



October 17, Thursday
GARY RYAN – ENGLAND

Gary Ryan has performed to exceptional critical acclaim internationally. He made his London recital debut for the Park Lane Group Young Artists Series at the Purcell Room in 1994 and has since pursued a highly varied career as a performer, composer and teacher. Gary studied from the age of 8 at the Guildhall School of Music Junior Department, later winning a scholarship to study at the Royal Academy of Music in 1987. In 1991 he graduated with first class honours and many awards including the Julian Bream Prize and the John Mundy String Prize and was subsequently made an Honorary Associate of the Royal Academy of Music in 1997.

He is currently Assistant Head of Strings at the Royal College of Music where he has taught since 1996 and also examines for the ABRSM.

Gary Ryan is also well known for his guitar compositions which combine traditional classical techniques with a rich variety of musical influences and contemporary guitar styles, as in his solo piece *Benga Beat* which was premiered to great acclaim in 2011. In 2012 he became the first guitarist since John Williams in 1983 to be made a Fellow of the Royal College of Music and was presented with the award in May 2013 by HRH The Prince of Wales.

BRUSKERS GUITAR DUO – ITALY

The Bruskers Guitar Duo has been defined by the specialist press as “two leading figures in the music scene of the motley world of guitar” and “a source of inspiration for guitarists”. The Bruskers are Eugenio Polacchini and Matteo Minozzi, they come from Modena (Italy) and played the first notes together in 2003. The repertoire of the duo is a combination of traditional jazz and bossa nova standards, both fully reinterpreted, and original songs. Classical and modern are the two different music souls of the artists, who choose to deal with the jazz repertoire to have a chance to meet each other on a common ground.



The Bruskers have been invited to international guitar festivals and to important shows in theaters, auditoriums, and summer festivals.

The duo has published the albums *Guitar Sketch* (2009) and *Addition* (2011) for the specialized label “Fingerpicking.net”. They have been positively reviewed by Italian and foreign music press agencies that have referred to them with these words: “The Bruskers succeed perfectly in merging two completely different styles: classical and modern guitar”.

Matteo Minozzi and Eugenio Polacchini are the artistic directors of the LybraAcustica Guitar Festival, a series of concerts that combine classical and modern musicians.

They have played in Italy, France, Germany, Spain, Austria, Belgium, Hungary and Portugal, as a duo or as soloists in the Lybra Guitar Orchestra. Besides their concert activity, Eugenio and Matteo are also guitar teachers.



October 18, Friday

YVONNE ZEHNER – GERMANY

Yvonne Zehner studied with Mathias Seidl, Eliot Fisk and Joaquin Clerch at the University Mozarteum, with Oscar Ghiglia at the "Accademia Musicale Chigiana" in Siena and Basel and with Nicolas de Souza Barros at the "UNIRIO" in Rio de Janeiro. She performs regularly as a soloist and with Ensemble Mobile, with Gunnar Berg Ensemble and with Trio Collage. Yvonne Zehner's close collaboration with contemporary composers has led to the dedication of several works to her. She has worked with Sofia Gubaidulina, Konstantia Gourzi, Benjamin Lang, Greg Caffrey, Agustín Castilla-Ávila, Klaus Ager etc. on premieres of their works. Yvonne Zehner has performed at a variety of international festivals and concert series including the ASPEKTE Festival in Salzburg, Summer in Stuttgart – Music of the Centuries, the Passau European Festival, Incontri Chitarristici di Gargnano and others. She has toured to many solo and chamber music engagements in Europe, China, Taiwan and Brasil. Various CD productions document her musical work.



GUITAR TRIO ALEGRÍAS – DIMITRI LAVRENTIEV, TAKEO SATO AND KLAUS WLADAR

Alegrias originates in the flamenco tradition and can be translated as "joy" or the "joy of playing". It is exactly this "joy of playing", this particular passion, that Dimitri Lavrentiev, Takeo Sato and Klaus Wladar want to communicate in their concerts. These three gentlemen, all winners of renowned international music competitions, joined together to form the "Alegrias Guitar Trio" upon completing their studies at the conservatory in Augsburg, Germany, in 2007. The musicians, whose native countries are Russia, Germany, and Austria, have set out on a journey to explore the exciting repertoire of compositions for three guitars and to push ahead into new musical terrain.

October 19, Saturday

STEVE ROTHERY (Marillion) and BRITISH GUITAR ACADEMY ALL STAR BAND

Steve Rothery, guitar player and founder of the legendary British rock band Marillion, will present his exquisite and melodic style of playing at the Plovdiv guitar festival along with the stars of the British guitar academy (BGA).

Steve Rothery has come up with original ideas especially for the festival and has selected a group of magnificent musicians to perform with: Dave Foster (guitar), Yatim Halimi (bass) and Leon Parr (percussion). We will have the pleasure to see an incredibly interesting concert.

The schedules of Marillion and BGA rarely permit the British guitarist to perform solo works therefore the opportunity provided by Plovdiv municipality and the International guitar festival is not to be missed!

For over 30 years now Steve Rothery has been developing his guitar style in the band branded as "the greatest band you never heard of" and "music industry's best-kept secret", but also the "savior of progressive rock" and one of the most innovative bands of today. During all these years Marillion never stopped writing music and reinventing themselves without the restrictions of style or market trends.

Steve Rothery's melodies are easily recognizable, multi-layer musical scapes filled with emotion. His work is all about searching for the right sound for each song without the tendency of self-indulgence. His incredible skills and precision in using various effects and equipment while playing are impressive.

Outside of Marillion Steve Rothery has been working on his solo project called The Wishing Tree which has spawned two albums. He has worked with Jadis, Gazpacho, John Wesley, Mr. So & So and Steve Hackett.

In 2011 he created the British guitar academy aimed at helping musicians to develop not only their technique but also their creativity and individuality. Some of Britain's best guitarists were invited as instructors to teach their knowledge and skills to a broader audience through a series of seminars and master classes.

