

MAK GRGIĆ

guitarist



Critics have called his playing "brilliantly beautiful", "spectacular" and "extraordinary". In Croatia a journalist proclaimed him "...a young master of guitar." His expression was proclaimed "voluptuous", his performance displays "bravura", as he is able to "enrapture the audience with genuineness".

HIGHLIGHTS OF CRITICAL ACCLAIM

"Last night the Euphrasian Basilica in Poreč hosted a young and extraordinary gifted guitarist Mak Grgić from Slovenia, whose successful performance was the last in this year's summer concert series...he performed dashing, enrapturing the audience with genuineness, with an exceptional technique and a delicately polished sense of music..."

Glasištre.hr

"Mak Grgić, 23, is tall and unassuming, with a soft voice and an amazing talent on the classical guitar...while Toccata No. 6 is a showier piece meant to demonstrate the skill of the musician, which was flawless...[in] Seis Por Derecho, by Antonio Lauro. It's a fast, lively Venezuelan dance, and no matter how hard you looked at Mak Grgić's hands, you could not follow his fingers on those guitar strings."

Critics and audiences alike proclaimed Grgić's Concerto performance: "Wonderful, marvelous, tremendous. He was spectacular. Grgić certainly connected."

Eagle-Gazette

"He has rightfully earned the title of a young master of guitar - not only for his accurate, skilled and harmonious playing, but also for the fact that his hands transform music into a brilliantly beautiful, sparkling and fluttering, joyful live being."

Jutarnji list-Croatia

"The extraordinary performance displaying bravura, voluptuous expression and abundant timbral nuancing of phrases, accompanied by the sense of style equally suited to the sophistication of baroque, the modernist strength and the girdless passion testify that this young artist has paved the way to fulfilling his dream of bringing the beauty of music into lives of people of all ages and every provenience."

Chitarra Classica, Italy

"The very demanding and complex Toccata by Joachim Rodrigo performed by Mak Grgić is a tour de force of guitar playing and musical interpretation. Music of this scale is rarely played so well by guitarists because it requires a high level of virtuosity both physically and artistically. Mak succeeds brilliantly in both areas."

Christopher McGuire, Artistic Director, GuitarSociety.org

Reviews with Zagreb Guitar Quartet

"...performed brilliantly enough to please even the most highbrow critic and the most passionate music connoisseur."

"...It was the Baroque we love and long to hear...as if played on the most precious harpsichord."

Alenka Bobinsky, Vijenac, Croatia

BIOGRAPHY

His playing has been called “voluptuous” by one critic and he has been proclaimed a “young master of the guitar” by another. At 23, Mak Grgić is already being invited to a number of well established series and music festivals world-wide, such as The Allegro Guitar Series in Texas; The 32nd Festival of Chamber Music - Piran Music Nights, Cloister of the Minorite Monastery, Piran, Slovenia; The Sounds of Six Strings, The Academia Philharmonicorum, Cankarjev Dom, Ljubljana; The Lancaster Festival in Ohio performing Rodrigo’s Fantasia para un Gentilhombre, conducted by Gary Sheldon--newly appointed conductor of the Miami City Ballet--and he has been interviewed by major magazines and radio programs in his native country of Slovenia, having performed for the president of the country. During the four previous seasons he was a member of the Zagreb Guitar Quartet, who toured throughout Croatia and with them he travelled from Dubai to Montreal to Mobile, Alabama and Paris. They played on Croatian National Television celebrating Christmas 2009. Mak made his orchestral debut with the St. Petersburg Symphony playing Rodrigo’s Concierto de Aranjuez.

He has been honored with highest prizes at: the First Andres Segovia International Competition for young guitarists in Velbert, Germany, the Forum Gitarre Wien International Competition, the International Guitar Competition in Arrenzano, Italy, the Fifth Anna Amalia Competition for young guitarists in Weimar, Germany, the International Guitarart Festival and Competition in Belgrade, Serbia and as the youngest participant, he was awarded the third place in the category with no age limit at the Concorso Europeo di Chitarra Classica, Citta di Gorizia, in Italy in 2005.



Born in 1987 in Ljubljana, Slovenia, Mak follows in a distinguished line of some of today’s finest young guitarists emerging from the Croatian school of guitar. Currently studying with Alvaro Pierri on the Universität für Musik und darstellende Kunst in Vienna, Austria, he studied with the revered Ante Čagalj at the Elly Bašić Conservatory of Music in Zagreb. He will continue his Masters Degree at the USC Thornton School of Music as a student of William Kanengiser of the Los Angeles Guitar Quartet.

Mak Grgić got his name after his father’s favorite poet Mehmed Alija Mak Dizdar, one of the greatest and most acclaimed Bosnian poets of the 2nd half of the 20th Century. As a teenager he was a world youth karate champion.

CONCERT THEMES & AVAILABLE REPERTOIRE

Mak offers audiences varied thematic programs. Thus, along with the standard solo, chamber and guitar with orchestra repertoire, some of the titles bellow offer highly-variegated combinations of pieces, providing the audience a unique musical experience.

Dwelling in Darker Modes

Music by Benjamin Britten, Michelangelo Galilei, Ottorino Respighi, Alonso Madurra, Georges Auric and more...

Electric Mixes

From Steve Reich to Gavin Bryars, James Tenney and Julia Wolfe, plus a newly commissioned work from composer and percussionist Payton MacDonald of Alarm Will Sound

Old Masters' Tale

Johann Sebastian Bach, Georg Philipp Telemann, Hyeronimus Kapsberger, Gio Zamboni Romano, Sylvius Leopold Weiss, Domenico Scarlatti

¡OLE!

Recuerdos de la Guitarra - historic evolution of spanish music on the guitar: Domenico Scarlatti, Gaspar Sanz, Fernando Sor, Isaac Albeniz, Joaquin Rodrigo, Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco, Antonio Jose

Songs of the mind/ Where feelings matter

Medley of songs of the Mediterranean, Andalusian music, Balkan folk songs, South-American, world music and jazz composers

Other available repertoire

Solo

Early Music and Baroque

J. S. Bach: FLUTE PARTITA, BWV 1013; SECOND PARTITA FOR VIOLIN SOLO, BWV 1004; FIRST SONATA FOR VIOLIN SOLO, BWV 1001; SECOND SONATA FOR VIOLIN SOLO, BWV 1003; THIRD SONATA FOR VIOLIN SOLO, BWV 1005

Hyeronimus Kapsberger: *Libro Primo d'Intavolatura di Lauto, 1611: TOCCATA NO.6 & GAGLIARDA NO. 5* (arr. M. Grgić)

Gio Zamboni Romano: *CECCONA* (arr. M. Grgić)

Dietrich Buxtehude: *SUITE IN E MINOR*

Sylvius Leopold Weiss: *PASSACAILLE*

Classical Period

Anton Diabelli: *SONATA IN A MAJOR*

Fernando Sor: VARIATIONS ON A THEME "QUE NE JE SUIS-JE LA FOUGERE", op.26; GRAND SOLO, op.14; INTRODUCTION, THEME AND VARIATIONS ON A MOZART'S THEME "O CARA HARMONIA" FROM THE MAGIC FLUTE, op. 9

Romantic Period and Romantic Music

Francisco Tarrega: *TANGO; ROSITA POLKA; CAPRICHIO ARABE; SUEÑO*

Manuel Maria Ponce: *MARCHITA EL ALMA; HACE OCHO MESES; ESTRELLITA*

Agustin Barrios Mangoré: *ESTUDIO DE CONCIERTO; PRELUDIO EN LA MENOR; LAS ABEJAS*

Giulio Regondi: *INTRODUCTION ET CAPRICE, op. 23; STUDIES no. 2, 8. & 9. from the TEN ETUDES*

Johannes Brahms: *INTERMEZZO no. 1 & no. 2, op. 117*

Music by Spanish Composers

Isaac Albeniz: *SEVILLA; LEYENDA* (Asturias).

Joaquin Rodrigo: *TRES PIEZAS ESPAÑOLAS; EN LOS TRIGALES; TOCCATA; TIENTO ANTIGUO*

Federico Moreno Torroba: *SONATINA*

Miguel Llobet: *FROM THE CATALONIAN FOLKSONGS - La Filadora, El Noi de la Mare, La Nit de Nadal*

Regino Sainz de la Maza: *CANTILENA; ZAPATEADO*

XX. Century

Mario Castelnuovo - Tedesco: *ESCARRAMÁN A SUITE OF SPANISH DANCES FROM THE XVIIth CENTURY (AFTER CERVANTES)*, op.177 - selection:

Gallarda (Gaillard)

El Canario (The Canary Jig)

"*El Rey don Alonso el Bueno...*" ("*The Good King Don Alphonse...*")

Leo Brouwer: SONATA

Antonio José: SONATA

Andre Jolivet: DEUX ETUDES DE CONCERT

Ethnic Influenced and World Music

Ante Čagalj: *FOUR CROATIAN PIECES*

Dušan Bogdanović: *BLUES AND SEVEN VARIATIONS; MYSTERIOUS HABITATS; THREE AFRICAN SKETCHES*

Nejc Kuhar: *SIX MINIATURES, FOR EACH SEASON ONE; ISERLOHN'S DANCE; SONATA no. 1*

Pat Metheny: *LETTER FROM HOME*

South American Music

Emilio Pujol: *GUAJIRA; SEGUIDILLA*

Antonio Lauro: *EL BAILE DEL PAPELÓN; EL MARABINO; MARIA LUISA; SEIS POR DERECHO; CARORA*

Anonimo: *MERENGUE (Ballo venezuelano)*

Contemporary Music

Payton MacDonald: *MAK 3 (Newly Commissioned Work by Payton MacDonald, Composer and Percussionist and Founding Member of Alarm Will Sound)*

Brian Ferneyhough: *KURZE SCHATTEN II*

Elliot Carter: *CHANGES*

Louis Andriessen: *TRIPLUM PER CHITARRA*

Steve Reich: *ELECTRIC COUNTERPOINT*

Alvin Curran: *STRUM CITY (electric guitar and tape)*

Toru Takemitsu: *FOLIOS I, II, III; EQUINOX*

Luciano Berio: *SEQUENZA XI for guitar*

Guitar with string quartet

Luigi Boccherini: *INTRODUCTION ET FANDANGO*

Mario Castelnuovo - Tedesco: *QUINTET FOR GUITAR AND STRING QUARTET*, op. 143

Joseph Haydn: *GUITAR QUARTET in D Major, Op. 2/2 (arr. from str. quartet, H. 3/8)*



Concertos

Joaquin Rodrigo: *CONCIERTO DE ARANJUEZ & FANTASIA PARA UN GENTILHOMBRE*

Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco: *GUITAR CONCIERTO N.1 in D major, op. 99*

Federico Moreno-Toroba: *CONCIERTO DE CASTILLA*

Heitor Villa-Lobos: *CONCIERTO*

Manuel Maria Ponce: *CONCIERTO DEL SUR*

Antonio Vivaldi: *CONCIERTO IN D MAJOR, RV 93 & CONCIERTO IN A MAJOR, RV 82*

Antonio Vivaldi: *CONCIERTO IN SOL MAGGIORE, for 2 mandolines*

EDUCATIONAL AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Mak is committed to engage with helping future performers and listeners of traditional and contemporary guitar music, thus offering various workshops, master classes and performances dedicated to outreach and education of up-and coming musicians.

Pre and Post-Concert Activities

Pre-concert talks are always available.

Guided Performances

In a performance/lecture format, Mak guides the audience through the unique world of each composition with explanations, discussions, questions and answer periods. Here the discussion also reveals how the artist approaches a new work, as well as the process of rehearsing and performing the compositions.



K-12 and public outreach

Educational Presentations (flexible duration)

Mak offers an introduction to various musical concepts (dependent on age and grade level), introductions to the guitar, and an introduction to the rising of the classical guitar throughout the history. The presentations combine playing, talking, and interactive activities that are engaging for all.

College/University

Workshops with Performers

Workshops are offered in a number of formats for performers including music coaching, talks and demonstrations on topics such as rehearsal techniques, the business of self-promotion, and more.

Children's Concerts (flexible duration)

A short concert of diverse music intended to introduce children to the guitar and the many types of music written for the instrument. Familiar tunes and songs are played followed by less familiar works that carry many of the same elements. The concert makes learning about music fun for children of all ages.

Boys And Girls Club

Previous collaborations with Boys And Girls Clubs have paved a new way in Mak's musical growth. The artist has made a commitment to actively pursue, what is best described as the mission of the above mentioned club - "to enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens".

PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

Awards

Fellowship and Invitation to Academie Musicale de Villecroze in Provence
Young Artist Award from the Lions Club in Porec, Croatia
1st Prize at the Fifth Anna Amalia Competition in Weimar, Germany
1st Prize at the Forum Gitarre Wien International Competition, Austria
1st Prize at the International Guitar Competition in Arrenzano, Italy
2nd Prize at the Andres Segovia International Competition in Velbert, Germany
3rd Prize at the Concorso Europeo di Chitarra Classica, Gorizia, Italy

Concerts

The Sound of Six Strings , Academia Philharmonicorum, Cankarjev Dom, Ljubljana
Recital at the 32nd Festival of Chamber Music - Piran Music Nights, Cloister of the Minorite Monastery, Piran (Auditorium Portoroz - Portorose)
Recital in the Cathedral of St. Mark, Korcula, Croatia
Recital at the "Sea and Guitars Festival" in Vrsar, Croatia
Recitals at Allegro Guitar Society in Ft. Worth and Dallas
Rodrigo's Fantasia para un Gentilhombre with the Lancaster Festival Orchestra under the baton of Maestro Gary Sheldon--Festival Director and Conductor, Miami City Ballet
Fandango by Boccherini with the festival (Veronika) string quartet
Shandalee Music Festival in the Catskill Mountains
University Festival Hall in Zadar, Croatia
Red Festival Hall of the Town Hall of Ljubljana
St. Petersburg Symphony Orchestra, Rodrigo, Concierto de Aranjuez
Euphrasian Basilica in Poreč

Concerts with Zagreb Guitar Quartet

Laidlaw Performing Arts Center, University of South Alabama, Mobile
Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens, Jacksonville, Florida
Österreichische Nationalbibliothek, Hofburg, Vienna
American University of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates
L'Hôtel national des Invalides, Paris

Interviews

Radio Univox, Slovenia
Radio Triglav, Slovenia
Columbus Dispatch Newspaper, OH
Eagle-Gazette Newspaper, OH
Jana Magazine - popular family magazine in Slovenia

ORGANIZATION AND CONTACT

Mak's goal is to expand and promote the classical guitar through collaboration with contemporary composers and the commissioning of new works.

The artist enjoys music from all styles and periods, including popular and jazz idioms, and wishes to infuse his concerts with these different approaches in his programs when appropriate.

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