world.

The Indian in Hunting (solo guitar)  
A joyous and controlled uninterrupted race.

To the Confines of the Structure (solo guitar)  
Heteroclytites elements succeed each other like the last cultural residues encountered on the borders of the world.

My Father (flute and guitar)  
A reference to father and fado.
Built on the rhythm and harmonies of the fandango that saw the birth of its origins on the border of Portugal and Spain, near the city of Huelva.
LECTURES

Tuesday, February 18, 2020 at 11:00 a.m.
Instrumental Hall - Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center
DAVID DOLATA: Lutorama
David Dolata will take you on a tour through his lutes where he explains the instrument’s evolution in response to the repertoire and the differences among them and plays some Renaissance and Baroque pieces on each of them. If you ask a lutenist’s wife how many lutes her husband needs, she’ll respond: “just one more.” Classical guitarists generally get by with just one guitar, so why can’t lutenists? In his presentation, David Dolata will answer that question by showing the audience his five lutes and counting and how they’re used. After that you’ll know why lutenists always need just one more.

Thursday, February 20, 2020 at 11:00 a.m.
Instrumental Hall - Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center
MARCO BATTAGLIA: The Guitar in Early 19th Century
Marco Battaglia will discuss guitar family period instruments, sources, repertoire, and performance practices in the early 19th century. The main purpose of the lecture is to identify and use a method for analyzing the original sources (sheet music and editions) and coming up with a technique also based on research into literature on interpretation related to other instruments in addition to the guitar. Special attention is paid to period guitars, their history and development starting with the early 6-string ones with six simple strings up to those prior to the Torres version, to the design features and various types of materials used in making the strings.

Saturday, February 22, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.
Instrumental Hall - Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center
ARTHUR DENTE: Iberian Peninsula Meets World Music
Composer Arthur Dente will talk about the stylistic influences in his own compositions which are developed from the Iberian Peninsula, Europe and, by extension, the cultures of the World. In addition to the dominant Latin, his compositions incorporate other influences, including Celtic cultures, North American, South American, Indian and Arab-Andalusian. He will also demonstrate samples from his solo works.

COMPOSERS PANEL

Sunday, February 23, 2020 at 11:00 a.m.
Recital Hall - Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center

Various compositional issues when writing for guitar will be discussed by guitarist and non-guitarist composers in a round-table discussion. Panelists include Mesut Özgen (moderator), Orlando Jacinto Garcia, Fredrick Kaufman, Carlos Rafael Rivera, Jacob Sudol, Federico Bonacossa, Bekir Küçükay, Sinan Ersahin, Arthur Dente, and Benjamin Verdery.

All lectures and composers panel are free and open to public.

2020 MIGF COMPOSITION COMPETITION

This year we received 53 works by composers from 22 different countries for the annual MIGF Composition Competition. The judges Orlando Jacinto Garcia, Carlos Rafael Rivera, and Jacob Sudol evaluated all submissions and the winners will be announced at the opening concert on February 17 and will be posted online at migf.fiu.edu/news as well as facebook.com/migf.fiu.edu. All winners since 2016 can be heard on the festival website competition page.
MASTER CLASSES

Taught by the festival artists, the MIGF master classes offer students of all ages and level a highly informational learning opportunity in a friendly environment. Students will be able to study with renowned musicians in person, and all community members will have a chance to audit these classes. Four students will perform for the teacher and audience in each class, and each student receives about 30 minutes lesson from the teacher. All master classes and workshops are free and open to the public for viewing.

Tuesday, February 18, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Concert Hall - Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center
Masterclass with BEKIR KÜÇÜKAY

Wednesday, February 19, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Concert Hall - Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center
Masterclass with MASSIMO DELLE CESE

Thursday, February 20, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Concert Hall - Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center
Masterclass with SINAN ERSAHIN

Friday, February 21, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Recital Hall - Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center
Masterclass with BENJAMIN VERDERY

Saturday, February 22, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Instrumental Hall - Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center
Masterclass/Workshop with MARCO BATTAGLIA

FAMILY CONCERTS

The FIU School of Music and Miami International GuitART Festival present free concerts for children and families throughout the year as part of our community outreach. The following concert will be provided for students in the Miami schools.

Friday, February 22, 2019 at 12:30 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Somerset Academy Prep
BENJAMIN VERDERY

LUTHIERS EXPO

The MIGF Luthiers Expo will be held in the Instrumental Hall located in the Nicole and Herbert Wertheim Performing Arts Center on Saturday, February 22 and Sunday, February 23 from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

A variety of wonderful hand-built guitars will be displayed, and the festival participants will have a chance to meet the luthiers, try their guitars, and even buy one!

This year’s featured luthiers are Bill Glez and Mario Rodriguez.
MARCO BATTAGLIA

Marco Battaglia was born in Milan (Italy) where his high school studies were concentrated in the classics and afterwards he dedicated himself to the guitar studying at the Civic School of Music. In 1995 he graduated from the Conservatory and went on to specialize in the interpretation of 19th century music paying close attention to matters of performance practice utilizing original guitars. Carrying out an intense career as a soloist, he gives concerts in over 28 nations through the five continents (New York, London, Paris, Amsterdam, Belgrade, Rome, Milan, Moskow, Jakarta, Bangkok, Beijing, Hong Kong, Sydney, Wellington.) in Universities, Festivals, Institutes of Culture and broadcasted by radios and televisions (RAI - Italy, RTS Serbia, Kultura TV- Russia, TVB – Hong Kong, ABC, SBS – Australia, Radio New Zealand).

Marco has founded two different original period instrument groups, the ’800 Musica Ensemble (a string quartet with guitar and possibly other instruments) and the TrioQuartetto (a guitar ensemble that has many different formations featuring group members as soloists, in duo form and mainly as a trio or quartet, using original period guitars). Actually he performs also in duo with traverso flutist Anna Armenante and in 19th century guitar Duo Fabricatore with his US colleague Robert Trent. He is the artistic director of ‘800MusicaFestival.

In Milan he has taught a Master’s program in 19th century guitar since 2011, at the ’800 Music Academy since 2014, with the sponsorship of the Rotary Club Milano Naviglio Grande. His CDs “A guitar from the 19th century” and “Corde d’autore” have been released by the recording company M.A.P. of Milan.

FEDERICO BONACOSSA

Federico Bonacossa is a composer and classical guitarist based in Miami Florida. He studied classical guitar at the Conservatorio Statale G. P. da Palestrina in Italy before moving to the U.S. He holds a master’s degree for the Peabody Conservatory, a doctorate from the University of Miami in classical guitar performance, and a master’s degree from FIU in composition and electronic music.

His recent work as a composer explores various forms of interaction between live performers and the computer, the relationship between pitch and rhythm, and the transcription of spontaneous vocal gestures with the aid of the computer. He is the company composer for Dance NOW Miami and is a member of the Miami Guitar Trio.

As a performer, he is involved in promoting new music for guitar, and especially works that feature electronics.

Recent experiences include performances at the Fillmore Blackbox Theatre, Mainly Mozart Festival, New Music Miami Festival, Compositum Musicae Novae, USF New Music Festival, Electronic Music Midwest Festival in Kansas City, Contemplum symposium in Philadelphia, Kendall Sound Arts, 12 Nights Electro-acoustic Series, the Miami World Music Festival, the Miami Dade College On Stage Series, the Miami International Guitar Festival, Guitar Sarasota, the Miami Bach Society, the Colony Theater, the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center, the State College of Florida, the Bass Museum of Art, the Scuola Civica di Musica in Olbia, Italy, the Sephardic Jewish Synagogue in Lima, Peru, and a live concert for WLRN.

He is currently an instructor of Music Theory and Musicology at Florida International University School of Music.
MASSIMO DELLE CESE

Prizewinner in several competitions, Massimo Delle Cese was just 15 years old when ranked first at the 4th Italian National Guitar Contest. He is regularly concert touring Italy and abroad visiting further than 20 countries and joining soon the new generation of guitar players group recurrently appearing in International Guitar Festivals all over the world, as well as solo player, guitar Conciertos and till 2001 being a former member of the St.Cecilia Guitar Trio, whom he recorded two CDs with.

His 4 solo recordings have been receiving great acclaim from both audiences, critics and reviewers of international guitar magazines; his solo World Premiere Recording CD of the Italian guitarist/composer Mario Gangi’s 22 Studies has been a great success, winning astonishing estimations by performers, composers and reviewers as well. His career has been awarded the Gold Pegasus Prize for Classical Music and the City of Rome Prize as a tribute to his professional activity, when he made the classical guitar enter for the first time the new Accademia Santa Cecilia Auditorium in Rome, giving a great sold out Concierto De Aranjuez performance.

Massimo is both a professional concert artist and dedicated educator, giving Master classes in several International Guitar Festivals, Conservatories and Universities all over the world (Tichy & Cracovia Festival Polonia, S.To Tirso Festival Portugal, Istanbul Guitar Festival, Izmir Conservatory Turkey, Madrid, Valencia Guitar Festival, Aranda Guitar Festival, Hondonribba, Malaga, San Sebastian Spain, 5’ore Guitar Festival Singapore, Cyprus EMU Guitar Festival Ciprus, Kuala Lumpur Malesia, Klagenfurt Festival, Rust Guitar Festival, Vienna Gitarre Forum Austria, Stuttgart Festival, Iserlohn Guitar Symposium Germany, Radford VA University Guitar Fest, Guitar Foundation of America Festival GFA, Arizona Guitar Festival, La Guitarra California Guitar Festival CA, Miami Guitar Festival, Houston Rice University, Sacramento Guitar Society and State Univ, Chapman University OC,CA USA, Naxos Guitar Festival, Atene Conservatoire Greece, Colima Guitar Festival, Guanajuato, Celaya, Merida, Taxco & Acapulco Guitar Festival, Guadalajara Guitar Festival, Conservatorio de Pachuca, Conservatorio de Celaya, Universidad de Durango Mexico, Beijing Conservatory, Shenyang Guitar Festival, Shanghai Conservatory, Chongqing CHINA).

Massimo performs exclusively on Savarez Cantiga Strings and guitars made for him by Leonardo De Gregorio and Antonius Müller.

DAVID DOLATA

The Bulletin de la Société Française de Luth has referred to Florida International University Professor of Musicology David Dolata as a “gentleman de la Renaissance” for his activities as a performer and scholar. A native of Buffalo, New York, Dr. Dolata graduated from Case Western Reserve University (PhD), the University of Cincinnati’s College-Conservatory of Music (BM & MM), and Niagara University (BA). At FIU, Dr. Dolata coordinates the Music History area and is former Director of the School of Music. As a lutenist, he has appeared at such venues as the Glimmerglass Opera, the Florida Grand Opera, the Northwest Bach Festival, the Miami Bach Society, and on broadcasts and recordings for NPR, CBS, and BBC. With Il Furioso, which he co-directs with Victor Coelho, he has recorded Kapsberger’s 1623 Book of Arias and Battaglia d’amore: the Music of Bellerofonte Castaldi and most recently, Handel’s Complete ‘Amen, Alleluia’ Arias, HWV269–77 on the English label Toccata Classics. He appears on several other American and European recordings as well.

His research on early 17th-century Italian lute music has been published in Recent Researches in the Music of the Baroque Era, Early Music, Acta Musicologica, and Oxford Music Online. He has been visiting research professor at the Centre d’Études Supérieures de la Renaissance (CESR) at the Université de Tours – CNRS where he is co-editor of the forthcoming Encyclopedia of Tablature with John Griffiths and the university president Philippe Vendrix. David Dolata also maintains a long-standing affiliation with Boston University’s Center for Early Music Studies. His book Meantone Temperaments on Lutes and Viols was praised by Music Reference Services Quarterly as containing a wealth of knowledge here for more advanced performers and those with an interest in historical temperaments” and The Viola da Gamba Society Journal as “an excellent, well-written book.”
DANIELA D’INGIULLO

Artist dedicated to the ancient vocal repertoire, twentieth century and contemporary classical music. Winner in May 2018 of the Global Music Award – Silver medal in the categories Contemporary Classical and Female Vocalist with the recording of the Symphony N. 4 Nezahualcoyotl Icuicahuan (Songs of Nezahualcoyotl) for soprano and orchestra by Juan Trigos (iTinerant 2016).

She is known for her successful interpretations of works like Himnus ad Galli Cantum by Orbón, Lauda per la Natividad del Signore by Respighi, Stravinsky’s Cantata; the operas De Cachetito Raspad by Trigos and El Conejo y el Coyote by Rasgado, Cantatas No. 2 and 3 by Trigos, Comala y Comala Suite No. 2 by Zohn-Muldoon, Chansons créoles by Montsalvatge, Folk Songs by Berio, Canciones aztecas by Moreno (orchestration by Vidaurri), The Diary of a Disappeared by Janáček, Goethe lieder by Dallapiccola and Terzina by Castiglioni. She has been invited as a soloist at various festivals like Festival Internacional E. Mata and Festival Humanitas (Oaxaca, Mexico), SpazioMusica (Cagliari, Italy), Festival Internacional de Chihuahua (Mexico), and International Guitar Series at UCF (Florida), among others. She has sung under the baton of conductors of international fame as Daniele Callegari, Riccardo Frizza, Günter Neuhold, Marcello Panni and Juan Trigos, collaborating with ensembles and orchestras like Filarmonica Arturo Toscanini, Orchestra del Teatro Regio of Parmaand Icarus Ensemble (Italy); Eastman BroadBand (New York), Ensemble Nuevo de México, Sinfónica de Guanajuato, Sinfónica de Aguascalientes, Sinfónica de Puebla, Filarmónica de Boca del Río (Mexico) and Sinfónica de Heredia (Costa Rica), among the others.

With this last recording in May 2018 she won the Silver Medal – Outstanding Achievement – of the “Global Music Award”, in the categories “Contemporary classical” and “Female vocalist”.

ARTHUR DENTE

Trained in classical music and improvisation, Arthur Dente is a French guitarist, composer and interpreter. He tours with his daughter flutist Valentine Dente as the Duo Alto Plano. In his compositions, he explores an interaction between the Iberian Peninsula, Europe and to some extent other cultures from the world through his Portuguese roots. Besides a prominent Latin inspiration, his musical compositions include other influences from Celtic nations, North America, South America, India, and Arabo-Andalusian. After graduating from the Music Conservatory of Toulouse, he completed his education studying in masterclasses with Léo Brouwer, Manuel Barrueco and Abel Carlevaro in classical guitar, Pierre Culaz in Jazz guitar, as well as with Paco Serrano, Vincent Pradal and Manolo San Lucar in flamenco guitar. He further completed his education with a concertist course provided by Raphaël Andia. In 2004, he founded the music orchestra Magellan, comprising 23 musicians: a chamber orchestra, a choir and a flamenco band with gypsy musicians. During the “Festival Off” held in Avignon in 2006, Magellan Ensemble presented a concert entitled “the Iberian Flagships,” a musical fresco covering three days of musical and dance performance. In 1992, he concertized touring in Portugal with the Alliance Française. He later offered a recital program in his home town Aix-en-Provence, then Toulouse, Marseille and Paris. He also performed concerts and conferences in the United States, including Santa Cruz, San Francisco, Sacramento and Los Angeles. For these performances he put together several themes, blending Portuguese Fado, Andalusian musical fragrances, and classical harmony, at the crossings between the popular and more sophisticated music. The theme of India, central in his musical compositions, poetizes the tribal nature of the modern mankind at the crossing point of several civilizations. His CD, entitled “Las India” and published in August 2008, puts together this favorite theme around the “indigene”, amplified by an intensively poetic guitar. In 2013 he composed a choral piece for the Aix-Marseille academy of education, entitled “Mundo Entero”, performed at Aix-en-Provence for a choir of 120 secondary school pupils and an ensemble of 15 flamenco dancers originated from several secondary schools of the larger Aix-en-Provence area.
VALENTINE DENTE

The young French flute player Valentine Dente studied at the Conservatory of Aix-en-Provence and has been performing with various ensembles throughout Europe and the United States of America. She has been a regular member of the Magellan Ensemble, comprised of 14 musicians, singers, and dancers, led by the guitarist and composer Arthur Dente. In 2012, she joined the “Junior Orchestra” in collaboration with the London Symphonic Orchestra at the “Grand Théâtre de Provence” and also performed with Las Indias Quartet in the “Off Avignon Festival. Recently in 2018, she toured the Company “Bread and Puppets Theater in the U.S. and Canada. Since 2016, she has been concertizing with her father guitarist Arthur Dente as the Duo Alto Plano.

ORLANDO JACINTO GARCIA

Through 200 works composed for a wide range of performance genres, including interdisciplinary and site-specific works, and works with and without electronics for orchestra, choir, soloists, and a variety of chamber ensembles, Orlando Jacinto Garcia has established himself as an important figure in the new music world. The distinctive character of his music has been described as “time suspended- haunting sonic explorations” – qualities he developed from his work with Morton Feldman among others. Born in Havana, Cuba in 1954, Garcia migrated to the United States in 1961 and received his DMA in Music Composition from the University of Miami in 1984. A long list of distinguished soloists, ensembles, and orchestras have presented his music at festivals and recitals in most of the major capitals of the world. Recent performances of his music include those in Poland, England, Italy, Spain, Mexico, Colombia, Cuba, and other parts of Europe, Latin America, the US, and Canada.

In demand as a guest composer and lecturer at national and international festivals, he is the recipient of numerous honors and awards from a variety of organizations and cultural institutions. These include two Fulbright artist/lectureships, the first in Caracas, Venezuela during 1991-92 where Garcia presented master classes, assisted with the set and development of the Center for Electro-Acoustic Music and Research at the Universidad Central de Venezuela, completed several new works, and conducted and presented premieres of his music. The second a Senior Lectureship in Salamanca, Spain during 1996-97 at the Universidad de Salamanca where he taught graduate analysis/composition courses, created works, and conducted his music.


Garcia’s music is recorded on O.O. Discs, CRI (Emergency Music, eXchange Series), Albany, North/South, CRS, Capstone, Rugginenti, New Albion, Innova, VDM, CNMAS, New World, Telos, and Opus One Records. An album of his orchestra music was released in September 2014 by the Toccata Classics label with the Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra and Jose Serebrier conducting. A second CD on the same label this time featuring works for chamber orchestra and soloists with Garcia conducting was released in April of 2018. The CD features violinist Jennifer Choi, pianist Cristina Valdes, clarinetist Fernando Dominguez, and the Malaga Philharmonic.

Garcia’s solo, chamber, and orchestra works have been nominated for Latin Grammys in 2009, 2010, 2011, 2015 in the best contemporary classical composition category. A dedicated teacher, he is the founder and director of the Miami Section of the International Society for Contemporary Music (ISCM) at FIU, the New Music Miami Festival, the NODUS Ensemble, and the FIU New Music Ensemble and is a resident composer for the Miami Symphony Orchestra. Garcia is Composer in Residence for the FIU School of Music and the CARTA Miami Beach Urban Studios and Professor of Music in the School of Music at Florida International University in Miami.
FREDRICK KAUFMAN

Fredrick Kaufman is the composer of over one hundred and thirty compositions that have been performed worldwide by orchestras such as the Warsaw Philharmonic, Israel Philharmonic, Moscow Symphony Orchestra, Moscow Chamber Orchestra, St. Petersburg Philharmonic, Czech Radio Orchestra, Czech Philharmonic, Czech Symphony Orchestra, Czech National Symphony Orchestra, Jerusalem Symphony, Israel Chamber Orchestra, Moldova Symphony Orchestra, Instrumental Ensemble of Grenoble, London Sinfonietta, Orchestra Novi Musici (Naples, Italy), Novi Sad Symphony Orchestra, Dominican Republic National Orchestra, Puerto Rico Symphony Orchestra, National Orchestra of Brazil, Los Angeles Philharmonic, New World Symphony, the Pittsburgh Symphony orchestras and numerous orchestras and ensembles throughout the United States. His ballets have been danced by companies such as the Royal Swedish Ballet, the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, the Batseva Dance Company, the Bat-Dor Dance Company and the Pennsylvania Dance Theater.

Kaufman is a former Fulbright Scholar, and author of The African Roots of Jazz, a groundbreaking study that drew heavily on his early musical life as a jazz trumpet player with the Woody Herman Band. He is the recipient of the Darius Milhaud Award in Composition from the Aspen Music Festival, and honors and fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Rockefeller, Guggenheim and Ford Foundations, the California, Montana and Pennsylvania Arts Councils as well as the Norwegian Government.

His Pulitzer Prize nominated Holocaust composition Kaddish, which Bernard Holland of The New York Times described as “having the most expressive writing for strings to be heard today,” has been performed over 130 times in the major concert halls of Europe, Eastern Europe, Scandinavia, Israel, South America, Asia and throughout the United States. His works have received prizes at international competitions and have been performed throughout the world at major music festivals. Israeli television has paid tribute to him as a composer in the thirty-minute documentary film Fredrick Kaufman-Like of an Artist.

Critics from the: New York Times, Newark Star-Ledger, Philadelphia Inquirer, Miami Herald, Jerusalem Post, London Times, Perpignan Independent have described Kaufman’s music as “striking…individual…an interesting combination of overwhelming pathos and infectious joy…brought one into the realm of musical genius”.

His Kamararim (for Taiko drums and Flamenco dance) has been called “remarkable” and “stunning” and was voted as the number one classical composition of 2002 and “the most imaginative new work of the year” by music critic James Roos of The Miami Herald. String Quartet #6, “The Urban” was called “stunning” by New Yorker Magazine. The Quartet was nominated by Lukas Foss in 2007 for a Pulitzer Prize and his Grammy nominated Guernica Piano Concerto, recorded by Kemal Gekic and the Czech National Symphony Orchestra “absolutely brilliant” by the Prague Musical Review. The premiere performance took place at the Sibelius Concert Hall (Feb, ’13) in Prague and was a spectacular success. Kaufman’s recent recording Stars & Distances featuring the Florida Grand Opera was nominated for Grammy Award in 2016.

Fredrick Kaufman currently resides with his artist wife Florence Kaufman, in Miami Beach where he holds the distinguished position of Professor Emeritus in Composition at Florida International University and actively tours the world with his music.
BEKIR KÜÇÜKAY

Guitarist, composer, and teacher Bekir Kucukay is one of the foremost musicians in Turkey today. He is one of those talents who combines all these skills and exercises them at a very high level. Kucukay was born in 1958 in Ankara.

He started his musical life at the age of nine with mandolin. It was not until the age of sixteen, however, that he made his decision to devote his life to the guitar. Meeting Ozer Unal in 1976, the celebrated tenor-sax player of that period, was a turning point in his life as well as in his music. Influenced by Ozer Unal, not only did he become interested in Jazz, but he also devoted himself to classical guitar. In 1979, he graduated from Gazi University, Faculty of Music. Later he completed a Master’s Program at the University of Istanbul State Conservatory and went on to do a Doctorate at Gazi University.

In 1983, he was awarded a prize at a National Competition for Guitar Composition with his work “Monologue”. For his performances and recordings of Heitor Villa-Lobos music, Kucukay was awarded a medal which was given only 100 artists around the world by the Brazilian Government, to coincide with the 100th Anniversary Celebrations of the composer’s birth in 1987.

He created his own teaching method for guitar as an alternative to the traditional ones and in 1992, published his own method “A Beginner’s Method for Classical Guitar”. In 1995, he recorded an album of Turkish Ballads with Omer Yilmaz, tenor soloist from the Ankara State Opera. In 1999, he was given a prize by Mujdat Gezen Art Center.

Other than his radio broadcasts and appearing on television, he has participated in many festivals both in his native country and abroad. In addition to giving recitals, he has played all the well-known guitar concerts with Baskent, METU, Mersin and Istanbul Chamber Orchestras, Bursa, Cukurova, Izmir, and Istanbul State Symphony Orchestras, Eskisehir Municipality, Dokuz Eylul University, TRNC and Presidential Symphony Orchestras. He has been a professor of guitar at the University of Istanbul State Conservatory since 1988.

SINAN ERSAHIN

Sinan Erşahin was born in 1973. He studied guitar with Ahmet Kaneci at the Department of Guitar in the Ankara State Conservatory of Hacettepe University.

He studied in master classes with many important contemporary guitarists and composers such as Jorge Cardoso, Juan Falu, Ricardo Moyano, Miguel Angel Cherubito (Argentina), Carlo Domeniconi (Italy), Francisco Ortiz (France), Victor Monge “Serranito”, Marco Socias (Spain) and Hiroki Terashima (Japan) in 1994–1999 when he continued studying at the Faculty of Dentistry of Ege University from where he graduated in 1999.

Erşahin was accepted to a performance program at Prague Music Academy (HAMU) with a fellowship and studied contemporary guitar repertoire with Milan Zalelka. He arranged some traditional Anatolian melodies for guitar and performed many concerts in Turkey and abroad. After completing his studies in Prague successfully, Erşahin studied with Soner Egesel in Master of Music program at Istanbul Technical University, Center for Advanced Studies in Music (MIAM) and Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University, State Conservatory. He completed his doctoral degree, proficiency in arts, at Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University, State Conservatory.

Erşahin has given many concerts as a soloist and chamber musician at important concert halls and festivals internationally. He has also performed as a soloist with many orchestras such as the İzmir State Symphony Orchestra, Istanbul Philharmonic Orchestra, Antalya State Symphony Orchestra, Bursa State Symphony Orchestra, Eskisehir Municipality Symphony Orchestra and CRR Symphonic Orchestra.

Erşahin currently teaches as an Associate Professor at the State Conservatory of Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University.
JAVIER MENDOZA

Javier José Mendoza is Assistant Professor and Director of Orchestral Studies at the Florida International University School of Music. Previously, he was orchestra director at the University of Illinois at Chicago where he directed the UIC Orchestra and founded Mariachi Fuego. He has recently been a guest conductor at the University of Copenhagen.

Mendoza is also Artistic Director of the Chicago Arts Orchestra (CAO) and is active in a movement to unearth and re-debut forgotten works from viceregal Latin America. Mendoza is energetically re-premiering pieces from archives in Mexico, Guatemala, and Spain in an effort to bring this wonderful music back into public awareness. Highlights for the 2017-18 season include, a return appearance on the Chicago Latino Music Festival, Guest Conductor in Guatemala City with the Montessori Canta Festival, and leading the CAO on tour of Mexico City with performances at the Catedral Metropolitana, Anfiteatro Simón Bolívar, and Sala Nezahualcóyotl at the invitation of the Universidad National Autónima de México.

Mendoza has been a conductor with Opera Maya in Quintana Roo, Mexico and presented the first orchestral concert performed at Tulum, one of the last cities built and inhabited by the Maya. Mendoza has performed with the CAO and Opera Maya across Mexico including performances in San Miguel de Allende, Campeche, Cancún, Playa del Carmen, and Chetumal. Other international performances have been with the State Philharmonic of Sibiu, Romania and the Camerata Antonio Soler in El Escorial, Spain.

Mendoza studied at Butler University with Henry Leck and received his master of music degree with distinction from the University of New Mexico where he was mentored by composer/conductor Bradley Ellingboe. While in New Mexico Mendoza was an apprentice conductor to Roger Melone, Resident Conductor of the New Mexico Symphony Orchestra. Mendoza will receive the Doctor of Arts degree from Ball State University in July 2017. At Ball State he studied with Bohuslav Rattay, Michael Hall and Doug Droste. Additional study was completed in Europe with Jorma Panula and at the conductor-training program of Accademia Musicale Chigiana in Siena, Italy, with Maestro Gianluigi Gelmetti.

LUIS DAVID AGUILAR

Dynamic and motivated Venezuelan conductor who has built his artistic career in a variety of music-related fields. Currently, he is the Assistant Conductor to both The Miami Symphony Orchestra and the Florida International University Symphony Orchestra, and Music Director of the Florida International University Filarmónica Orchestra.

Musically born at El Sistema (Venezuela), his first conducting mentor was José Antonio Abreu. Then he extended these studies with Teresa Hernández and Dick van Gasteren. Lately, he continued his education at the Florida International University under the guidance of Director of Orchestral Studies Javier Mendoza, and also receives the mentorship of Eduardo Marturet, Music Director and Conductor of The Miami Symphony Orchestra. At this moment, Aguilar has conducted prestigious groups like the Simón Bolívar Symphony Orchestra, the Miami Symphony Orchestra, the National Youth Orchestra of the RNCOCIP (Panama), the Teresa Carreño Symphony Orchestra, the Simon Bolívar Choir, the Florida International University Symphony Orchestra, and the Teresa Carreño Ballet.

His community engagement involves the support of organizations that enrich the lives of children and youths through music. Recently, he has been guest clinician and conductor to three ensembles from Sistema Ravinia (Ravinia Festival, Chicago), and conductor of the Young Mozarts String Orchestra, the Concert Chamber Ensemble, and the Symphony Quartet from the Greater Miami Youth Symphony (Miami). Also, other organizations where he has been guest clinician are Youth Orchestra Los Angeles (YOLA, Los Angeles), Big Noise (Sistema Scotland, Stirling), Superar (Sistema Austria, Vienna), and El Sistema (Venezuela).

Besides his musical achievements as a performer, he exhibited his managing skills as Director of String Sections from the Orchestral Academic Program of El Sistema (Venezuela) where he pioneered the writing of El Sistema Procedures Manual, charted the viola curriculum for the upcoming El Sistema University, and designed strategies to improve the growth of youth and children orchestras throughout the country.
MESUT ÖZGEN

Founder and artistic director of the Miami International GuitART Festival, Mesut Özgen is a “highly accomplished and exciting player who gets the most out of the music he plays” (Classical Guitar magazine of England), as well as a composer whose works show the deep influence of traditional Turkish music. Critically acclaimed as “stunningly versatile and expressive” by Acoustic Guitar magazine, Mesut has been busy with concertizing, recording, composing, conducting, and teaching.

Özgen joined the faculty of Florida International University in the fall of 2013 as director of guitar studies and the FIU Miami Guitar Orchestra. He has performed and taught master classes throughout the United States, Spain, and Turkey and was the director of guitar studies at the University of California, Santa Cruz from 1998-2013. In addition to being a prizewinner in both the International Portland Guitar Competition and the National Guitar Competition of Turkey, he has performed as featured soloist in many festivals, including the International Paco Peña Guitar Festival in Cordoba, Spain, Yale Guitar Extravaganza, Sierra Nevada Guitar Festival, Santa Cruz Baroque Festival, Healdsburg Guitar Festival, Istanbul CRR concert series, April in Santa Cruz: Contemporary Music Festival, Cabrillo College Distinguished Artists Series, Ankara METU Art Festival, Kars Art Festival, Konya Mevlana (Rumi) Cultural Center, and UCSC Arts & Lectures Series among many others.

Özgen’s degrees include Master of Music and Artist Diploma from Yale School of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts from Arizona State University, as well as an MD from Hacettepe University Medical School. He was the first guitarist to be awarded the “Dean’s Prize,” the highest honorary prize at the Yale School of Music, where he studied under the tutelage of guitarist and composer Benjamin Verdery. Özgen has been awarded numerous grants for his musical projects since 2003. The most recent awards include the Knight Arts Challenge by the Knight Foundation and the Art Works by the National Endowment for the Arts for the 2021 Miami International GuitART Festival.

CARLOS RAFAEL RIVERA

Carlos Rafael Rivera is a commissioned and award-winning composer whose career has spanned several genres of the music industry. His work for film and Television includes scores for Netflix’ GODLESS, directed by Scott Frank, starring Jeff Daniels and Michelle Dockery, and Universal Pictures’ A WALK AMONG THE TOMBSTONES, starring Liam Neeson. A protégé of Randy Newman, he earned a DMA in Composition at USC’s Thornton School, where he studied with Donald Crockett and Stephen Hartke.

His music has been acclaimed by the Miami Herald, the San Francisco Examiner, and the LA Times, helping establish him as a composer with the unique ability of incorporating a large diversity of musical influences into his captivating compositions, which reflect his multi-cultural upbringing in Central America and the United States.

His work for the performing arts has been featured by some of the most prominent ensembles and soloists, including Arturo Sandoval, Colin Currie, Chanticleer, Cavatina Duo, the Chicago Sinfonietta, the American Composers Orchestra, and the Los Angeles Guitar Quartet; commissioned by the Simon Bolivar Youth Symphony and the American Wind Symphony; recorded by Varèse-Sarabande, Warner, Sony, Naxos, and Cedille labels; and awarded by the Herb Alpert Foundation, the Guitar Foundation of America, BMI, and twice by ASCAP.

He has served as Composer-in-Residence with the Miami Symphony Orchestra, and was a musical consultant for “Invitation to World Literature," an educational series funded by the Annenberg Foundation and produced by WGBH. He is a voting member of the Television Academy (EMMY’s), the Recording Academy (GRAMMY’s), the Society of Composers and Lyricists (SCL), and is a sought-out guest composer and lecturer throughout the Americas. Carlos is Assistant Professor and Director of the Musicianship, Artistry Development, & Entrepreneurship (MADE) Program at the acclaimed Frost School of Music at the University of Miami. Carlos is represented by Amos Newman at William Morris Endeavor Entertainment (WME).
JACOB SUDOL

Jacob David Sudol writes intimate compositions that explore enigmatic phenomena, the inner nature of how we perceive sound, and novel connections between Eastern and Western musical cultures. His music has been performed well over one hundred and fifty times by many prestigious ensembles and performers across the USA as well as in Canada, Taiwan, the United Kingdom, Germany, Netherlands, Mexico, Singapore, China, Thailand, Japan, Korea, and Cambodia.

Dr. Sudol’s music has been commissioned and performed by many prestigious ensembles and performers such as the Nouvel Ensemble Moderne, Jennifer Choi, Mari Kimura, Kate Stenberg, Little Giant Chinese Chamber Orchestra, Andy Kozar, the Living Earth Show, Jason Calloway, Sarah Cahill, Insonnio Ensemble, Amernet String Quartet, Dal Niente Ensemble, Xenia Pestova, Keith Kirchoff, Luis Tabuenca, Chai Found New Music Workshop, the Aurora Borealis Duo, Chen-Hui Jen, Stephanie Aston, the McGill Contemporary Music Ensemble, Solomiya Moroz, and the FIU Laptop and Electronic Arts (FLEA) Ensemble.

Dr. Sudol’s music has been presented in distinguished venues such as the International Computer Music Conference and Zentrum für Kunst und Medientechnologie Karlsruhe, among many others.

Dr. Sudol is an Associate Professor of Music Technology and Composition and the Music Technology Coordinator at Florida International University in Miami, Florida. In 2018, FIU awarded Dr. Sudol a Faculty Award for Excellence in Research & Creative Activities. He was also awarded a 2015-16 Fulbright Senior Scholar grant to research and teach at National Chiao Tung University in Taiwan.

BENJAMIN VERDERY

Described by the NY Times as “an iconoclastic player” and “an American original, an American master” by Sound Board Magazine, Benjamin Verdery has been hailed for his innovative and eclectic musical career.

2017 began with the world premiere of Searching for a Chorale by Bens mentor Seymour Bernstein and published by Doberman-Yppan with a video available on You Tube. Beat Box champion/vocal artist Mark Martin and the Michiyaya Dance Company, who choreographed a group of Ben’s Etudes, joined Ben for a few East Coast concerts. Ben composed the competition piece the rain falls equally on all things for the Changsha International Guitar Festival (China), also published by Doberman. The piece will appear on Ben’s forth coming CD featuring all of his own compositions for Elm City Records. Ben’s into his 34th year as the guitar professor at the Yale School of Music, his 12th year as Artistic Director of 92Y’s Art of the Guitar series and 2019 will be the 20th year of his Maui Summer Master Class. Ben is also now the Artistic Director of the Connecticut Guitar Festival.

Ben has created and released several exquisitely filmed videos, including his Shangri La Series, filmed at Doris Duke’s Shangri La Center for Islamic Arts & Cultures Honolulu, HI featuring Barrios Mangore, Manuel de Falla and Isaac Albeniz. Benjamin Verdery’s tours regularly take him throughout the US, Canada, Europe and Asia. He has recorded and/or performed with such diverse artists as Andy Summers, Frederic Hand, William Coulter, Leo Kottke, Anthony Newman, Jessye Norman, Paco Peña, Hermann Prey, John Williams, hip - hop artist Billy Dean Thomas, beat box/vocal percussionist Marc Martin and Nano Stern. As a recording artist, Ben has released more than 15 albums. His most recent, The Ben Verdery Guitar Project: On Vineyard Sound, features Ben performing music by his composer colleagues at Yale University’s School of Music as well as one of his own compositions. Released on the ECR label, an on - line music platform Ben co - curates with guitarist/songwriter Solomon Silber.

A prolific, published composer in his own right, many of Ben’s compositions have been performed, recorded and published over the years. He has been commissioned to compose works for The Assad Duo, guitarist David Russell, John Williams and John Etheridge, The Changsha International Guitar Festival, The Chilean Guitar Ensemble, the Pensacola Guitar Orchestra (FL), Kyo-Shin-An Arts (NY), Wake Forest University, Thomas Offermann and the guitar ensemble of the Hochschule for Music and Theatre (Rostock, Germany) and the score for the documentary film Corida Goyesque. Ben’s Scenes from Ellis Island, for guitar orchestra, has been extensively broadcast and performed at festivals and universities in the United States, Canada, New Zealand and Europe, and the Los Angeles Guitar Quartet included it on their CD, Air and Ground (Sony Classical). Doberman - Yppan (Canada) is currently publishing his solo and duo works for guitar, and Alfred Music distributes the solo pieces from Some Towns & Cities as well as instructional books and video.
The Miami International GuitART Festival, an annual musical event of the FIU School of Music, brings internationally acclaimed artists for the benefit of audiences in Miami and South Florida, providing music of the highest quality in culturally diverse styles together with educational and academic opportunities for students, visitors, and residents. With your help, we aim to continue our festival and increase our outreach efforts by bringing music to all parts of the South Florida community.

The Miami International GuitART Festival gratefully acknowledges the support of following individuals, businesses, associations, municipalities, and foundations and thanks all volunteers who make our festival possible. With their generous support and your ticket purchases, the MiGF will continue providing opportunities to wonderfully talented artists and bringing them together with the audiences and students in South Florida. For more information on sponsoring the festival, please visit migf.fiu.edu/give/.

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