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www.volterraguitar.org

The Volterra Project 
Summer Guitar Institute

10 years
2006 • 2007 • 2008 • 2009 • 2010 • 2011
2012 • 2013 • 2014 • 2015

8-13 July 2016
Program

Edition 2016: Jubilee

When I started the Volterra Project nine years ago I wouldn't have ever imagined to be writing an invitation for its tenth edition. But here I am, looking back and seeing a marvelous adventure that saw the participation of over 130 students from 24 Countries, 22 professional guitarists, two flutists, one bandoneonist, one lute player, two violists, five Physiology teachers, four Business teachers, a dozen very special guests, ten workshops, 13 luthiers, four cooks, two boards, several van drivers, friends, spouses, significant others, and a path paved with wonderful memories from very special people who share our strong motivation and vision, imagination, love for the guitar and for music.

Looking back I also realized that the Volterra Project had grown into something that transcended our initial hopes. Reading all the evaluations, listening to comments and inputs that the Volterra Project received along the years, from the past students and the artists alike, a red thread unravels, describing the Volterra Project as a unique and transformative experience in which the Volterra Project acts as a sort of "converging lens": an instrument able to focus and magnify a whole new dimension of guitar playing, of perceiving art, of personal growth.

This year is the Volterra Project's 10th anniversary. It would be easily rhetorical to say that is a closing point of a cycle and the beginning of a new one. But the Volterra Project is, by definition, a project, that is an always growing and transforming force that, like our love for art, is not made by a succession of stages, but, instead, flows in many directions at the time, enriching and maturing at the contact with the many forces it encounters.

This is why this year's "theme" is JUBILEE: this edition will be the celebration of a decade of artistic creativity, of all the lives, the philosophies, and the experiences that passed through the Volterra Project and contributed to build its identity and reputation.

It is, therefore, with great pleasure, joy, and true pride that I invite young guitarists from around the world to this tenth edition of the Volterra Project, Summer Guitar Institute.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Antigoni Goni". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the start of the word "Antigoni".

Antigoni Goni - Artistic director

Friday 8th of July
20:30

Faculty

- Antigoni Goni
- Duo Melis
- Jon Aaron
- David Jaggs

Assistans

- Nikos Baroutsakis
- Luca Isolani
- Martin Vandenbemden

Guest

- Lynn McGrath

Students

- Claudia Argenti (Italy)
- Daniela Bruschi (Italy)
- Andrew DiGiandomenico (USA)
- Veronica Eres (USA)
- Larissa Hernandez Picharro (Mexico)
- Flore Heirbaut (Belgium)
- Richard Johnson (USA)
- Kristian Richardson (UK)
- Felicitas Sarodnick (Germany)
- Jean-Louis Sterckx (Belgium)

Hymn to the Muse

• Opening Act, Luca Isolani

Nuccio D'Angelo Electric suite
Gary Ryan Benga beat

• Pause

• Antigoni Goni (Guitar recital)

Manos Hadjidakis
(Arr. Tulio Peramo)

Giokonda's smile
Countess Esterhazy
Returning in an evening

Mikis Theodorakis

Epitafios
Mera Magiou (A day in May)
Edises, asteri mou (You have set, my star)

Atanas Ourkouzounov

4 Greek miniatures **
1. *Pleading Song,*
2. *Joyous Love Song,*
3. *Lament,*
4. *Leaping Dance*

Agustin Barrios-Mangore

Vidalita
Sarita

Jose Luis Merlin

Suite del Recuerdo
Evocacion
Zamba
Chacarera
Carnavalito
Evocacion

Sunday 10th of July
20:30

From Mudarra to Elton John

Rassegna "Tra Terra e Cielo" del Comune di Pomarance
Rocca Sillana, San Dalmazio, Pomarance

• Opening Act: Nikos Baroutsakis

NICO ROJAS	Guajira a mi Madre
ROLAND DYENS (b.1955)	Largo (from Libra Sonatina)
SERGIO ASSAD (b.1952)	3 Divertimentos - Abaete Arpodador Parati

• Pause

• David Jaggs (Guitar recital)

E. DE VALDERRABANO (1500-1557)	Soneto
A. MUDARRA (1510-1580)	Fantasia
S.L.WEISS (1687-1750)	Prelude Allemande Gigue
I. ALBENIZ (1860-1909)	Granada Sevilla From Suite Espagnola
LEONARD BERNSTEIN (1918-1990)	Somewhere Maria From West Side Story
THREE POP BALLADS FROM USA	Killing me Softly Vincent You've Got a Friend
THREE FILM THEMES	Moon River Schindler's List Piano

Monday 11th of July
20:30

Duo Melis

Camera Consiliare di Palazzo dei Priori, Volterra

• Opening Act: Maarten Vandembelden

N. PAGANINI (1782-1840)	Grande Sonata per chitarra II. Romanza III. Andantino variato
F. GARCIA LORCA (1898-1936)	Canciones Antiguas Espanolas
A BARRIOS MANGORE (1185-1944)	Maxixe

• Pause

• Duo Melis (Guitar recital)

M. DE FALLA (1876-1946)	Danza Española N° 2 from "La Vida Breve" *
ANTOINE DE LHOYER (1768-1840)	Duo N° 3. Op. 31 I. Allegro II. Romance III. Rondo
A. PIAZZOLLA (1921-1992)	Allegro from Tango Suite
ENRIQUE GRANADOS (1867-1916)	Valses Poéticos*
D. BOGDANOVIC (1955-)	Sonata-Fantasia - Allegro ritmico - Adagio, rubato - Allegro molto

Tuesday 13th of July
20:30

The Volterra Project laureates

Camera Consiliare di Palazzo dei Priori, Volterra

Claudia Argenti (Italy)

Daniela Bruschi (Italy)

Andrew DiGiandomenico (USA)

Veronica Eres (USA)

Larissa Hernandez Picharro (Mexico)

Flore Heirbaut (Belgium)

Richard Johnson (USA)

Kristian Richardson (UK)

Felicitas Sarodnick (Germany)

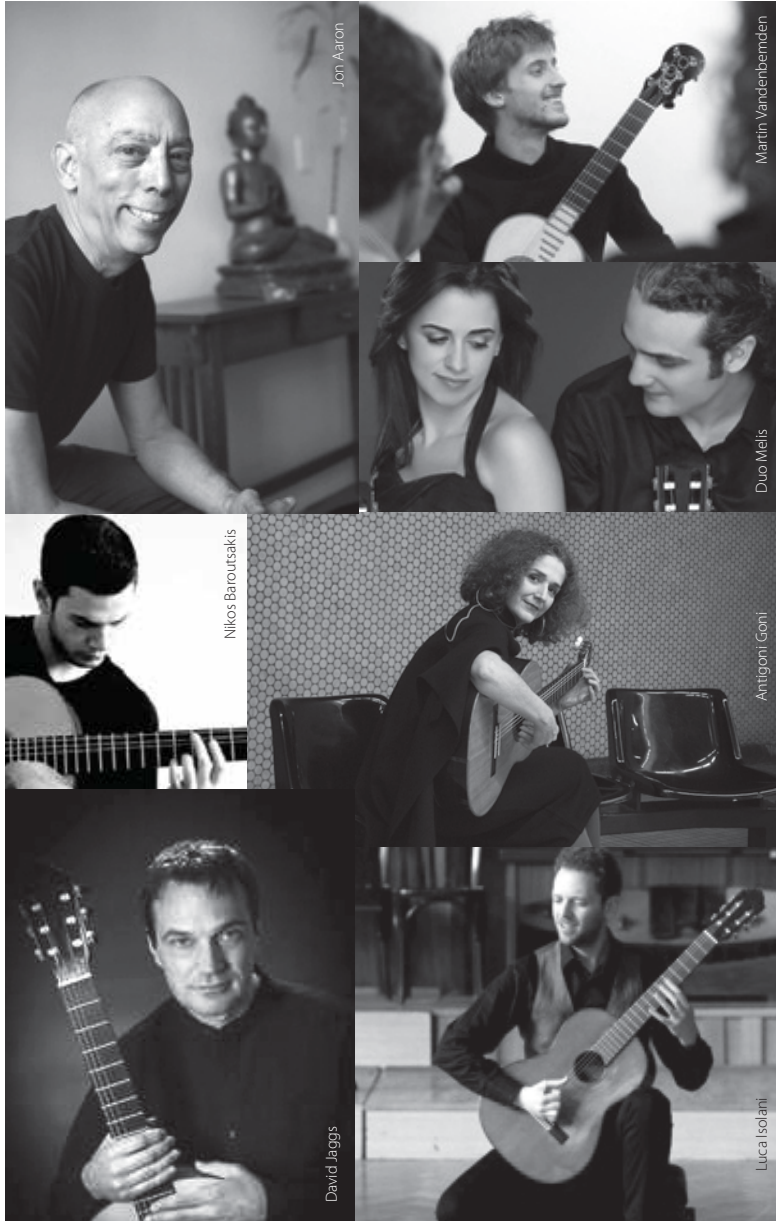
Jean-Louis Sterckx (Belgium)

Program

to be announced on stage

BIOGRAPHIES

(in alphabetical order)



Nikos Baroutsakis is a guitarist and transcriber from Athens, Greece. His work includes performances as a soloist and in chamber music ensembles, as well as arrangements of compositions for the guitar.

Born in 1989, Nikos began his formal studies on the guitar with Dimitris Pappas, with whom he obtained his Soloist Diploma in 2011.

His participation in the 2010 edition of the Volterra Project Summer Guitar Institute in Tuscany, Italy, introduced him to Antigoni Goni. Motivated by her inspiring artistry and teaching, he continued his studies under her guidance at the Royal Conservatory in Brussels from 2011 to 2015. In addition, he studied historical music on Baroque and Romantic guitars with Dirk de Hertogh, and Contemporary music with Bart Boukaert. During that four year period he obtained a Bachelors and Masters Degree of Arts in Music.

In the summer of 2015 he participated once more in the Volterra Project thanks to a scholarship provided by the Institute for Culture and Education in Brussels, under the patronage of the Metropolitan Athanasios of Achaia, and the generous contribution of the Greek community in Brussels.

Furthermore, Nikos is interested in extending the classical guitar repertoire through transcriptions of 20th century music. His arrangement for two guitars of the orchestral work "The Light" by Phillip Glass was premiered in Brussels in 2015 and received great critical acclaim.

Finally, he has participated in master classes with highly acclaimed guitarists such as: Sergio Assad, Dusan Bogdanovic, Elliot Fisk, Oscar Ghiglia, Timo Korhonen, Elena Papandreou, Konrad Ragošni, Gary Ryan, and Raphaella Smits.

Spanish guitarist **Susana Prieto** and Greek guitarist **Alexis Muzurakis** made their debut as **Duo Melis** in 1999 at the International Guitar Festival of Volos (Greece). Since then they have performed in such prestigious halls as the Berlin Philharmonie, the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, the Tchaikovsky Hall in Moscow, the Megaron in Athens, and the Merkin Concert Hall in New York. They are in great demand for concerts and master classes at international guitar festivals and prestigious concert series in Europe and America.

They have won numerous prizes, both individually and together. In 1999, as a duo, they won first prize at the International Guitar Duo Competition of Frechen (Germany). The following year they won the prestigious Guitar Duo Competition of Montelimar (France) as well as the 21st International Guitar Duo Competition "Mauro Giuliani" (Italy). In 2001 they captured the Duo/Ensemble prize at the Chamber Music Competition of Leipzig (Germany) and the same year were the winners at the International Guitar Duo Competition of Paris (France). In 2003 they recorded their first CD after winning the recording prize Citta di Verona at the International Chamber Music Competition "Gaetano Zinetti" (Italy). In 2005 they successfully auditioned for the Yehudi Menuhin Society Live Music Now.

Duo Melis has collaborated with the Berliner Symphoniker, the Neubrandenburger Philharmonie, the Bayerische Kammerphilharmonie, the Radio Orchestra of Bucharest, and the National Orchestra of Thessaloniki conducted by Leo Brouwer. Their wide repertoire spans from the baroque music to the music of A. Piazzolla, A. Ginastera, Leo Brouwer, and also includes concertos for two guitars and orchestra by Rodrigo, Castelnuovo-Tedesco and Vivaldi as well as the newly composed concerto of Marek Pasieczny dedicated to Duo Melis.

Recent appearances in North America include the Guitar Foundation of Americas Annual Convention, and recitals in Chicago, St. Louis, Austin, Scranton, College Station, Houston, Brownsville, and Detroit. They have appeared twice for both OMNI Concerts in San Francisco

and the Cleveland Classical Guitar Weekend. They were featured artists at the Bethlehem Guitar Festival in Pennsylvania. In Europe, they have presented recitals in Italy, Greece, Germany, Poland, Russia, Spain, Rumania, Holland, Czech Republic, Austria, Norway, Sweden and France. Following their performance at the GFA Convention in 2008, Mark Switzer wrote in Soundboard:

"The performance of Duo Melis was one of my favorites of the conference; their playing was technically superb, musically convincing, and demonstrated fantastic ensemble."

Susana and Alexis have studied in Spain and Greece respectively. They continued their postgraduate studies as duo and as solo artists at the Koninklijk Conservatorium in The Hague (Holland), the "Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy" Conservatory in Leipzig (Germany), and the Conservatory "Hanns Eisler" in Berlin (Germany).

Since 2006 Alexis and Susana have taught at the Conservatoire National de Strasbourg in France.

www.duo-melis.com

Antigoni Goni

Universally praised for her profound artistic sensitivity, her exquisite sound and for her unmatched palette of colors and dynamics, the Greek guitarist Antigoni Goni is internationally acclaimed as a true ambassador of the guitar and a sought-after pedagogue.

As a child in the 1970s, during the dictatorship of Papadopoulos' Junta, Antigoni Goni was deeply exposed to the resistance music by Mikis Theodorakis. She fell in love with the colours, rhythms, and pathos of this music and at the age of seven she asked to her parents to study guitar. Unfortunately, the Suzuki method did not yet exist at the time, and had to wait three years before she could hold a guitar in her hands.

At the age of 10 she begun studying the guitar with Evangelos Assimakopoulos and a decade later she left Greece to continue her studies with John Mills and Julian Bream at the Royal Academy in London.

In 1988 she won the special price for the best interpretation of Latin American music at the International Guitar Competition in La Habana, Cuba. Immediately after she started her soloist career being personally chosen by the guitar legend Julian Bream himself as the 1990 winner of the prestigious Julian Bream prize which she received from the hands of Lady Diana.

In 1991 she moved to the United States of America where in 1995 she completed her Master Degree with the highest distinction with Sharon Isbin at The Juilliard School in New York City.

Other central mentors of her life as a guitarist, who directed and supported both for her artistic and personal growth, are Leo Brouwer and Oscar Ghiglia.

Since early 1990s she performed virtually everywhere, in concert halls such as the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, the Covent Garden and the Wigmore Hall in London, the Odeon of Herodes Atticus in Acropolis (Athens) as well as the Philharmonic and the Cappella Sale in St. Petersburg, the Bolshoi Theater in Moscow, and Weill Recital Hall in Carnegie Hall in New York to mention just a few.

In 1995 Antigoni Goni added to an already long list of competition prizes the first prize of the enormously prestigious "Guitar Founda-

tion of America Competition", thus becoming the first Greek (and, to present, the only) to ever win it.

For her International achievements, the Royal Academy of Music in London awarded her with the honorary title of Associate Professor (ARAM).

She is the founder of the Guitar Department at the Pre-College Division of Juilliard School of Music of New York where she also taught for 10 years. She also taught for ten years as an adjunct professor at the Columbia University.

Since 2005 Antigoni Goni has been Professor of Guitar at the Royal Conservatory in Brussels (Koninklijk Conservatorium Brussels) and a member of its Artistic Committee. In April 2015, the Royal Conservatory named her "Professor of the year" making her the youngest professor ever presented with the "Madame de la Hault" prize, awarded by the Brussels Royal Conservatory's "Patrimonium".

In 2007 she founded and started directing "the Volterra Project, Summer Guitar Institute", an innovative Classical Guitar workshop that every summer gathers in Tuscany (Italy) international students and professionals of the highest caliber for ten days of intense study and inspired performances.

As a NAXOS and KOCH recording artist, her highly successful recordings have been praised for being "expressively poetic and technically exciting" and have been received with great enthusiasm by the international musical community. At least a dozen of the pieces she has recorded, have been included in Enrique Robichaud's classical guitar Cd guide: Guitar's TOP 100 Best.

Her most recent solo album release on Timespan Recordings - Hymn to the Muse (a collection of original works and transcriptions directly inspired by Greek culture and heritage that were composed, dedicated and arranged for her) has already received stunning reviews.

Antigoni Goni plays a 1989 José Romanillos and a 2012 Andrea Tacchi Guitar.

Luca Isolani

He first met the guitar at the age of ten when his mother gave his father a guitar as a Christmas present. His first souvenir is about his father singing a traditional Neapolitan song, a song about love and passion: the guitar seemed not only to accompany but also to interact with the lyrics by underlining many passages with funny musical comments, creating a lightness even in dramatic and melancholic moments. From that moment his desire was to recreate that same impression of that moment.

After graduating cum laude under the guidance of Maurizio Villa at the Conservatorio di Napoli, he obtains a master's degree in music with High Distinction at the Koninklijk Conservatorium of Brussels with the renowned greek guitarist Antigoni Goni as teacher.

As a student, he took part in numerous master classes and courses with professors and world-renowned musicians such as Sharon Isbin, Konrad Ragossnig, Antigoni Goni, Sergio and Odair Assad, Roland Dyens, Margarita Escarpa, Rene Izquierdo, Gaelle Solal, Marco Socias.

Keeping always alive the interest for study and research, focusing on percussive music for classical guitar and extended technique repertoire, Luca is currently enrolled as student in the advanced performance course Concertus Musicus at the Koninklijk Conservatorium of Brussels where he also works as Assistant Professor at the Guitar Department.

As a musician he has performed in numerous cultural events organized by public and private institutions both in Europe and abroad such as the European Music Festival, Naples (Italy); EGMYO, Logroño (Spain) and Split (Croatia); Italian Community Center Festival, Milwaukee (USA) and MIM and Bozart, Brussels, (Belgium). In addition, he also performs numerous salon concerts which he very much enjoys for the closer connection with the audience.

David Jaggs is best known for his highly successful range of eight "easy listening" albums which have sold well in excess of 100,000 copies. Over the last twenty years he has made over 2000 appearances marketing and promoting his work in a variety of "unusual" ways.

David also has his own record label, "Timespan Recordings" featuring artists David Miller, (Baroque Lute) (I think it is a worthwhile addition that soon will belong to your favourite Weiss CDs. Both (lutes) sound wonderfully full, round and warm." Lute and and Early Guitar Society of Japan. "...the disc is an exceptionally engaging Weiss recording... what wonderful expressiveness and musical intelligence David Miller brings to this music..." Chris Goodwin, Lute News.) Robert Brightmore (classical guitar) and most recently with Antigoni Goni on an important new album, "Hymn to the Muse" to be released in the Spring of 2016.

As well as producing a DVD, "Evolucion" featuring British guitarist John Mills, David worked as engineer, editor and producer on an acclaimed double album "Segovia the Ramirez years" with John Mills, (the latter gaining a double five star review, performance and recording from BBC music magazine.)

David Jaggs attended the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London under the direction of Antonio Albanes. After graduating with distinction David was privileged to become a private student of Manuel Barrueco at his home in New Jersey, USA during 1987 and 1988.

www.davidjaggs.com

Maarten Vandembemden (born 1994) starts his musical journey as a toddler with his father Roland, who would remain his guitar teacher for ten years. During these years, Maarten also studies the piano, organ, harmony and chamber music at the music academy of his hometown Tervuren.

After obtaining a first prize for guitar and a second prize for composition at the national Dexia Classics competition, thanks to which he could perform at the Monnaie national opera house of Brussels, Maarten is accepted in the guitar class of Antigoni Goni at the Royal Conservatory of Brussels in 2011.

In 2013, Maarten is selected to play as a soloist in Rodrigo's Concierto de Aranjuez with orchestra Symphonia Assai, conducted by Wouter Lenaerts. In June, Maarten completes his Bachelor in Music Writing with great distinction, and his Bachelor in Guitar with greatest distinction.

Meanwhile he has followed a broad range of masterclasses with, amongst others, Sergio Assad, Sharon Isbin, Konrad Ragossnig, Yves Storms, Ian Watt. At the 2013 guitar festival of Kutná Hora in the Czech Republic, Maarten was rewarded the Special Prize for Interpretation by Štěpán Rak.

The Volterra Project in the summer of 2014 marks a point of great musical and personal importance, as well as the encounter with Maurizio Villa's technique of Video Analysis which would bring Maarten to Naples for six months during his first master year.

Currently, Maarten is finishing his master degrees in Guitar and Music Writing in Brussels. He is part of different chamber music groups, and regularly performs with soprano Noémie Schellens. Special mention goes to Duo Adentro, his duo with pianist Saskia Van Herzeele, with whom he shares a fascination for the possibilities of music theatre and the encounters of music with other art forms.