

Antigoni Goni & Eleonora Perretta



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Fascinated by the coloristic and orchestral potential of the classical guitar, **Antigoni Goni** and **Eleonora Perretta** unite their artistic visions and invite you on a journey through humanity's most treasured musical heritage. Their project,

Music Gardens of the World, is a celebration of global musical traditions and Western classical repertoire, brought to life through daring arrangements, improvisation and contemporary premieres. A collaboration that redefines the expressive power of two guitars, ***Music Gardens of the World*** bridges diverse musical traditions and sparks a vibrant dialogue between cultures and eras.

Antigoni Goni and Eleonora Perretta's musical partnership is a harmonious symbiosis of generations, cultural backgrounds and artistic sensibilities, united by a shared passion for the guitar's narrative power.



Program

Around the world in 80 minutes

World Music (arr D. Bogdanović)

A. Ramirez

A. Khachaturian (arr D. Bogdanović)

E. Nazareth

World Music (arr. D. Bogdanović)

Dušan Bogdanović

Two Neapolitan songs
(arr. D. Bogdanović)

E. Granados

Two Guys from Brač - (trad. Croatia)

A Sad Song - (trad. Azerbaijan)

Garder in the prattie - (trad. Ireland)

Alfonsina y el Mar (arr. E Perretta)

Lullaby

Confidencias (arr. E Perretta)

In my life (Choral and Fugue) on a theme by Beatles

Next to my blonde - (trad. France)

Old folks Home - (trad. USA)

I'd Love to be a Farmer - (trad. Macedonia)

Šano, Sweetheart - (trad. Serbia)

**Music Gardens Suite

Torna a Surriento (E. D. Curtis)

O Surdat 'nnamurat (E. Cannio)

Goyescas: Intermezzo

Danse No. 6, Aragonessa

DUO



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Masterclasses

Masterclasses by **Antigoni Goni** for advanced level guitar students and masterclasses by **Eleonora Perretta** for intermediate and advanced level guitar students.

Workshops

Cultivating Improvisation

Improvisation has always been at the heart of music-making, from preludes of the Baroque era to the living traditions of folk and popular music across the world. Yet in today's classical training, it is often overlooked. This workshop invites participants to rediscover improvisation as a powerful tool for creativity, interpretation and freedom in performance.

Starting with simple, accessible exercises, we gradually build towards more complex forms of improvisation, showing how they can enrich both solo and ensemble playing. By experimenting with rhythm, melody and texture, participants learn to "think outside the box" and to approach repertoire with a fresh, personal perspective.

We are no longer afraid of the passacaglia and the chaconne

In this workshop, we explore how folk and popular music traditions serve as the foundation for classical musical forms and continue to play a vital role in their evolution.

Specifically, we trace classical forms such as the passacaglia, chaconne and fugue back to their popular and folk origins. We demonstrate how improvisatory practices rooted in folk traditions provide a natural framework for the creation and development of these forms.

The workshop will involve: 1) deconstructing and reimagining these classical forms; 2) exploring how improvisational and popular elements influenced their historical evolution; 3) encouraging students to rediscover and engage with these forms in a hands-on, creative way.

Transcribing the World: adapting global melodies to the guitar

The guitar has always been a traveler's instrument: equally at home in folk traditions, classical concert halls and popular culture. This workshop explores the art of transcription as a way of expanding the guitar's voice and connecting with global musical heritages.

Participants will discover how melodies from diverse traditions —from African chants to Mediterranean songs, from Latin American dances to Eastern European laments— can be reimagined on the guitar. By working with transcription, ornamentation and idiomatic adaptation, students will learn how to bring these melodies to life without losing their cultural character.



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Competition vs. Healthy Competition

(Άμιλλα in Greek): *a cross-generational dialogue on striving for excellence in a world that associates success with dominance.*

Guitar competitions have shaped generations of young artists, but are they truly essential? In this lecture, A. Goni and E. Perretta reflect on their evolution, questioning whether competitions are constructive or necessary in an artist's development. Through personal anecdotes, they explore the fine line between competition and healthy striving for excellence, offering hands-on advice and tools to navigate one of the toughest realities in a young musician's career — and to walk out of it always a **winner**.

Making Your Dream a Reality: *an interactive presentation on how to build your career, one project at a time.*

This interactive presentation equips participants with tools to develop their own artistic project through brainstorming and project-mapping exercises. Drawing on their experience creating Music Gardens of the World —now a Naxos album— A. Goni and E. Perretta share how a passion for blending classical and folk traditions became a fully realised professional project.

Participants follow the journey step by step: from concept to creation, collaboration and the hidden side of the business.

The workshop highlights how vision, adaptability and strategy can transform even the most ambitious dream into reality.

Gonzaga's Revolt and Choro's HIP

Chiquinha Gonzaga (1847–1935) was a pioneering composer and Brazil's first woman conductor. At the heart of her music lies Choro, a genre where improvisation, freedom and dialogue are essential. Yet, in today's classical guitar world, Choro is often performed through the lens of rigid notation, losing much of its improvisatory spirit.

This workshop invites participants to rediscover Choro as a living tradition. Through Gonzaga's music, we explore how Historically Informed Performance (HIP) can restore its rhythmic flexibility, improvisatory spirit, and vitality on the guitar.





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Biographies

Antigoni Goni and Eleonora Perretta's musical collaboration is a harmonious symbiosis of different generations, cultural backgrounds, and artistic sensibilities. What began as a teacher-student relationship at the Royal Conservatory of Brussels (KCB) soon developed into a creative artistic partnership, fueled by mutual respect, admiration, and artistic exchange.

At the heart of the duo lies out-of-the-box creativity, artistic curiosity, and, above all, a shared passion for the classical guitar's boundless expressive potential. Their artistic vision is to share the guitar's expressive and narrative beauty by tapping into the instrument's orchestral, coloristic, and emotional capacities. It finds its first recorded expression in the works of Dušan Bogdanović, a composer whose bold, genre-transcending music aligns perfectly with their approach. His unique creative world offered the ideal artistic project to officially launch their collaboration, described by the composer himself as "splendid and glorious".





Antigoni Goni

Internationally acclaimed for her profound artistry, exquisite sound, and unique palette of colors and dynamics, Greek guitarist Antigoni Goni is celebrated as a true ambassador of the classical guitar and a highly sought-after pedagogue.

Her international performing and recording career flourished in the mid-1990s after winning the prestigious Guitar Foundation of America Competition. Since then, she has appeared as a soloist and chamber musician in some of the world's leading venues, including the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, Wigmore Hall in London, the Odeon of Herodes Atticus at the Acropolis in Athens, the Philharmonic and Cappella Halls in St. Petersburg, and Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall in New York, among many others.

Goni's recordings for Naxos, Koch, and Timespan Records have been lauded as "expressively poetic and technically exciting," garnering enthusiastic praise from critics and audiences alike. Her recent multimedia work *Medio Siglo: The Art and Sound of José Luis Romanillos* and her recording with the Volterra Project Trio, *Parole in Musica*, have been described as "monumental" and "imaginative."

In addition to her performing career, Antigoni Goni is deeply committed to music education. She is the founder of the Guitar Department at the Juilliard Pre-College Division in New York and an Honorary Associate of the Royal Academy of Music in London. She is also the founder and artistic director of the Volterra Project Summer Guitar Institute in Italy.

Eleonora Perretta

Described as a "young guitarist of enormous talent," Eleonora Perretta has performed in some of the most prestigious concert halls across Europe, including the Vienna Musikverein and the Tallinn Philharmonic. She has also appeared at leading European festivals, such as the Uppsala International Guitar Festival (Sweden), the Guitart Festival (Bulgaria), the Ravello Festival (Italy), and The Volterra Project (Italy).

Her international career continues to flourish, most recently with a concert tour across eight cities in China.

A top prizewinner in several international competitions, she has been named EuroStrings Artist and has embarked on a European tour spanning five countries.

Her upcoming releases include a solo album with Da Vinci Records, dedicated to South American music, as well as two solo albums for Naxos Records featuring the complete guitar works of Ernesto Nazareth and Chiquinha Gonzaga.

Currently, she is a researcher and assistant of Antigoni Goni at the Koninklijk Conservatorium of Brussels.

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