# Baltimore Classical Guitar Society

Where the world's greatest guitarists play!

A SEASON OF Celebrations

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ANDRZEJ GRYGIER



**BEIJING GUITAR DUO** 



HOLIDAY CONCERT

SHARON ISBIN



PETRA POLÁČKOVÁ & LOVRO PERETIĆ

MANUEL BARRUECO

Bach in Baltimore T. Herbert Dimmock. Founder & Music Director or call 410.941.9262

For tickets and concert information, visit bachinbaltimore.org

#### Celebrating Baroque Icons and More for Our 2023-24 Season! Highlights include:

Handel Music for the Royal Fireworks (Oct. 1, 2023) • Bach Christmas Oratorio, Part V (Dec. 3, 2023) • Bach Mass in B Minor (Feb. 4, 2024) • Telemann Sonata in F minor (March 3, 2024) • Handel Israel in Egypt (April 7 & 14, 2024) Beethoven Symphony No. 5 (April 21, 2024)

Plus works by Mozart, Haydn, and Bach Brandenburg Concerti & Cantatas-and more!









FULL SEASON PASS: See ALL concerts in the 2023-2024 Season for \$277.50 MINI PASS: Select ANY three concerts of YOUR choice for \$86.00 STUDENT MINI PASS: (ages 12-18 and full time students w/ ID) for \$25.00

Individual tickets available in advance and at the door • All concerts begin at 4:00 pm

Bach in Baltimore is supported in part by grants from the Maryland State Arts Council, William G. Baker, Jr. Memorial Fund, Harford County Cultural Arts Board, Howard County Arts Council, Howard County, Paul M. Angell Family Foundation, Baltimore Office of Promotion and The Arts, Citizens of Baltimore County, Peggy & Yale Gordon Trust, Lois & Philip Macht Family Philanthropic Fund, Dr. Frank C. Marino Foundation, Ensign C. Markland Kelly, Jr. Memorial Foundation, BCF Mitzvah Fund, and the Wolman Family Foundation.

#### BALTIMORE esonance 2023-2024 CHORAL CONCERT SEASON HUMAN REQUIEM **DISCOVERY SERIES** SUN, NOVEMBER 5 | 3 PM | SHRIVER HALL FREE COMMUNITY Brahms Ein Deutsches Requiem Thompson Seven Last Words of the Unarmed EVENTS: CHRISTMAS WITH CHORAL ARTS Fauré Requiem TUES, DECEMBER 5 | 7:30 PM | BALTIMORE BASILICA Come-and-Sing The cherished Baltimore holiday tradition continues SAT, OCTOBER 7 | 3:30 PM with joyful music and festive sing-alongs. Rehearsal 11:15 AM Grace United Methodist Church PRAISE, MAGNIFIED SUN, MARCH 17 | 3 PM | SHRIVER HALL **Baltimore Sings Festival** J. S. Bach Magnificat Rutter Magnificat With quest conductor **Michele Fowlin** SAT, APRIL 13 | 2 PM For tickets and more information: Rehearsal 11 AM

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### WELCOME TO THE 2023-2024 BCGS SEASON

You know that moment when the lights in the concert hall dim and all you see on stage is a chair and a footstool. The audience goes quiet in anticipation of the artist walking on stage. Then, the door opens and the artist enters with a guitar in hand. There is electricity in the air and you are about to enjoy an evening filled with beautiful music. This is a **Season of Celebrations** from the very first concert to the last!

We open the season with a free donor concert on September 30, celebrating the marvelous winner of the Baltimore International Guitar Competition, Andrzej Grygier. On October 21, the Beijing Guitar Duo will celebrate their new CD released that night, and on December 3, we celebrate the holidays in a concert featuring Maryland ensembles, such as the Barrueco Studio Ensemble, the Guitars for Change Ensemble, the Guitar Orchestra, and the Guitar Performance Academy Ensemble.

On February 24, **Sharon Isbin** will celebrate Leo Brouwer's 85th birthday, and on March 30 we will celebrate two young performers who will make their much-anticipated Baltimore debuts: **Petra Poláčková** (Czech Republic) and **Lovro Peretić** (Croatia). In the final concert of the season on April 21, we will celebrate **Manuel Barrueco's** "50 Years on Stage!"

We will present several **master classes**; the **orchestra** will perform at Charlestown; our **artist-in-residence Andrés Felipe Palacios** will visit elementary and middle schools and perform with Columbia Pro Cantare; we present five **Open Stage; commission** works for the **Made in Baltimore** program; in addition to our work with **Guitars for Change**, **Guitars for Veterans**, and the **Lullaby Project**.

If you are interested in supporting our education programs, we welcome your donations. With your support, we will continue to work on making our community a better place to live and serve those in need, all while making sure that Baltimore continues to claim its place as "The Mecca of the Guitar" as portrayed by Sergio Assad.

Thank you,

Asgerdur Sigurdardottir President Baltimore Classical Guitar Society, Inc. PO Box 4466, Timonium, MD 21093 Tel: 443.296.2247 www.BCGS.org

#### **Guitar Society Summit**

There are so many things to consider for non-profit organizations. While every community is different, there are common issues shared by most organizations which is the reason behind the Guitar Society Summit – a conference of guitar societies and guitar presenting organizations in North America organized by the Baltimore Classical Guitar Society – taking place in Baltimore, September 29-October 1, 2023.



The Summit focuses on organizational management, board development, fundraising, publicity, copyrights, social media and digital platforms, and strategic planning.

#### Speakers for the 7th Guitar Society Summit -

#### Matt Hinsley

Executive director of Austin Classical Guitar who will discuss "Organizational Management"

#### Adam Holofcener, Esq.

Executive director of Maryland Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts who will discuss "Copyright, Streaming, Broadcast, and Contracts for Artists and Arts Organizations"

#### **Don Verdery**

Director of GAMI/Simonds Visa who will discuss "Foreign Artist Visas and Tax Liabilities"

#### Ken Skrzesz

Former executive director at Maryland State Arts Council who will discuss "Strategic Planning for Arts Organizations."

The Summit is hosted at the Peabody Conservatory of the Johns Hopkins University and is made possible with a grant from the Augustine Foundation.

### **1ST PRIZE WINNER** Baltimore International Guitar Competition

Saturday, September 30, 2023 at 6:00 PM Goodwin Hall, Peabody Conservatory

ANDRZEJ GRYGIER, born in Poland in 1998, began playing the guitar at the age of seven. A student of Lukasz Kropaczewski in the Music Academy in Poznan, Poland, and Paolo Pegoraro in the Segovia Guitar Academy in Pordenone, Italy, Andrzej has been awarded several scholarships for outstanding artistic achievement, among them the "Ministry of Culture and National Heritage Scholarship" and the "Young Poland" scholarship. He has performed as a soloist with several orchestras and given solo recitals in Poland, Germany, Russia, Slovakia, France, Belgium, Italy, and Croatia.

Andrzej had already won over twenty guitar competitions in Italy, Czech Republic, Poland, Germany, Estonia, Austria, and Hungary, before taking part in the Baltimore International Guitar Competition in September of 2022, where he received 1st Prize and the Career Award.

This free concert is offered in gratitude to BCGS donors who support the Baltimore International Guitar Competition.

The Baltimore International Guitar Competition is supported by music-loving visionaries who recognize the importance of Baltimore for the international classical guitar scene: Nicholas Coutros, Lewis Diuguid, Turner and Judy Smith, Dr. Solomon H. Snyder, M.D. and Dr. Chia Teng, M.D. The Career Award was sponsored by Augustine Strings.



#### **Guitar Certificate**

The Guitar Certificate program is designed to cultivate and promote guitar education throughout the state of Maryland and its neighboring states. Performers of all ages and levels of ability can participate. All performers, regardless of whether they are auditioning for a specific level or not, will receive written feedback from professional adjudicators and a certificate for participation.

Sign up early, spots fill up quickly. https://www.bcgs.org/guitar-certificate/



The orchestra is conducted by Gabriel Rodriguez.



#### **Guitar Orchestra**

Joining the orchestra is a great way to be an active member of the guitar community and share performance experiences with other guitar lovers.

We accept performers of all abilities. Musical parts are adjusted according to each performer abilities. Rehearsals are once a week and each semester concludes with a concert. In addition, in the fall of 2023, the orchestra will perform in the Holiday Celebration concert on December 3 at Catonsville Presbyterian Church.

Players can sign up at www.bcgs.org/ guitar-orchestra/

# CD RELEASE Celebration

Saturday, October 21, 2023 at 8:00 PM Kaplan Concert Hall, Towson University

**BEIJING GUITAR DUO'S** "interpretative skills and cross-cultural flair" and their "passionate sensitivity that seems to animate the space between the notes" as *Baltimore Magazine* describes them, has impressed the public since their New York debut at Carnegie Hall.

Also praised by *Classical Guitar Magazine* as "having the star potential to serve as inspiration for new generations of guitarists to come," the Beijing Guitar Duo, comprised of Meng Su and Yameng Wang, has performed around the world in the most prestigious venues such as the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, Palau de Música in Barcelona, Tchaikovsky Hall in Moscow, and the National Theatre in Beijing, to name only a few. In the 2023-2024 season alone, they will perform in New York, Philadelphia, Dallas, Fort Worth, St. Louis, Akron, and Austin, in addition to their concert and residency in Baltimore.

Their debut CD *Maracaípe*, received a Latin-GRAMMY nomination for the titled piece dedicated to them by Sérgio Assad. Their *Bach to Tan Dun* recording was highly praised for the world-premiere recording of Tan Dun's *Eight Memories in Watercolor* and their recording in trio, *China West*, with Maestro Barrueco includes the *China West Suite* by renown composer Chen Yi arranged for guitar trio. The concert in Baltimore celebrates the release of their third duo recording with music by French composers Fauré, Ravel, Frank, Couperin, and Debussy.



CARNEGIE HALL Weill Music Institute

The Lullaby Project is a program of Carnegie Hall's Weil Music Institute.

#### **Lullaby Project**

Many people struggle in our community, especially teen mothers dealing with immigration or refugee status, homelessness, abuse, drug-addition or other issues. The Lullaby Project seeks to bring social change to underserved communities through the guitar.

In our first Lullaby Project, we paired Hispanic, teenmoms with professional songwriters and together they wrote personal lullabies for their babies in an effort to strengthen the bond between the mom and her child. Last season, we implemented three Lullaby Projects: for teen-moms, for immigrant and refugee mothers, and for low-income seniors who wrote lullabies for their grandchildren and great grandchildren for future generations in their families to enjoy.

The programs were implemented in collaboration with Annapolis High School, Teen Parenting Program of Annapolis Family Support Center, Center for Family Support in Essex, the Iris Music Project, and Weinberg Villages Low Income Senior Housing in Owings Mills.

This season we plan to offer the Lullaby Project to veterans and to other underserved communities in our area.







## HOLIDAY CONCERT

Sunday, December 3, 2023 at 3:00 PM Catonsville Presbyterian Church

This hour-long concert features several Maryland Guitar Ensembles, all performing holiday music to bring in the holiday cheer:

The **Guitars for Change Ensemble**, which features advanced performers from our after-school program in Annapolis, is conducted by Gabriel Rodríguez; our **BCGS Guitar Orchestra**, made up of music lovers in our community, will also perform under the baton of Gabriel Rodríguez; the **Guitar Performance Academy Ensemble** from the Peabody Preparatory is directed by Zoë Johnston Stewart; and the **Barrueco Studio Ensemble**, directed by Manuel Barrueco, will perform a selection from the *Nutcracker Suite* by Tchaikovsky arranged by Andrew York.

Bring the whole family with you to celebrate the holiday season.



#### **Guitars for Change**

Music is a language that transcends barriers and is a powerful tool for positive social change. Guitars for Change is designed to harness that power and to engage and inspire at-risk children.

Students in the program are provided with free guitars and lessons in an after-school program. The program also provides public schools with free guitars for their music program.

If you would like to support this program, please let us know.



#### **Guitars for Veterans**

Guitars for Veterans is an educational program in which outpatient veterans suffering with PTSD are given a 10-week course in guitar. The program is offered in collaboration with the music therapy program at Perry Point VA Medical Center and we hope to be able to expand to other areas in our state.

If you would like to support this program, please let us know.

Brouwer's 85th Birthday

## **EL DECAMERON NEGRO**

Saturday, February 24, 2024 at 8:00 PM Linehan Concert Hall, UMBC

Acclaimed as "the pre-eminent guitarist of our time," multiple Grammy winner **SHARON ISBIN** was named Musical America's Instrumentalist of the Year, the first guitarist in their 59-year award history.

Sharon has been soloist with over 200 orchestras and has performed in the world's finest halls. Winner of the Munich ARD, Madrid and Toronto Competitions, Germany's Echo Klassik, and *Guitar Player*'s Best Classical Guitarist awards, she performed in Scorsese's Oscar-winning The Departed, the White House by invitation of President Obama, and as the only classical artist in the 2010 Grammy Awards.

The documentary Sharon Isbin: Troubadour, seen by millions on PBS and abroad, won the ASCAP Television Broadcast Award. Latest in her discography of over 35 recordings are her 2020 releases, Affinity and Strings for Peace with Amjad Ali Khan. Her Grammy-winning Journey to the New World with guest Joan Baez spent 63 weeks on top Billboard charts, and her Latin Grammy-nominated disc with the New York Philharmonic is their only recording with guitar.

Recent highlights include collaborations with Sting and sold-out performances at the Kennedy Center and Carnegie Hall. She has premiered over 80 works written for her by some of the world's finest composers, and is the founding director of guitar departments at The Juilliard School and the Aspen Music Festival.

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ating THE BALTIMORE

Saturday, March 30, 2024 at 800 PM Linehan Concert Hall, UMBC

The American Federation of Musicians calls **PETRA POLÁČKOVÁ** "a guitarist of extraordinary ability." Petra began her guitar studies at the age of six and obtained her Bachelor and Master degrees with Paolo Pegoraro from the Universität für Musik und Darstellende Kunst Graz in Austria.

As a result of her numerous first-prize awards, she has been invited to perform by many festivals around the United States, Europe, and Mexico. In 2020, she released her debut CD "*Weiss*" with music by the German lutenist Sylvius Leopold Weiss recorded on a 9-string romantic guitar.

Petra teaches in Austria at the Franz Schubert Music School Fürstenfeld, at Johann-Joseph-Fux Konservatorium in Graz, and was recently appointed Honorary Professor at the Royal Academy of Music Aarhus/Aalborg in Denmark.

In Baltimore, Petra will perform on a 9-string romantic guitar made by Jan Tuláček.



## DEBUTS

**LOVRO PERETIĆ** is an award-winning guitarist from Zagreb, Croatia, who has received top prizes in various guitar competitions. The most significant ones are Guitar Foundation of America and Eurostrings, in addition to competitions in Germany, Italy, Greece, Croatia, France, Belgium, and China.

As a winner of Eurostrings he gave numerous concerts throughout Europe and as a winner of the GFA he recorded his debut album with Naxos to be released this season and he will perform extensively in the United States and Canada.

In addition to solo recitals, Lovro has performed with the Croatian Radio Television Symphony Orchestra, Dubrovnik Symphony Orchestra, and Zagreb Soloists, and he has performed with various chamber music groups such as the guitar trio Evocación, with whom he recently released his first album. Lovro began studying guitar at a young age with Xhevdet Sahatxhija in Zagreb. After graduating, he went on to study with Judicaël Perroy at the Haute Ecole de Musique Genève in Switzerland.



#### Made in Baltimore COMMISSIONING PROGRAM

The Made in Baltimore commissioning program identifies young composers and commissions them to write new works for the classical guitar. For this year's award, we ask the composers to seek inspiration in the rich history of Baltimore and our state of Maryland.

The program was launched in 2006 by artistic director Manuel Barrueco, and to date 15 new pieces have been created for the classical guitar. One of them, *Inca Dances* by Gabriela Lena Frank, received a Latin Grammy as "Best Contemporary Classical Music Composition."

The Made in Baltimore award ceremony, where the young composers will be officially announced, will take place at the closing concert of the season in April 2024.

The BCGS would like to thank composers Linda Duisman, Michael Hersch, Felipe Lara, and Kevin Puts for their invaluable help and support.

# **50 YEARS ON STAGE!**

#### **Our Season Finale Celebration**

Celebr

Sunday, April 21, 2024 at 3:00 PM Kaplan Concert Hall, Towson University

Legendary guitarist **MANUEL BARRUECO** is internationally recognized as one of the most important guitarists of our time. His unique artistry is described as that of a superb instrumentalist and a superior and elegant musician, possessing a seductive sound and uncommon lyrical gifts. His career has been dedicated to bringing the guitar to the main musical centers of the world and his commitment to the expansion of the guitar repertoire has led him to collaborations with many distinguished composers.

Barrueco has appeared on a wide array of television programs. He was featured in a Lexus car commercial, his work inspired the biographical documentary *Manuel Barrueco: A Gift and a Life*, and twice he has been the musical guest on PBS' Great Performances: "Now Hear This."

Manuel Barrueco has received several Grammy and Latin Grammy nominations for his recordings on Tonar Music, including his latest release called Music from Cuba and Spain.

Manuel Barrueco immigrated with his family to the United States in 1967 as a political refugee. He completed his advanced studies at the Peabody Conservatory where he now shares his love for music with a small number of exceptionally gifted young guitarists from all over the world.

Manuel Barrueco is the recipient of the United States Artist Fontanals Fellowship for Artistic Excellence.

### Donation Levels 2023-2024



Membership is valid September to August and must be renewed at the time tickets are purchased in order to take advantage of member prices. Thank you for your generosity.

Philanthropist:	\$5,000 and higher
Founder:	\$2,500 - \$4,999
Sponsor:	\$1,000 - \$2,499
Benefactor:	\$750 - \$999
Patron:	\$500 - \$749
Associate:	\$250 - \$499
Supporter:	\$100 - \$249
Friend:	\$50 - \$99
Member:	\$25 (Basic Level)

Memberships at Associate level and higher include:

VIP seating

#### Memberships at a Friend level and higher include:

- · Bio listing on the BCGS website
- · Advance notification of BCGS events and programs
- Recognition in the BCGS program
- · A maximum of two free tickets to the donor-only concert

#### ALL membership levels include:

- All members get discount on season passes and individual concert tickets
- · All members can take part in the BCGS Orchestra
- · All members can perform in Open Stage events
- All members can buy up to 4 tickets at member prices

The Baltimore Classical Guitar Society received GuideStar's Platinum Seal of Transparency in 2023 which indicates that the organization shares clear and important information with the public about its goals, strategies, capabilities, achievements, and progress.

A copy of our current financial statement is available upon request by contacting the BCGS at PO Box 4466, Timonium, MD 21094. Documents and information submitted to the State of Maryland under the Maryland Charitable Solicitations Act are available from the Office of the Secretary of State for the cost of copying and postage.



Platinum Transparency **2023** 

Candid.

You can support our work with trust and confidence! The BCGS has earned a 2023 Platinum Seal of Transparency with Candid!

BCGS programs are supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, The Maryland State Arts Council, The Citizens of Baltimore County, the Arts Council of Anne Arundel County, the Augustine Foundation, the Cape Foundation, the D'Addario Foundation, the Nora Roberts Foundation, the William G. Baker, Jr. Memorial Fund, creator of the Baker Artist Portfolios, www.BakerArtist.org, and individual donors and members.













D/Addarío Foundation





### 48th SEASON 2023-2024

CONCERTS:

Sundays at 3:30 pm Pre-concert talks at 2:30 pm

Grace Methodist Church 5407 N Charles St. Baltimore, MD 21210 October 1 Conversation with the Lute

February 25 SuperBach Sunday

April 7 The French Connection

#### Tickets \$35 | \$10 for students

SUBSCRIPTIONS AVAILABLE 410.728.2820 WWW.PROMUSICARARA.ORG



"Music from Cuba and Spain" Grammy Award for "Sonata para guitarra" by Sierra

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SEP 10, 2023 | 3:30PM BENJAMIN PASTERNACK, PIANO

OCT 1, 2023 | 7:30PM CHAMBER MUSIC BY CANDLELIGHT

OCT 15, 2023 | 3:30PM ADAM SADBERRY, FLUTE

OCT 29, 2023 | 7:30PM CHAMBER MUSIC BY CANDLELIGHT

NOV 12, 2023 | 3:30PM AMIT PELED, CELLO & SOLOMON EICHNER, PIANO

JAN 21, 2024 | 3:30PM NATHANIEL GUMBS, ORGAN

FEB 4, 2024 | 7:30PM CHAMBER MUSIC BY CANDLELIGHT

FEB 18, 2024 | 3:30PM FIDELIO TRIO COMMUNITY CONCERTS AT SECOND 2023/2024 SEASON



MAR 3, 2024 | 7:30PM CHAMBER MUSIC BY CANDLELIGHT

MAR 17, 2024 | 3:30PM HUB NEW MUSIC

@augustinestrings 🕣

APR 7, 2024 | 7:30PM CHAMBER MUSIC BY CANDLELIGHT

APR 14, 2024 | 3:30PM WONDERLIC PIANO RECITAL

APR 21, 2024 | 3:30PM DENYCE GRAVES, MEZZO-SOPRANO

MAY 5, 2024 | 7:30PM CHAMBER MUSIC BY CANDLELIGHT

JUN 2, 2024 | 7:30PM CHAMBER MUSIC BY CANDLELIGHT

All concerts presented free of charge at Second Presbyterian Church, 4200 Saint Paul Street, Baltimore. Visit CC2nd.org for more info.



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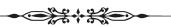






Beijing Guitar Duo - Sharon Isbin

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