



Wilmington CLASSICAL GUITAR

GFA Tour featuring
2021 Rose Augustine Grand Prize Winner
Bokyung Byun

with special guests Robert Richey and Matthew Kaplan

April 29, 2023, at 7:30 p.m.
Presbyterian Church of the Covenant, Wilmington, DE

Refractions: An Electroacoustic Prologue Robert Richey (b. 1988)
(world premiere)

Robert Richey, laptop
Matthew Kaplan, classical guitar



Campanas del Alba Eduardo Sainz de la Maza (1903 – 1982)

Tre Preludi Mediterranei Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco (1895 – 1968)

- I. Serenatella
- II. Nenia
- III. Danza

Theme, Variations, and Finale Manuel Ponce (1882 – 1948)

La Gran Sarabanda Leo Brouwer (b. 1939)

- INTERMISSION -

Prelude and Dance Celil Refik Kaya (b. 1991)

Please turn off or silence all cell phones.
Video or audio recording of this performance is expressly prohibited.

- Hommage à Chopin
- I. Prelude
 - II. Nocturne
 - III. Valse romantique

Alexandre Tansman (1897 - 1986)

Prelude No. 4

Brasiliانا No. 13

- I. Samba bossa-nova
- II. Valsa
- III. Choro

João Luiz (b. 1979)

Radames Gnattali (1906 - 1988)

Bokyoung Byun, classical guitar

Due to the pandemic, there will sadly be no reception following the concert.
Please join us for a short meet-and-greet with the artists at the stage
after the show.

ABOUT OUR ARTISTS:

Praised by Classical Guitar Magazine as "confident and quite extraordinary," Korean guitarist Bokyoung Byun enjoys a reputation as one of the most sought-after guitarists of her generation. Byun holds the distinction of being the first female winner of the prestigious JoAnn Falletta International Guitar Concerto Competition, where Falletta herself described Byun's performance as "stunning, showcasing her gorgeous tone, immaculate technique, and sophisticated musicianship." This win is among many wherein Byun excelled in the competitive circuit, including winning the grand prize at the Guitar Foundation of America International Concert Artist Competition, known as the most prestigious guitar competition in the world.

Committed to expanding the role of a 21st-century musician, Byun's concert program often features contemporary music alongside traditional repertoire. As Byun herself says, "it's vital and exciting to audiences for concerts to join the new with the old. For guitar music to continue to grow, I believe that new works must actively be cultivated in programming, and it is my hope that audiences leave my performances with new experiences." This skill at navigating both classic repertoire and fresh work has led her to co-found Sounding Board: The New Music Initiative for Guitarists and Composers. The project focuses on promoting collaborative relationships between composers and performers to create new works for guitar, and its inaugural festival in Besançon, France in 2019 has been praised as "extraordinary, in the strict sense of the word," by La Presse de Gray in France.

Born in Seoul, Korea, Byun began playing guitar at the age of six. At eleven, she took the stage for her first solo recital, leading to an early start in her teen years performing numerous concert tours around Korea, to enthusiastic response, including millions of views on YouTube. By her teen years, she had gained national attention for first-prize

finishes in three renowned competitions: the Korea Guitar Association, the Music Association of Korea, and the Guitar Foundation of America International Youth Competition.

Byun soon moved to the United States, where she briefly studied in Los Angeles before moving to New York City, where she entered The Juilliard School at the age of sixteen. She holds Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees from The Juilliard School and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Southern California. She is grateful to the masterful instruction of her pedagogues, who include Scott Tennant, William Kanengiser, Chen Zhi, Tae-soo Kim, and Sharon Isbin.

In 2020, Byun co-founded Guitarlab which has provided an innovative online learning platform offering cutting-edge classes designed for young professionals around the world. Byun is currently on the guitar faculty of California State University Fullerton. She is sponsored by Augustine Strings and plays a guitar by Dieter Mueller (2019). Please visit www.bokyungbyun.com for more information.

Matthew Kaplan is a classical guitarist based in New York City. He holds bachelor's degrees in Music Education and Music Performance from West Chester University of Pennsylvania, with a minor in Piano, and a master's degree in Music Performance from Mannes College - The New School for Music where he studied with classical guitar luminaries Frederic Hand and Michael Newman.

In 2021 Matt released a double album recording of chamber music of pieces composed by the Bolivian composer Jaime Zenamon. Zenamon - A Chamber Music Collection includes music for guitar and cello, guitar and violin, guitar duo, guitar trio, and guitar quartet featuring Matt's colleagues and friends in New York City. You can hear Matt's debut guitar chamber music album "Zenamon - A Chamber Music Collection" on Spotify, Apple Music, Bandcamp, Tidal, and more.

Matt performs in NYC as a soloist and with chamber music groups Duokado (guitar and cello duo), The Alexander Wu Quartet, and Matadora (guitar & piano). He teaches classical guitar lessons online and at his studio in Sunset Park, Brooklyn. Recently, Matt also co-founded the Brooklyn Classical Guitar Society to increase awareness and appreciation of classical guitar music everywhere. Find out more at www.bkcgs.org.

Matt plays a double-top spruce guitar made by New Jersey luthier Garrett Lee.

Robert Richey is a composer and tech professional based in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Raised and currently residing in Warminster, he attended West Chester University of Pennsylvania where he earned Bachelor's Degrees in Music Education and Music Performance with a concentration in classical guitar. As a guitarist he earned 2nd prize in the 2011 Philadelphia Classical Guitar Competition, performed in masterclasses with Jorge Caballero, René Izquierdo, and Oscar Ghiglia, among others, and participated in numerous festivals. After sustaining a spinal cord injury in the Atlantic City surf in 2012, he returned to WCU where he completed Master's Degrees in Music Composition and Computer Science in 2018, studying primarily with Mark Rimple and Van Stiefel. His master's thesis, *Indicators of Intensity: A Composition via the Sonification of Cycling Data*, was selected for inclusion in the 2019 International Computer Music Conference in New York City. His areas of interest include algorithmic composition, serialism, improvisation, and accessible performance practices. He is currently a software engineer in Comcast's cybersecurity organization.