



2019–2020



GUITAR DUO
COMPOSITION
COMPETITION

THE PRIZED WORKS

The presented recording includes a body of works composed for two classical guitars. It is part of the realisation of the vision of the "Veria International Guitar Festival" (VIGF) and its organizing authorities – of both the "Cultural Enterprise of the Municipality of Veria" (KEPA Verias) and the "Municipal Conservatory of Veria" in Greece – to enrich the literature of the guitar duo repertory with new music, a field of high potential for further exploration.

Twenty-seven worldwide entries of exceptionally high level – according to the renowned composer, guitarist and chairman of the jury Dušan Bogdanović – were submitted at the "VIGF 2019–2020 Guitar Duo Composition Competition". A selection of seven works (from the 2019 and 2020 edition – 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes plus a recording prize) are to be found here in the form of a world premiere recording made by established guitar duos: Duo Melis, Duo Kontaxakis-Ivanovic and D&A GuitarDuo.

Since 2020, thanks to the generous sponsorship of the Music Publishing House "Les Productions d'OZ", the printed music of the six prized works is available in two beautifully made editions.

Dimitris Kourzakis – VIGF Artistic Director

● THE COMPOSERS



Kostas Manolkidis was born in Athens in 1994 and started playing the classical guitar at the age of eight. When he graduated from school he decided to further develop his musical skills by obtaining a series of Theory and Performance Degrees, while also receiving a BA in Statistics from the Athens University of Economics and Business. He has also lived in Sweden and Israel for some time, but currently (as of 2022) resides in Athens giving recitals, teaching music in several conservatories around the city and conducting a mixed choir he established in 2021.



Konstantin Vassiliev studied guitar with Professor Arkadiy Bourchanov and Professor Reinbert Evers, as well as composition and music theory with Dr. George Haidu. Vassiliev is a prize winner of 14 composition competitions. He composed chamber music for various types of ensemble, but his work remained focused, however, on his main instrument, the guitar. His numerous compositions and arrangements have been published in Europe, as well as in Japan, Canada and the USA. His musical style distinguishes itself by its diversity: from romantic melancholy through impressionistic fantasies and mysticism, right up to contemporary expressiveness.

More at: www.konstantin-vassiliev.de



Mauro Godoy Villalobos was born in Santiago de Chile, he arrived to Sweden at the age of eight. Mauro is now an active composer based in Stockholm. He studied in Italy with maestro Aldo Minella at the conservatory "Civica scuola di música" in Milan. In Sweden Mauro continued to study composition with Johan Hammerth, Henrik Strindberg and Per Mårtensson. Mauro has written music for a large variety of ensembles and has been interpreted by soloists as well as orchestras. He has been awarded multiple scholarships and has won seven international composition competitions. Among others:

1st Prize "Mozart on..." International Composition Competition, Osaka, Japan 2016

1st Prize "Claxica" International Composition Competition, Bologna, Italy 2015

1st Prize "conDiT" Buenos Aires, Argentina 2014

1st Prize "CGSV's Villa-Lobos International Composition Competition", Melbourne, Australia 2014

More at: www.mauroworks.com



Stavros Angelou was born in Athens in 1975. He is a composer, classical guitarist and teacher. He has Degrees in Harmony, Counterpoint, Fugue and Classical Guitar from the National Conservatory of Athens. He has Diploma in Composition/Synthesis and he also studied at the School of Musicology of the Kapodistrian University of Athens (UOA). Besides the prize of Veria International Guitar Festival , he is prized for his work "Prelude and dance I" for solo guitar, in 2017, from the "AN ART ARTISTRY" corporation, in the framework of the International Composition Competition "The contemporary Guitar 2017". His activities include recordings of his works for guitar and a wide range of compositions for ensembles, solo and orchestra.



Francesco Sgambati was born in Naples (Italy). After the BA in classical guitar at the Conservatory "San Pietro a Majella", he achieved a MA in Didactics and Music Pedagogy and a Master in Composition. Francesco has been awarded at the "XVIII International Lavagnino Film Festival", at the "XV Veria International Composition Competition", at the "Acerra Guitar Composition Competition" (John W. Duarte Centenary Celebration) and finally at the "VIII Thessaloniki International Music Festival". His music has been presented in many Festivals as "Foresty International Music Festival", "Guitar Education and Research", "Falerna Music Festival", "Livorno Music Festival", "Accademia Chigiana", "UrtiCanti Festival". His works have been published by several editors as Les Production d'Oz, DaVinci Edition, The Bergmann Edition, Studio & Studio Edition and Et-Cetera Edition.



Gulli Bjornsson (b. 1991) is a guitarist, composer and programmer from Iceland whose music typically ties electronics, live instruments and visuals to experiences in nature. Gulli's music has been described as "hypnotic" (News Gazette) "a knockout – wondrously inventive" (Soundboard Magazine) and "Virtuosic, modern, occasionally discordant, but still accessible" (Classical Guitar Magazine). Gulli currently teaches Electronic Composition at the University of Kansas and holds degrees from Manhattan School of Music, Yale School of Music and Princeton University.

You can follow Gulli and see what he's up to on his artist pages:

gullibjornsson.org/

facebook.com/gulli.bjornsson/

instagram.com/gulligitar/

● THE PERFORMERS



Susana Prieto and Alexis Muzurakis have become one of the most important guitar duos on the musical scene, since their debut as **Duo Melis** in 1999 in Volos (Greece). International critics and music lovers have praised Duo Melis' performances for their emotion intensity, virtuosity and ensemble unity. Duo Melis has performed in such prestigious concert halls as the Berlin Philharmonie, the Concertgebouw or the Tchaikovsky Hall and are in great demand for concerts and master classes at international guitar festivals in Europe, America and Asia. Duo Melis has collaborated with many orchestras and their repertoire spans from the baroque music to contemporary compositions, including their own transcriptions. Devoted to historical research, they also perform with period instruments from the 19th century. Susana and Alexis have studied in Spain, Greece, Holland and Germany. Since 2006, Alexis and Susana taught at the Superior Academy of Music of Strasbourg in France.

More at : www.duo-melis.com



Michalis Kontaxakis and **Dejan Ivanovich** started their collaboration in 2004. In the same year, they took part of the national premiere of the famous "Concierto Madrigal" by Joaquín Rodrigo at the Sernancelhe Guitar Festival (Portugal). In 2019, they had a privilege to participate in a concert as an homage to maestro Rodrigo on the 20th anniversary of his death, under the patronage of Cecilia Rodrigo, president of Joaquín Rodrigo Foundation, in Petrer (Spain). They have been invited to perform at the Gevelsberg Festival (Germany), "Guitar Art" Festival (Serbia), Guimarães Guitar Festival and Centro Cultural de Belém (Portugal), Petrer and Jijona Guitar Festivals (Spain), Veria and Megaron-Thessaloniki Festivals (Greece), "Guitarra Viva" concert series in Zagreb (Croatia) and many others. In 2010, they released their debut CD recording entitled "Les Deux Amis" for the KSGEXAUDIO record label (Germany). Duo Kontaxakis-Ivanovich plays on guitars by Alkis Efthymiadis and belongs to the D'Addario artists roster.

More at: duokontaxakisivanovich.com



Dimitris Kourzakis and **Angelos Botsis** formed **D&A Guitar Duo** in 1994 when they were postgraduate students at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester. Ever since, they constantly give recitals in major halls and festivals and are considered one of the leading guitar duos in Greece. D&A Guitar Duo's repertoire includes original works written for them, such as "Paradox Suite" by renowned contemporary Greek composer Michail Travlos, premiered at a live broadcast recital of the 3rd Program of the Greek Radio, as well as their own transcriptions, mainly of orchestral works, such as "Varii Capricci" by William Walton – included in Walton's official catalogue of works – and the famous Rossini's Overture to the Opera "The Barber of Seville" premiered at the Antwerp Guitar Festival in 2018.

"Technical mastery, unity and synchronisation, polyphonic clarity, innate musicality. Strikingly original repertoire. Notable flexibility in handling contrasting styles..."

George Leotsakos
EXPRESS, Nov 7, 2009

More at: www.dimitriskourzakis.com/d-a-guitarduo



Design: **Joanna Raczek-Baran**

Executive producer: **Jakub Kościuszko**

For tracks recorded by Duo Melis

Recorded at: The Parish Church of St. Peter,
Paul & Thomas by **Timespan Recordings**

Recording engineer: **David Jaggs**

Photo by: **Bim**



ΚΟΙΝΩΦΕΛΗΣ
ΕΠΙΧΕΙΡΗΣΗ
ΠΟΛΛΑΠΛΗΣ
ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗΣ
ΔΗΜΟΥ
ΒΕΡΟΙΑΣ

For tracks recorded by Kontaxakis-Ivanovich Duo

Recorded at: **Calda Studio**, Athens

Recording engineer: **Paschalis Kolentis**

Photo by: **Angelos Kalodoukas**



**small
great
music**

For tracks recorded by D&A Guitar Duo

Recorded at: **DNA LAB STUDIO**, Athens

Recording, mixing: **Yiannis Skandamis**

Photo by: **Manos Manios**