

The Contributors

Luigi Artina (Italy) studied classical guitar at the Conservatory ‘G. Rossini’ in Pesaro. He initially studied with Alirio Diaz, and later with David Russel and Manuel Barrueco, and took courses by Angelo Gilardino. At the same time, he studied harmony, counterpoint and composition with Vittorio Fellegara, and Alberto Colla, combining these lessons with studies in the piano. He deepened his understanding of guitar composition by participating in masterclasses at the Festival de la Guitarra de Córdoba with Cuban composer and guitarist Leo Brouwer. He obtained a second level degree in instrumental teaching with a thesis on composition for teaching. He plays mainly in chamber music ensembles, collaborating with many musicians including the Japanese soprano Satoko Shikama. He has recorded music and videos by Bach, Villa-Lobos, Carulli, Tarrega, Turina and Petrassi, some of which are published under the Ema Vinci labels. As well as his concert activity, he also works as a composer and arranger, writing music mainly for guitar, now published by Berben (Curci). He also studied economics at the University of Bergamo before devoting himself to musical studies.

Dania Carissimi (Italy) was born in Bergamo and began studying classical guitar with Giovanni Podera. She received her diploma in 2000 and master’s degree at the ISSM ‘G. Donizetti’ in Bergamo in 2010, studying with Luigi Attademo. She has attended masterclasses with Giorgio Oltremari, Liliana Pesaresi, Andrea Dieci and Bruno Giuffredi. She has received numerous awards, earning the first prize in National Competitions. In 1997 she started teaching guitar and alongside her didactic commitment she dedicated her time to musical activity as a soloist and chamber musician. Since 2007, she has deepened her contemporary and nineteenth-century music repertoire, paying particular attention to chamber music for the guitar and flute. In 2019, she formed the Gynaika Trio in collaboration with Domenica Bellantone (harp) and Chiara Di Muzio (piano). This Trio is an innovative and original musical project with strings as the common denominator aiming to promote an original repertoire for guitar, harp and piano and stimulate new generations to create compositions without restriction of form and genre. Since 2018 she has been a guitar teacher at Liceo Musicale ‘P. Secco Suardo’ in Bergamo.

Mário Carreira (Portugal) studied classical guitar at the National Conservatoire of Lisbon and at the University of Évora with Manuel Morais (a student of Emilio Pujol) and in Caen/France, with Louis Marie Feuillet, Santiago Kastner, Hopkinson Smith, Cristina Pluhar, Enrico Onofri, Jakob

Lindberg, Brian Jeffery, Thomas Heck, Erik Stenstadvold and Alberto Ponce and chamber music with Anner Bylsma (L'Archibudelli). He has published several articles in the Italian guitar magazines *Il Fronimo* and *GuitArt* and in Tecla Editions (London). In 2013 he was honoured by the city of Bisceglie (Italy) and gave many concerts in Portugal, Spain, France, Switzerland, Sweden, Denmark, Italy and New Zealand. He has been a guitar teacher at the Conservatório de Música do Porto since 1987. His special areas of interest include nineteenth-century guitar music, the *terz-guitar* and Spanish music from Tárrega to Manuel de Falla, all on period instruments.

Tiago Cassola (Portugal) was born in Aveiro and soon became interested in music, studying classical guitar at his hometown conservatory with Carlos Abreu and Miguel Lélis, and later in Lisbon with Paulo Amorim and Dejan Ivanović. He completed his music degree at the Conservatorio Superior de Música de Salamanca (Spain), under the guidance of Hugo Geller. With the Erasmus program, he also attended the Perugia Conservatory in Italy, studying with Leonardo de Angelis. Then, he obtained a master's degree in music pedagogy at the University of Aveiro. He has taught guitar and guitar ensembles at the Conservatório de Música do Porto since 2010. He has a remarkable concert career both as a soloist and as a chamber music player. He toured intensively with the Baltar Cassola Guitar Duo in Portugal, France, Italy and Spain. He has also been a member of the Portuguese Guitar and Mandolin Orchestra (OPGB) since 2017.

Ricardo Cerqueira (Portugal) was born in Braga and began his musical studies at the Conservatório de Música Calouste Gulbenkian, having guitar lessons with Carlos Meireles. Under the guidance of José Pina – ESMAE, Porto – he was awarded the Engenheiro António de Almeida Foundation Prize for completing his guitar degree with the highest distinction. He studied with Ricardo Gallén at the Escuela Luthier d'Arts Musicals in Barcelona and was awarded the first master's in Guitar and Musical Interpretation in Cáceres. He performs regularly, both solo and in several chamber and orchestral groups, having played in Portugal, Spain and France, having been conducted by Leo Brouwer, Piero Bellugi or Charles Roussin, in duo with the soprano Maria João Matos, in duos with the guitarists Vincent Maurice, Vítor Gandarela and Mário Carreira or as concertmaster of the Orquestra de Cordas Dedilhadas do Minho. Today he teaches at the Conservatório de Música do Porto.

Marianna Chelidoni (Greece) became very passionate about classical guitar from a young age, starting playing from the age of ten. She formally commenced her music studies at the State Conservatory of Athens, graduating with the highest distinction. She then continued her studies in Brussels under the guidance of Antigoni Goni (2018), and has recently finished her

master's degree in classical guitar with a special interest in Baroque music and instruments such as Baroque guitar and theorbo in the University of Arts in Berlin. Along with her musical studies, she studied International and European Economics graduating from the Athens University in 2014.

João Durão Machado (Portugal) was born in Porto and began to study guitar in his hometown with Cristina Bacelar, Artur Caldeira and José Pina. In 2005, he obtained a degree from the University of Aveiro, under the guidance of Josef Zsapka and Paulo Vaz de Carvalho, having been distinguished with a merit scholarship in 2002. During his studies, he also attended masterclasses with Leo Brouwer, José Pina and Ken Murray. As a soloist, he premiered Ana Moura's *Halmahera* (for guitar and electronics) in 2001, and Fernando C. Lapa's *Duas Canções Populares Transmontanas* in 2005. In 2007 he gave the Portuguese première of Leo Brouwer's *Retrats Catalans* with the Orquestra Clássica do Centro (Coimbra). He has also played in several concerts as a chamber musician with the Trissonância guitar trio, and recently in a duo with the violinist Malgorzata Markowska, having written several transcriptions for both formations. As an academic, João Durão Machado has a keen interest in creating innovative pedagogical materials; he has held a guitar teaching position at the Conservatório de Música do Porto since 2012.

Christian El Khouri (Italy) graduated *magna cum laude* from the Conservatory 'Giuseppe Verdi' in Milan under Paolo Cherici. He also achieved the didactic diploma at the Conservatory 'Giuseppe Verdi' in Como under Maurizio Grandinetti. He attended masterclasses with Enea Leone, and enhanced his musical experience with classes by Roberto Masala, Carlo Marchione, Jukka Savijoki, Oscar Ghiglia (reaching the merit diploma at the Accademia Chigiana in Siena). He has achieved positive results as a soloist at several international competitions ('Claxica' in Castel d'Aiano, 'N. Paganini' in Parma, Sernancelhe International Guitar Competition, Gargnano International Competition, 'R. Chiesa - Città di Camogli'). His lively performing activity has led him to give numerous concerts in Italy and abroad, as a soloist as well as collaborating with ensembles and chamber music orchestras. He has recorded for Seicorde (*Sonata*, 2011) and Dynamic (*Le Bouquet Emblématique*, 2020) and has edited music for Armelin Musica. His last recording was launched in September 2022, performing the complete Variations of Fernando Sor with the label Dynamic. Christian El Khouri is currently a guitar Professor at the Conservatorio 'A. Scontrino' in Trapani and official endorser of Aquila Corde Armoniche.

Katharina Fricke (Germany) began playing the guitar at the Musik- und Kunstschule Havelland (Germany) at the age of ten. Since then, playing together with other people has been an important part of her life. She completed her Bachelor in year 2016 at the University of the Arts in Berlin and

began teaching the guitar at the Musik- und Kunstschule Havelland in 2013. She plays in a guitar ensemble in Berlin Spandau, with which she has performed in Sweden, the Netherlands and Germany. She joined the program 'Klasse: Musik in Brandenburg' in 2019 and began to lead classes in music in elementary school. In 2021 she received certification as a music educator for the elderly from the Fachhochschule Münster and Landesmusikakademie Berlin, offering this type of education, for example, to people with dementia or other impairments.

Ignacio Garrido Herrero (Spain) is currently a classical guitar teacher at the Conservatory of Cáceres (Spain) and he has previously taught at various conservatories and music schools. He has teaching experience of more than twenty-five years. He is a member of the Classical Guitar Association 'Ángel Iglesias' of Extremadura and has collaborated in the organisation of the 'Norba Caesarina' International Guitar Festival (Cáceres, 2005-2020) and the 'Ciudad de Badajoz' Spanish-Portuguese Guitar Composition Contest (2006-2007). He was born in Zaragoza (Spain) at whose conservatory he studied guitar with Santiago Rebenaque, analysis with Pedro Purroy and History of Music with Álvaro Zaldívar. Later he moved to Barcelona to study at the prestigious 'Escola Luthier' with Àlex Garrobé. He has participated in masterclasses with the most important guitarists of his time. As a soloist and as a member of chamber music groups, he has performed concerts throughout Spain as well as in Portugal and France.

Giulio Gianì (Italy) started playing saxophone at the age of eight in the marching band of his hometown, in southeastern Sicily. He graduated with a degree in saxophone from the conservatory of Messina in 2010 and in 2014 he got his master's degree in musicology at Cremona, with a thesis on Giacinto Scelsi's music for solo wind instruments. In 2016 he obtained the Master in Music Didactics at the Conservatory of Alessandria, qualifying to teach saxophone in public schools. At the same institute, in 2018 he obtained the Master in Music Performance under the guidance of Claudio Lugo. He is interested in the versatility of the saxophone, ranging from Western classical music to jazz, from punk rock to Brazilian choro, from Klezmer to creative extemporaneous music. Since 2019 he has been teaching saxophone and ensemble music at the Liceo Musicale 'Paolina Secco Suardo' in Bergamo.

Michael Hadrish (Germany) began playing the guitar when he was fourteen years old. Then he studied classical guitar and jazz guitar at the University of Potsdam, Germany and the Crane School of Music in Potsdam, New York, USA. From 2003 to 2007 he was a faculty member of the music department at the University of Potsdam, teaching Jazz Theory and Jazz Improvisation. As a musician he plays mostly with small jazz ensembles. In addition, he

performs solo as well as with larger groups such as the Police Orchestra of Brandenburg. As a conductor he has led the Schwungkollegium, the Big Band of the University of Potsdam. In addition to jazz and classical music he is also interested in bluegrass music, playing the banjo, dobro and double bass. He teaches guitar, electric guitar and ensembles at the Musik- und Kunstschule Havelland (Germany).

Antje Knobl (Germany) was born in Falkensee, near Berlin. Her father worked as a musician at the Komische Oper Berlin, so she had early contact with music. After taking piano lessons at first, she soon discovered the guitar at the age of 13. After school she studied to become a dental technician and worked as such for a few years. From 1990 to 1995 she studied classical guitar and jazz singing at the Hanns Eisler Academy of Music in Berlin, graduating with a diploma. Since 1988 she has been teaching guitar and ukulele at the 'Musik- und Kunstschule Havelland'. At this institution she is head of department for guitar and vocals and leads several guitar orchestras and choirs, writes children's musicals and carries out various musical-creative projects. On stage she plays and sings in different ensembles in the genres of jazz and gospel.

Redi Lamçja (Italy) started his musical studies in guitar and mandolin at the age of eleven, studying with Pietro Ragni. He graduated with a degree in mandolin from the Conservatory 'G. Verdi' of Milan under the guidance of Ugo Orlandi in 2016. He has participated in numerous mandolin masterclasses given by Ugo Orlandi, Carlo Aonzo and Avi Avital. He joined the guitar class of the Conservatory 'G. Donizetti' of Bergamo where he studied under the guidance of Luigi Attademo and Nicola Jappelli, graduating in 2020. He has also participated in further guitar masterclasses given by Giulio Tampalini, Javier Riba and Marco Tamayo. He plays in various mandolin orchestras in Italy and Switzerland. In 2022 he published six original studies for mandolin solo with Les Production d'Oz.

Paulo Peres (Portugal) graduated with a degree in guitar from Porto's Escola Superior de Música e Artes do Espectáculo, studying with José Pina. He has attended masterclasses with guitarists such as Alberto Ponce, David Russel, Manuel Barrueco, Roberto Aussel, Eduardo Isaac and Leo Brouwer. In 1988 he won the first prize for guitar (higher level category) at the Concurso Nacional da Juventude Musical Portuguesa. In his solo concert activity, he has paid special attention to contemporary guitar music. In chamber music, he has worked namely with the flutist Luís Meireles and with the guitarist Paula Marques, with whom he has been pursuing a project of Portuguese original works for two guitars dedicated to them. He is also member of the Portugal Guitar Quintet 5G5C. He has played in the most important Portuguese events and concert-halls. He has conducted several guitar masterclasses and has been

a jury member at guitar competitions. He is currently editing and publishing original Portuguese pieces for guitar and has taught at the Conservatório de Música do Porto since 1990.

Jacinto Sánchez González (Spain) was born in Cáceres where he has been a guitar teacher at the Professional Conservatory of Music ‘Hermanos Berzosa’ of this town since 2006, and for more than fifteen years has been a professor at the University of Extremadura. He was the director of the Encuentro Internacional de guitarra clásica ‘Norba Caesarina’ for fifteen years, and is now in the same position at the recently created ‘Arroyo de la Luz’ Guitar Festival. He presides over the Asociación de Guitarra Clásica de Extremadura. He was coordinator and co-director for six years of the Master of Classical Guitar at the University of Extremadura, taught by the master Ricardo Gallén, a pioneer master’s program at the time in Spain. As a performer he has played in many festivals all over Spain and in other countries such as Portugal, the United Kingdom, France and Germany. He collaborates with different musical groups on the national scene, has been in a duo for more than fourteen years with the soprano María Eugenia Boix as the Duo Orpheo.