



*José Antonio López*

# WORLD GUITAR COMPETITION

**\$18,000<sup>USD</sup>  
IN PRIZES**

SATURDAY,  
MAY 3<sup>RD</sup>, 2025

TEATRO YAGÜEZ,  
MAYAGÜEZ,  
PUERTO RICO

For more information visit [www.jalworldguitarcompetition.com](http://www.jalworldguitarcompetition.com)

## **José Antonio López World Guitar Competition**

4 de mayo de 2025

Puerto Rico

### **Description**

The aim of the José Antonio López World Guitar Competition is to reward artistic expression and musicality in classical guitar performance.

With \$18,000 in prizes, the competition invites guitarists from around the world to revive the interpretative styles evoked by legendary figures such as Julian Bream (England), Alirio Díaz (Venezuela), and Leonardo Egúrbida (Puerto Rico). This competition encourages guitarists worldwide to bring back the lyricism and tonal colors that make classical guitar unique.

The competition will be held as part of the World Guitar Festival, an event dedicated to the guitar, featuring the most important luthiers in the world. Participants will include Andrea Tacchi (Italy), Gerhard Oldiges (Germany), Gerardo Escobedo (Mexico), Alberto Martínez from Orfeo Magazine (Uruguay/Paris), and the collector José Luis Postigo (Seville, Spain).

The featured concerts will be performed by Yamandú Costa (Croatia) and Leonela Alejandro (Puerto Rico). In addition, two Café Concerts, titled "Guitar Tasting," will be offered, featuring virtuosos Iván Rijos (Puerto Rico) and Marcus Toscano (Brazil).

The event will conclude with the Gustavo and Beatriz Arvelo National Guitar Competition, where the audience will enjoy the most talented young Puerto Rican guitarists between the ages of 10 and 18. A series of masterclasses by guest artists will complement this grand international gathering dedicated to the guitar.

**Location**

The José Antonio López World Guitar Competition will be held at the Symphonic Hall, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

**Date: Sunday, May 4, 2025.**

**Prizes:**

1st Place: \$7,000

2nd Place: \$2,000

3rd Place: \$1,000

**Audience Award:** This will be awarded for the best performance of the required piece, "Guitarra Poética," by composer José Antonio López. The prize will consist of a "Replica of Antonio de Torres" concert guitar, valued at \$5,000, built by the world-renowned luthier Gerardo Escobedo from Paracho, Mexico.

**Required Piece**

The competition requires each contestant to perform the piece "Guitarra Poética" (Homage to Manuel Bellido) by Puerto Rican composer José Antonio López. The PDF score, audio sample, and several YouTube videos will be available for download on the event's website.

**Age**

The José Antonio López World Guitar Competition is an open category event with no age limit for participation.

**Preliminary Round**

The José Antonio López World Guitar Competition requires an initial elimination phase, which will consist of the performance of the required piece titled "Guitarra Poética." This performance must be submitted via a YouTube video no later than March 30, 2025.

In the video, each contestant must include a personal introduction before the performance, stating their full name, country of origin, the name of the competition, and the title of the piece.

Along with the video, participants must submit the registration form, which can be downloaded from our website, accompanied by the video link. Both, the video link and the registration form should be sent to the following email address: [jalwgc@gmail.com](mailto:jalwgc@gmail.com)

Registration form: [Click Here](#)

### **Final Stage**

The final stage of the José Antonio López World Guitar Competition will be held in person on May 4, 2025, at the Symphonic Hall in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

In the first round of the final stage, the three finalists, selected in alphabetical order, will perform the required piece, "Guitarra Poética" by José Antonio López. In the second round, the finalists will present a free repertoire with a duration of 20 minutes. (The selection of the repertoire and the approach to interpretation must align with the competition's description).

### **Stipend for Finalists**

#### **Flights**

The three selected finalists will receive a \$500 stipend to help cover their flight expenses. It is important to note that, as Puerto Rico is a U.S. territory, each contestant must ensure they meet the necessary visa requirements to enter U.S. territory.

When purchasing airline tickets, we recommend flying into either San Juan Airport or Aguadilla Airport. San Juan Airport is two and a half hours from Mayagüez, while Aguadilla Airport is 45 minutes from the city. San Juan receives daily flights from various parts of the U.S. and also direct flights from Europe. Aguadilla offers direct flights from New York and Orlando, Florida.

### **Hotel and Transportación**

The José Antonio López World Guitar Competition will provide three nights of accommodation for the three finalists, as well as internal transportation. Additionally, the day after the competition, we will organize a trip to the beautiful beaches of Puerto Rico for all participants of the World Guitar Festival. Remember, in Puerto Rico, we enjoy only one season all year long: Summer!

### **International Jury**

The José Antonio López World Guitar Competition has selected renowned artists from the international music scene as members of the jury. The distinguished jury members lending prestige to the competition are: Sergio Assad (Brazil), Pablo and Alberto Martos Lozano (Spain), Alfredo Minetti (Uruguay), and Richard Scofano (Argentina). It is important to note that they will be following the competition from their respective countries via the live broadcast on YouTube.



Composer Sergio Assad, president of the Jury.



Cellist Alberto Martos and violinist Pablo Martos (Spain)



Alfredo Minetti, pianist (Uruguay), and composer and bandoneonist Richard Scofano (Argentina).

## José Antonio López



Retired guitarist and composer José Antonio López holds a doctorate from the prestigious Indiana University School of Music, a Master's degree from Arizona State University, and a Bachelor's degree from the Conservatory of Music of Puerto Rico.

With a successful career spanning more than 30 years as a guitar soloist, his performances with major symphony orchestras across the hemisphere stand out. Through his *Centro de Estudios Guitarrísticos* in Puerto Rico, he has trained an entire generation of virtuoso guitarists who now dominate the contemporary Puerto Rican guitar scene.

Moreover, as a professor and researcher at the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez, he has contributed to an extensive discography and numerous publications focused on concert guitar and the bolero genre, including his most ambitious project: an encyclopedia on Juan Neri and the trio Los Tres Ases, which will be accompanied by a documentary film.

He is currently enjoying his retirement from performing and teaching, dedicating his time entirely to composition and traveling the world in search of his dream guitar.