

The Volterra Project



Summer Guitar Institute

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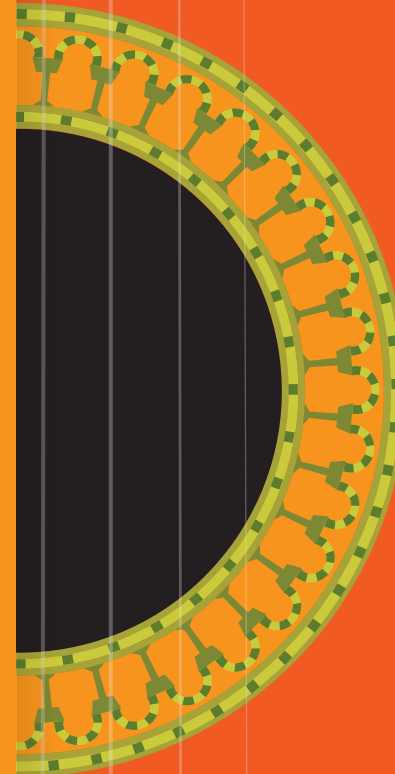
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14-23
July 2017
program

www.voltterraguitar.org

Edition 2017

Dear Friends

In a time when technology rules our life, and dictates our perception of beauty, our daily experience is overloaded by a white noise of inputs. Since 2006 "the Volterra Project" put in place a tool to filter it down, and reconnect with artistry

From 14 to 23 July, The Volterra Project will open the doors of its 11th edition to a selected group of musicians, gathering from all over the world to experience a completely different way of creating art and music.

This is a unique experience that the Volterra Project wants to share with territory by organizing a set of three free concerts in the heart of the Medieval city of Volterra at 21:00 in Palazzo dei Priori.

We are delighted to share with you tonight the beauty of our art and we thank you for your enthusiastic support and priceless presence. Without it our dream to make a difference by cultivating the talent will be impossible.

Thank you for being part of our dream and ENJOY the shows!

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

Faculty

Antigoni Goni
Ricardo Gallen
David Jaggs
Olga George
Michelle Swennen

Alumni Showcase

Ana Santisteban

Assistants

Luca Isolani
Maarten Vandenbemden

Students

Neil Beckam (USA)
Gustavo Carnahal (Portugal)
Renos Efstathiou (Cyprus)
Brendan Evans (USA)
Andre Ferreira (Portugal)
Cedric Honnings (Belgium)
Emile Huve (France)
George Kakitsis (Greece)
Alejandro Nava (Mexico)
Elke Prisnier (Belgium)
Jesus Serrano (Mexico)
Hunter Wingate (USA)

Sunday 16th of July / 21:00
Camera Consigliare di Palazzo dei Priori
Volterra

España (Guitar recital)

Ana Santisteban

JOAQUÍN RODRIGO (1901-1999)

Junto al generalife
Invocación y Danza

F. MORENO-TORROBA (1891-1982)

Sonatina

Ricardo Gallén

J.S. BACH (1685-1750)

Prelude, Fuga & Allegro
BWV 998

A. BARRIOS MANGORÉ (1885-1944)

Valses op. 8, no. 3 & 4
La Catedral
I. Preludio
II. Andante religioso
III. Allegro solemne

VASSILIS TENIDIS (°1936)

Smirniki Habanera

JOAQUÍN RODRIGO (1901-1999)

Tres piezas españolas

M. M. PONCE (1882-1948)

Sonatina Meridional

Tuesday 18th of July / 21:00
Camera Consigliare di Palazzo dei Priori
Volterra

Storie senza parole (Guitar recital)

Antigoni Goni

Luca Isolani & Maarten Vandenbenden

ENRIQUE GRANADOS (1867-1916)	12 Danzas Españolas Oriental Rondalla Aragonesa
ISAAC ALBÉNIZ (1860-1909) op. 47 :	Suite Española, op. 47 : Mallorca Sevilla
MAURICE RAVEL (1875-1937) <i>(Arr. M. Vandenbenden)</i>	Ma mère l'Oye
DUŠAN BOGDANOVIĆ (°1955)	Look at the big birds When I went to Bembasa (Bosnia) Sano, Sweetheart (Serbia) Vaju me 'nzuru (Calabria) In the summertime (Russia)
LUCA ISOLANI (°1987)	Note fuori campo <i>Omaggio a Nino Rota</i>

Friday 21th of July / 21:00
Camera Consigliare di Palazzo dei Priori
Volterra

The Volterra Project laureates (Guitar recital)

Neil Beckman (USA)
Gustavo Carvalhal (Brazil)
Renos Efstathiou (Cyprus)
Brendan Evans (USA)
André Ferreira (Portugal)
Cedric Honings (Belgium)
Emile Huve (France)
George Kakitsis (Greece)
Alejandro Nava (Mexico)
Elke Prinsier (Belgium)
Jesus Serrano (Mexico)
Hunter Wingate (USA)

BIOGRAPHIES

(in alphabetical order)



Ricardo Gallén

Ricardo Gallén is a distinguished guitarist with a continuously flourishing career. His inspiring and innovative interpretations place him on the top musicians, while his revolutionary and influential playing and teaching is the best proof of his quality.

“Immense creativity and virtuosity, which is sensed by just looking at his hands”, the words of Maestro Leo Brouwer raise Ricardo Gallén to a level of mastery very rarely seen.

His rare combination of virtuosity and musicianship has captivated audiences around the world in solo recitals, duets or with orchestras in great concert halls such as the Royal Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, the National Auditorium in Madrid, the Tchaikovsky Hall in Moscow, the Palau de la Música Catalana in Barcelona, the Auer Hall in Indiana University and the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki among others.

Ricardo Gallén has performed numerous Premiers of world known composers and participated in several projects under the direction of important conductors such as Maximiano Valdes, En Shao, Juan José Mena, Monica Huggett, Leo Brower, Jordi Savall and Seirgiu Comisiona, with an immense moment in his career being the Premier of the Sonata del Pensador dedicated to him by the Maestro Leo Brouwer.

Ricardo has won numerous awards in important music competitions (Francisco Tárrega, Andrés Segovia, Markneukirchen among others) and held several teaching positions. In 2009 he received the honor of becoming one of the youngest musicians to obtain a professorship in the prestigious University of Music “Franz Liszt” in Weimar, Germany, a position that he holds until today.

Ricardo Gallén is being a jury member in several international guitar competitions and he is giving Master Classes with great response.

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.

Olga George

Olga George has studied Acting at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York, IPA Speech Training system under Sousan Finch and Pamela Prather in New York, Classical and Modern dance at the American College of Greece as well as Kinesiology and Mime at the Atelier de Movement of Monika Pagneux and Phillippe Gaulier in Paris.

She has worked as a group coordinator of Goal Achievement and Self-expression through expression and speech, and has been an acting coach to actors and other professionals.

She was trained under Anthony Robbins and in cooperation with the Academy of Self-Improvement in Zurich, and under Mike George at the BK World Spiritual University.

She has worked as a group coordinator of Goal Achievement and Self-expression through expression and speech, and has been an acting coach to actors and other professionals.

Luca Isolani

Luca 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 themes, 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, in the summer of 2011 Luca took part for the first time in the Volterra Project as a student.

This experience had a strong impact on both his artistic and human growth, representing a turning point in his artistic development.

As a result of this uplifting experience, he decided to move to Brussels where he had the privilege of studying with Antigoni Goni at the Koninklijk Conservatorium of Brussels, obtaining a masters' degree in music with High Distinction in 2013.

Since then, Luca has experienced an intense and fruitful educational and musical journey.

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, Margari-ta Escarpa, Rene Izquierdo, Gaelle Solal, Marco Socias.

On the other hand, as a musician he has performed in numerous cultural events organized by public and private institutions both in Belgium and abroad - European Music Festival, Naples (Italy); EGYMO, Logroño (Spain) and Split (Croatia); Italian Community Center Festival, Milwaukee (USA) and MIM and Bozart, Brussels, (Belgium).

Currently living in Brussels, he has the chance to share the stage with musicians from all over the world. Owing to that, he searches continuously for different cultures common elements, exploring these on the guitar and blending them in both his soloist and chamber music performances.

Never tired of learning, he is currently enrolled as student in the advanced performance course CONCERTMUSICUS at the KCB.

Moreover he has obtained a degree in Diplomacy and International Relationships at the Univeristy L'Orientale di Napoli.

David Jaggs

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.

Ana Santisteban

Ana Santisteban born in Cuenca (Spain) in 1990. She begins her musical studies at the age of 8 at the Professional Conservatory "Pedro Aranaz" of Cuenca, under the teaching of Jose Mota. In 2009 she was accepted at the Music Conservatory of Murcia having the opportunity to study with Pablo Barón and Carmen Ros, earning a diploma with Honor (awarded unanimously).

In 2013 she starts at the Koninklijk Conservatory of Brussels, in order to study a Master's degree with the prestigious and recognized Greek guitarist Antigoni Goni.

She is currently studying in the prestigious international guitar class of prof. Carlo Marchione at the Maastricht's Conservatorium.

She has performed in different parts of the World, Thailand, Mexico, Italy, UK, Spain, France.. and she has played as a soloist with different orchestras (Young Orchestra of Cuenca, Silpakorn University Orchestra and Chulalongkorn University Orchestra of Thailand and Guitar Orchestra of Murcia) participating in International Music festivals (Orchestra Festival of Giovanilli e International Harrogate Music Festival).

Throughout her career, she has won different scholarships as "Musica en Compostela" and "Programme Artichok". In 2014 she got the prize "Andrés Segovia" and in 2016, the third prize at the International Guitar Competition "Ángel Piñero"

Michèle Swennen

Michèle Swennen received her education in Brussels in Jaques-Dalcroze rhythmic, theater, and classical dance with Marina van Hoeck, and contemporary dance with Renate Peter. She also studied contemporary dance in Paris with Peter Goss, Betty Jones and Fritz Luddin, Michel Nourkil, Karin Waehner, and in New York with Jennifer Muller and Luis Falco.

In 1985, after returning to Belgium from the United States, she created the first center for contemporary dance in Brussels: "Flagrant Délit". In this framework she further developed her work, becoming an affirmed choreographer and pedagogue.

An internationally renowned Limon technique pedagogue, Michèle is regularly invited to teach in professional companies, dance academies and universities around the world.

Michèle Swennen is today professor of methodology and pedagogy of contemporary dance in Flanders and Spain, and is currently teaching both at the Dalcroze institute of Brussels, and the Royal Conservatory of Brussels.

Maarten Vandenbemden

Maarten Vandenbemden (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.

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