

## Music

# Guitar festival makes U.S. debut

Classical guitar aficionados will want to head to the San Francisco Conservatory of Music this week, where the third International Maurizio Biasini Guitar Competition and Festival is about to convene. Performances scheduled for Jan. 14-17 include world premieres, beloved guitar works, and a starry lineup of artists and composers.



GEORGIA ROWE

CLASSICAL NOTES

Previously held in Bologna, Italy, and Basel, Switzerland, the biennial competition makes its first U.S. appearance with the four-day event, which features 15 young guitarists from around the world competing for a \$12,000 prize.

The festival kicks off at 8 p.m. Jan. 14 with an opening concert featuring the world premiere of Clarice Assad's "Guitar Concerto O Saci-Pererê." Guitarist Marc Teicholz is the soloist, and Nicole Paiement conducts the Conservatory's New Music Ensemble. The world premiere of Javier Fariás' "Nazcan" will be performed by the Conservatory Guitar Ensemble, conducted by Guitar Department chairman David Tanenbaum. Also on the program is Mauro Giuliani's Guitar Concerto No. 1 in A major, Op. 30 — an 1808 work that helped elevate the guitar from folk instrument to featured player in concert halls around the world.

The weekend continues with a solo recital by 2013 Biasini award-winner Emanuele Buono (Jan. 15), and a concert of Swiss and Italian works performed by competition jurors Gérard



CARLIN MA

David Tanenbaum, head of the guitar department at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, will both play and conduct when the school hosts the International Maurizio Biasini Guitar Competition and Festival this week.

Abiton, Marco Vinicio Carnicelli, Stephan Schmidt, Walter Zanetti and Tanenbaum (Jan. 16). The competition's final round and awards ceremony (2 p.m. Jan. 17) features a world premiere for solo guitar by Sérgio Assad, and a performance of Joaquin Rodrigo's beloved "Concierto de Aranjuez," with Paiement conducting.

Presented in partnership with Concorso Chitaristico Internazionale Maurizio Biasini Association and the OMNI Foundation for the Performing Arts, with support from the Harris Guitar Foundation, the festival also includes a free demonstration of the Harris Guitar Collection, featuring rare and historic guitars housed at the Conservatory.

Serving as this year's artistic director, Tanenbaum — whose recordings of Bach, Henze, John Adams and Lou Harrison are treasured by guitar lovers — says that the lineup, from Giuliani's

groundbreaking concerto to Assad's new work, spans tradition to innovation. "And at the center of it all," he notes, "15 young guitarists will compete for a major prize that will help launch someone's career."

**Details:** The Third International Maurizio Biasini Guitar Competition and Festival, Jan. 14-17, San Francisco Conservatory of Music, 50 Oak St., San Francisco; concerts and finals \$30; Harris Guitar Collection free, all-event pass \$100; tickets 415-242-4500 or 650-726-1203, [www.omniconcerts.com/concerts/biasini](http://www.omniconcerts.com/concerts/biasini); information [www.sfc.edu/performances](http://www.sfc.edu/performances).

More festival news: Five of the Bay Area's most prominent youth orchestras — 500 musicians in all — will converge at Davies Symphony Hall this weekend as the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra under Donato Cabrera hosts the sixth Bay Area Youth Orchestra Festival. The El Camino Youth Symphony, Marin Symphony

Youth Orchestra, Oakland Symphony Youth Orchestra and Young People's Symphony Orchestra join the SFSYO ensemble in a program that includes works by Dvorak, Elgar, Holst, Ravel, Prokofiev, Tan Dun and Jeremy Cavaterra. Festival Orchestra director Alasdair Neale conducts; Wendy Tokuda is master of ceremonies.

**Details:** Bay Area Youth Orchestra Festival with SFSYO, 3 p.m. Jan. 17, Davies Symphony Hall, San Francisco; \$25 general, \$70 reserved; half-price general admission seats available for ages 17 and younger; 415-864-6000, [www.sfsymphony.org](http://www.sfsymphony.org).

Haydn series continues: The New Esterházy Quartet — violinists Kati Kyme and Lisa Weiss, violist Anthony Martin and cellist William Skeen — perform the latest installment in their series celebrating the wide-ranging influence of Joseph Haydn. "Haydn and His Students VIII" follows the quartet's recipe of one work by Haydn, one by Beethoven and one by a lesser-known student. In this program, the lesser-known entry is János Spech, who, like Beethoven, studied with Haydn in the 1790s. The program includes Haydn's Quartet in B-flat, Op. 71, No. 1; Beethoven's Quartet in F, Op. 59, No. 1; and Spech's Quartet in G minor, Op. 2, No. 1.

**Details:** "Haydn and His Students VIII," 8 p.m. Jan. 15, Hillside Club, Berkeley; 4 p.m. Jan. 16, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, San Francisco; 4 p.m. Jan. 17, All Saint's Episcopal Church, Palo Alto; \$20-\$25, 415-520-0611, [www.newesterhazy.org](http://www.newesterhazy.org).

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