



THE 15th ANNUAL MGI YOUTH GUITAR COMPETITION

Preliminary and Semifinal Rounds
May 15-16, 2021

SPONSORED BY MYRNA SISLEN

Potomac Falls High School
Fine Arts
Sterling, VA

THE 15TH ANNUAL MARLOW
GUITAR INTERNATIONAL YOUTH
GUITAR COMPETITION

Hello and welcome! The MGI Youth Guitar Competition sponsored by Myrna Sislen celebrates its 15th anniversary and we return to an in-person format this year. The COVID-19 pandemic has wreaked havoc on our emotions and taken far too many lives since the lockdown in the DC area postponed our 2020 competition originally scheduled for March 13-15. While we were thrilled to be able to hold the competition in a virtual format in April, it was more than double the work and not half as fulfilling for everyone involved. It will be great to hear you all play live again. No, it will be better than great.

The past year also saw staggering incidents of police brutality against black men and women and the rise of the #blacklivesmatter movement. And even more police violence against protesters ensued. These events led to many heartfelt discussions about race. Among these, for me, was a conversation with Kareem McCullough, the guitar director at Loudoun County High School. And that led to me asking him to compose this year's set pieces. I am delighted that he accepted the invitation.

We were also inspired to honor the American composer Justin Holland (1819-1887) for this year's composer's prize. Justin was the first black musician to achieve wide-spread recognition as a guitarist. In addition to his musicianship, he was a devoted humanitarian. May his music and his biography inspire us all.

The format of the MGI Competition was designed by our friend Berta Rojas, the first Artistic Director of the MGI Competition. She structured the competition to foster learning and to prepare the winners for a bigger stage. Berta's vision and the reality it has become are a tremendous gift to the guitar community, and my husband, Jim, and I have sponsored the grand prize in her honor.

I want to extend to Hart Wells and the administration at Potomac View High School a sincere thank you for hosting the MGI Competition this year. They have made an in-person event possible.

We all hope that you enjoy your experience in the MGI Competition, that you come away with some new inspiration, and that you leave the stage a better musician than when you stepped up.

Dr. Amy Crews Cutts
MGI Youth Guitar Competition Executive Director



MARLOW GUITAR
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Presenting the 2021 MGI Youth Guitar Competition finals performances
In a special broadcast June 6, 2021



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THE 15TH ANNUAL MARLOW GUITAR INTERNATIONAL YOUTH GUITAR COMPETITION

On behalf of Marlow Guitar International, the non-profit organization presenting the MGI Youth Guitar Competition, I welcome you to the 2021 Competition. We are now more than a year into the COVID-19 Pandemic and grateful beyond measure that we will hear live performances in the 2021 MGI Youth Guitar Competition. The 2020 MGI Competition was virtual, and while we were glad that it could go on, it was missing so much of what makes our competition great. The distancing and mask-wearing protocols are a small price to pay to feel the energy that live performances bring.

We have been blessed over the history of the MGI Competition to have the support of many donors and organizations. Their support is what makes this event possible. Individual donors make up the bulk of our funding for the MGI Competition, and to all of them we are deeply appreciative. Myrna Sislen, the owner of Middle C Music, MGI board member, classical guitarist, philanthropist, and music educator, continues to support the MGI Competition as its marquee sponsor. We think MYRNA ROCKS! Be sure to thank Myrna if you see her at the Competition.

Jim and Amy Cutts are sponsoring the 2021 Berta Rojas Grand Prize, awarded to the best overall performer throughout the competition. We thank them for making this grand award possible in honor of their friend Berta Rojas who has been a frequent performer in the MGI Marlow Guitar Series and was the first artistic director of the MGI Competition.

We are also blessed to have an amazing team of volunteers who put on this Competition. They all work long hours to make it look easy, creating a wonderful experience for all of us. When you see them in the hallway, make sure you acknowledge all they have done to make this event special for you. To all the participants, thank you for working so hard and practicing with such diligence and love. To all of the teachers, thank you for sharing your best students and for preparing them so well. To all the parents, thank you for helping your children stay focused and for introducing them to the world of music. Behind all the great composers and performers we have come to love were parents and teachers who supported the talents and dreams of young musicians.

Cliff Moy
President of Marlow Guitar International



MARLOW GUITAR
INTERNATIONAL

Host of the MGI Youth Guitar Competition Events May 15-16, 2021

Potomac Falls High School
Sterling, Virginia



www.lcps.org/pfhs

THE 15TH ANNUAL MARLOW
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GUITAR COMPETITION

Marlow Guitar International

451 N. Hungerford Dr., Suite 119-482, Rockville, MD 20850

Marlow Guitar International (MGI), a 501(c)(3) organization, is the umbrella organization for The John E. Marlow Guitar Series and the Beatty Music Scholarship Competition. It was incorporated in the District of Columbia in 1980 as the International Conservatory of Music and then in Maryland in 2015. In 2017 ICM became MGI. Our mission is to create community through music, by drawing people together for entertainment, education, and inspiration. For the past 27 years the MGI has sponsored the John E. Marlow Guitar Series and in 2007 added the MGI Youth Guitar Competition (formerly known as the Beatty Music Scholaship Competition to its list of community programs.

In 2019, MGI added a new community program providing guitars and instruction to US Military veterans.

www.MarlowGuitar.org

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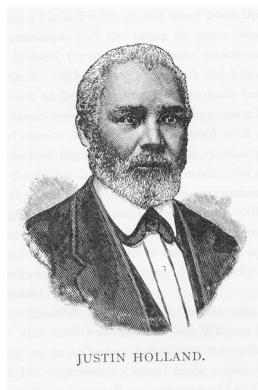
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The 2021 MGI Youth Guitar Competition Composer Prize:
\$1000 Award for the Best Performance of a Justin Holland
(1819-1887, United States of America) Composition



Sponsored by Marlow Guitar International

THE 15TH ANNUAL MARLOW
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GUITAR COMPETITION

Welcome students, parents, and teachers to the 15th Annual MGI Youth Guitar Competition celebrating talented young musicians!

The MGI Youth Guitar Competition is the premier guitar competition in the DC-Maryland-Virginia area and has earned a wonderful reputation. This year we will hear 36 contestants play three new compositions written for us by Kareem McCullough (USA), and many of you will celebrate the wonderful repertoire of the great Justin Holland (USA) as you vie for the coveted Composer's Prize. In the past, we have had judges say (and I agree) that you possess astonishingly polished skills, equivalent to those we see on the college and conservatory level programs. They have marveled at what we do together at the MGI Competition. We are so happy you have chosen to participate.

The theme of the 15th Annual MGI Competition is "Instrument of Peace." While we intended this motto to celebrate the many ways in which music bridges differences and shares cultural history across time and space, in this time of pandemic and civil unrest it means so much more. We celebrate the music of two black composers, teachers, guitarists, and Virginians this year, one of the present and one of the past, in honor of the contributions made by black musicians to American music.

Over the past 14 years we have seen and heard many examples of memorable sportsmanship, incredible music, brilliant performance, grace, and humanity. You are already winners when you take the stage for the first time in the competition. Regardless of the outcome of the judges' decisions, you have practiced, mastered, and memorized challenging music, put yourself out in public to be judged, and you have given a tremendous gift to all of us in the audience. My advice to you is to play your best, revel in the experience, and enjoy meeting people who love the guitar as much as you do. This is but one moment in your life. Don't dwell on what may not go right but do remember the highlights.

I look forward to hearing you all play!

Dr. Glenn Caluda
MGI Youth Guitar Competition Artistic Director



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THE 15TH ANNUAL MARLOW
GUITAR INTERNATIONAL YOUTH
GUITAR COMPETITION

A Short Biography of Featured Composer Justin Holland



Justin Minor Holland was undoubtedly the first black musician to achieve wide-spread recognition as a guitarist and was perhaps the most prolific American guitarist of his era. He was born in Norfolk County, Virginia, to freemen on July 26, 1819. Holland left Virginia for Boston at the age of fourteen when both of his parents died. In Boston, Holland soon became interested in the guitar when he attended concerts by the Spanish guitarist Mariano Perez. He began studying the guitar with William Schubert, a noted composer and arranger for the instrument. Holland left Boston at the age of twenty-two to attend Oberlin College (one of the few colleges at that time that accepted black students). After leaving Oberlin, Holland established himself as a teacher of guitar, mandolin, piano, and flute in Cleveland, Ohio, becoming the city's first black professional. Although Holland seldom performed in public, he developed a national reputation as a composer and arranger for the guitar. To the average amateur guitarist of the day, his numerous arrangements made him a household name. His published works for guitar numbered over 350, including two highly acclaimed methods. Today, however, only about one third of these worked are known to have survived.

Holland worked all his life to promote professional opportunities for and to protect the dignity of African Americans. During the 1850s he was nominated as secretary of several of the antebellum National Negro Conventions, where he worked alongside such noted activists as Frederick Douglass. He worked with the Underground Railroad and was secretary of the charge of the "Central American Land Company," an organization which unsuccessfully attempted to purchase sufficient land in Central America to institute a free black colony.

Holland was also noted for his linguistic talents. He spent two years in Mexico during the 1840s learning Spanish, the language in which the methods of the early Spanish guitar masters such as Sor and Aguado were written. Later, Holland became fluent in several other languages including French, Italian and German. He used his talents as a linguist when he became a leader in the black Free Masons (Prince Hall). When the free masons would not accept African Americans into their society, or recognize the free-black Prince Hall



Masons, he corresponded with masonry groups in Europe, seeking support and recognition there. He was instrumental in obtaining foreign recognition for blacks by Masons in Germany, France, Italy, Hungary, Peru, and the Dominican Republic and was appointed as the United States representative of the Grand Lodges of France and Peru. The Viennese Masonic magazine *Der Freimaurer* published a biographical article about Holland in 1877.

In 1881, an entire chapter was devoted to Holland in the book *Music and Some Highly Musical People* by James Trotter. Trotter's book represents one of the first attempts to document the lives of significant African-American musicians. Justin Holland died at his son's home in New Orleans, Louisiana on March 24, 1887. His death was eulogized by both prominent blacks and whites, as both a premier musician and as a dedicated humanitarian.

Holland had at least two children. His daughter Clara Monteith Holland was an accomplished pianist and guitarist. Justin Minor Holland, Jr., also a guitarist, was a teacher, composer, and the author of *Method for the Guitar*, published in 1888.

THE 15TH ANNUAL MARLOW
GUITAR INTERNATIONAL YOUTH
GUITAR COMPETITION

MGI Youth Guitar Competition Composer's Prize

The MGI Competition Composer's Prize celebrates historic composers of classical guitar music. The purpose of the prize is to encourage contestants to explore the music and lives of these extraordinary writers, composers, players and stewards of the guitar.

The MGI Youth Guitar Competition Composer's Prize History

- 2008** Honoring Agustín Barrios (1884 – 1944), Paraguay
- 2009** Honoring Antonio Lauro (1917 – 1986), Venezuela
- 2010** Honoring Heitor Villa-Lobos (1887 – 1959), Brazil
- 2011** Honoring Manuel Ponce (1882 – 1948), Mexico
- 2012** Honoring Fernando Sor (1778 – 1839), Spain
- 2013** Honoring Mauro Giuliani (1781 – 1829), Italy
- 2014** Honoring Francisco Tárrega (1852-1909), Spain
- 2015** Honoring the Vihuelists:
Luis Milán (Spain, 1500-1561)
Alonso Mudarra (Spain, 1510-1580)
Luis De Narváez (Spain, 1500-1555)
Miguel de Fuenllana (Spain, 1500-1579)
Estevan Daza (aka Estevan Daça, Spain, 1537 – between 1591 & 1596)
Enríquez de Valderrábano (Spain, 1500-1557)
Diego Pisador (Spain, 1509-1557), and
Francesco da Milano (Italy, 1497-1543)
- 2016** Honoring Julio Salvador Sagreras (1879 - 1942), Argentina
- 2017** Honoring Napoléon Coste (1805-1883), France
- 2018** Honoring Johann Kaspar Mertz (1806-1856), Austria-Hungary
- 2019** Honoring Leo Brouwer, (1939 -), Cuba
- 2020** Honoring Roland Dyens, (1955 - 2016), France
- 2021** Honoring Justin Holland, (1819-1887), United States of America



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The Berta Rojas Grand Prize



The MGI Youth Guitar Competition Grand Prize award was named the Berta Rojas Grand Prize in 2020. This prize is sponsored by Jim and Amy Cutts in honor of their friend and great Paraguayan guitarist who served as the MGI Competition Artistic Director from 2006-2009.

Berta has long been a friend and ambassador for the Marlow Guitar Series, having performed a record ten times, first in its inaugural 1994-95 season and most recently during the 25th anniversary season in 2018-19. When asked by the MGI board in 2006 whether she would be interested in helping advise us on a new program for young guitarists, she eagerly said "yes" but on the condition that we did it all her way. Her tremendous vision for this competition is unchanged today.

When judges are first briefed on how we conduct the competition they are astonished at the investment we make in our contestants. Berta wanted each contestant to come away from this experience a better player, a better performer, and a more confident student. Thus, the competition is arranged in ever increasing levels of difficulty to prepare the ultimate grand prize winner for their appearance on the Marlow Guitar Series stage and beyond. But not losing sight of the emotional investments made by the performers, she insisted that every judge meet with every contestant to provide encouragement and coaching on what they can do to be better the next time they are in a performance situation, be it a competition, recital, or audition. No other competition for any instrument does this – it's expensive, nearly doubling the length of the competition, and it is exhausting for the judges, but it is, bar none, the very best thing we do.

Berta is committed to furthering and disseminating the classical guitar. A particular focus is on more widely promoting the music of her country, Paraguay, as well as Latin American music in general, along with her ongoing support for the careers of young, upcoming guitarists. Among her many accomplishments she proudly lists being co-founder of the Marlow Guitar International Youth



Guitar Competition, formerly known as the MGI Beatty Music Scholarship Competition for Classical Guitar in her professional bio.

When you have the opportunity to speak with Berta, you hear of her plans for expanding her art and her attention to the smallest details – not just through the guitar repertoire she chooses but also the visual experience she wants to give to her audience. We see some of these parts of Berta in the MGI Youth Guitar Competition today: the guitar man logo design was her idea, as was the format of the printed programs, the layout of the performance stage for the competition, and the live broadcasting of the competition performances on Facebook. She also created the Composer's Prize to highlight historically important composers of classical guitar music, honoring the great Paraguayan composer Agustín Barrios with the inaugural prize in 2008.

If you Google Berta Rojas, you will find pages and pages of positive reviews of her performances, recordings, mentions of her three Latin Grammy nominations, and a long list of honors. You will also find a thesaurus' worth of descriptions like extraordinary, transcendent, artistic, beautiful, brilliant, warm, emotional, exciting, incredible, precise, outstanding, smooth, formidable, impressive, dazzling, ... You get the idea. She is, quite simply, Berta. A class all her own.

THE 15TH ANNUAL MARLOW
GUITAR INTERNATIONAL YOUTH
GUITAR COMPETITION

Provider of Contestant Gifts

Middle C Music



DC's Only Full Service Music Store

www.MiddleCMusic.com



The Joan P. Collings Prize for 1st Place Winner in the Youth Division

On January 19, 2017 the Marlow Guitar Series lost a longtime friend and Marlow Guitar International (MGI) Board Member in the person of Joan Prentice Collings.

Joan's many years of service to the international music community in the Washington area was immeasurable and her love of music was lifelong. She learned how to read, sing and play music as a young girl and possessed an exceptional tonal memory. Her recall of instrumental and vocal classical literature was so acute that, with the lift of an eyebrow while pointing out notes in the air, she could sing a symphonic theme or lieder with the accuracy of a professional.

In addition to her service on the board and as a volunteer with the International Conservatory of Music (predecessor organization to Marlow Guitar International), Joan was a member of the MGI Competition Volunteer Corp from the very beginning. She was on the initial proposal committee, helping to design what would later become the MGI Youth Guitar Competition as we know it now. Her insight into the mind of the young competitors complemented the vision that Berta Rojas had for an educational and nurturing experience for the contestants. She often viewed her greatest musical contribution, though, as being present in the audience, encouraging young people to grow and thrive in their art.

In remembering Joan, family, friends and musicians gathered on a February Sunday to recite verse, share stories and perform musical selections which reflected her great appreciation of fine art and valued relationships. In recognition of her service, the MGI Board has named the first prize award to winner of the Youth Division in the MGI Youth Guitar Competition the Joan Collings Prize. For someone who took such a keen interest in young musicians and cherished beautiful music with all her heart, there's no finer way to remember our dear friend Joan. She will be much missed by all who knew her.

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GUITAR INTERNATIONAL YOUTH
GUITAR COMPETITION



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Past Winners of the MGI Youth Guitar Competition

2007	
Youth	Jonathan Maranville
Junior & Grand Prize	Scott Zimmermann
Senior	Christopher Moy

2008	
Youth	Jonathan Maranville
Junior	Diego Solis
Senior & Grand Prize	Christopher Moy
Barrios Composer Prize	Jorge Aurelio Menendez

2009	
Youth	Jonathan Maranville
Junior & Lauro Composer Prize	Jorge Aurelio Menendez
Senior & Grand Prize	Jeremy Lutty

2010	
Youth	Patrick Hoeppner
Junior	Young Jun Lim
Senior & Grand Prize	Scott Zimmermann
Villa-Lobos Composer Prize	Jorge Aurelio Menendez

2011	
Youth	Eleanor Pressler
Junior	Robbie Belson
Senior & Ponce Composer Prize	Jorge Aurelio Menendez
Grand Prize	Katie Cho

2012	
Youth	Katie Cho
Junior	Robbie Belson
Senior & Grand Prize	Young Jun Lim
Sor Composer Prize	Jake Kelsey

2013	
Youth	Amanie Oubrahim & Dian Rajic
Junior	Katie Cho & Robbie Belson
Senior	Ye Ram Yoon
Giuliani Composer Prize & Grand Prize	Katie Cho

2014	
Youth	AJ Branton
Junior & Grand Prize	Infinity Willner
Senior	Robbie Belson
Tárrega Composer Prize	Amanie Oubrahim

THE 15TH ANNUAL MARLOW
GUITAR INTERNATIONAL YOUTH
GUITAR COMPETITION

2015	
Youth	Amanie Oubrahim
Junior	Michelle Armstrong-Spielberg
Senior & Grand Prize	Ethan Ditthardt
Vihuelists Composer Prize	Ye Ram Yoon

2016	
Youth, Sagreres Composer Prize & Grand Prize	Marc Saura
Junior	Nicole Fetterman
Senior	Nolan Bay

2017	
Youth	Nicolas Wakeman
Junior & Grand Prize	Amanie Oubrahim
Senior	Jan Marie Laman
Coste Composer Prize	Nicole Fetterman

2018	
Youth	Kevin Yuanchen Li
Junior	Caitlin Robinson
Senior & Grand Prize	Carlos Olivares
Mertz Composer Prize	Julia Seibert

2019	
Youth	Matthew Curtin
Junior	Joanna Kim
Senior & Grand Prize	Jack Osborne
Brouwer Composer Prize	Efe Alper

2020	
Youth	Alica Suen
Junior & Grand Prize	Joanna Kim
Senior	Shreya Phadke
Dyens Composer Prize	Joanna Kim



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THE 15TH ANNUAL MARLOW GUITAR INTERNATIONAL YOUTH GUITAR COMPETITION

MGI Youth Guitar Competition Staff

Dr. Amy Crews Cutts

MGI Youth Guitar Competition Executive Director



Amy Crews Cutts has served as the executive director of the Marlow Guitar International Youth Guitar Competition (formerly known as the MGI Beatty Competition) since October 2006 and has been a member of the Board of Marlow Guitar International (formerly known as the International Conservatory of Music) since July 2001. Although she has never studied music, she comes from a musical family and she is an enthusiastic supporter of classical guitar music. She is responsible for development, budget, and production for the MGI Competition, all with the goal of creating a fun and nurturing learning experience for contestants in celebration of the classical guitar.

In addition to her volunteer work with Marlow Guitar International, Dr. Cutts also serves on the Policy Advisory Board of the Reinvestment Fund, Philadelphia, PA, the Housing Advisory Board of National Foundation for Credit Counseling, Washington, DC, the Advisory Board for Riskspan, Arlington, VA, and the Board of Directors of the National Business Economics Issues Council and the National Association for Business Economics. She previously served on the Real Estate Financial Advisory Board for the City of Washington, DC, and the Board of Directors of the American Real Estate and Urban Economics Association. She is a founding member of the Women in Real Estate Network of the AREUEA and served as its Chairman from 2008-2010.

She is a graduate of Trinity University in San Antonio, TX, and holds a PhD in economics from the University of Virginia. Dr. Cutts is currently the president and chief economist of AC Cutts & Associates LLC, an economics and public policy consulting firm based in Reston, VA. She was senior vice president and chief economist of Equifax from 2011-2019 and she worked at Freddie Mac from 2007-2011, where she held the title of deputy chief economist from 2003-2011. Dr. Cutts has also held several academic appointments.

She is an avid equestrian, showing her horse Vagabond in amateur show jumping competitions and enjoying spending time with her retired show hunter Barolo. She lives in Reston with her husband, Jim, son Andrew, and 98-year old grandmother, Franziska, for whom Amy ghost-wrote and edited the book Chopin Through the Window: an Autobiography which was published in 2018.

Dr. Glenn Caluda

MGI Youth Guitar Competition Artistic Director



Glenn Caluda has served as the MGI Youth Guitar Competition (formerly known as the MGI Beatty Competition) Artistic Director since September 2009. In 2015 he was the commissioned composer for the MGI Competition, writing *Small Chaconne for the Great Whales*, *Song for the Rainforest*, and *Celebration* for that year's set piece which he later published in the *Suite Homage* with the Guitar Chamber Music Press. He served as a Competition judge in 2007 and 2008. He is currently responsible for all aspects of the competition relating to the musical components of the competition, including selecting and managing the judges and composer, working with the composer, handling contestant questions relating to the set pieces and performance-related rules, and ensuring a nurturing environment for the student contestants.

Dr. Caluda is a native of New Orleans. After receiving his Bachelor of Music Education from Louisiana State University, he served as guitarist and bassist with the Soldiers' Chorus of the United States Army Field Band of Washington, DC, from 1970-1973. After military service, Glenn taught guitar at the Community College of Baltimore. He attended the University of Maryland and received a Master of Arts degree in Music Education. In 1975, he became the first full time guitar teacher at Shenandoah College and Conservatory (now Shenandoah University) in Winchester, Virginia, where he has established a classical guitar program and added new curricula. He received a Ph.D. in Music Education from Louisiana State University in 1985. In 2013 he retired from Shenandoah University and was awarded professor emeritus status in 2016. He studied with the renowned guitar pedagogue Aaron Shearer as well as other fine teachers and players throughout his career.

Dr. Caluda received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Mid-America Guitar Ensemble Festival in 2014, "...in appreciation for his many years of service to the classical guitar community in the areas of performance, composition, conducting, arranging, mentoring, and especially teaching."

He has given classes and clinics at various state and national music educators' conventions. His publications include journal articles, compositions for solo guitar, arrangements for guitar ensemble, and music for children's choir. He and his wife Elizabeth, a pianist, can often be found performing as a duo specializing in the performance of music composed or arranged for guitar and piano and Glenn is also an active performer as a soloist and in various ensembles.

THE 15TH ANNUAL MARLOW
GUITAR INTERNATIONAL YOUTH
GUITAR COMPETITION

Mr. William Hart Wells

**MGI Youth Guitar Competition Faculty Sponsor, Potomac Falls High School
Fine Arts Department Chair and Director of Guitar**



William Hart Wells is the Director of Guitar at Potomac Falls High School in Sterling, VA. Originally from Kings Mountain, NC, Hart studied under Dr. Douglas James at Appalachian State University. A North Carolina Teaching Fellow scholarship recipient, Wells graduated in 1999 with his Bachelor's in Music Education and began teaching K-5 general music at Granite Falls Elementary School in Granite Falls, NC and directing the guitar program at Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute in Hudson, NC.

In 2004, Wells accepted a teaching position with Loudoun County Public Schools and has since served as the Director of Guitar for Potomac Falls High School (PFHS) in Sterling, VA. The program has received much acclaim with invitational performances at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts (Washington DC), the Department of Education (Washington DC), the Virginia Music Educators Association Convention at the famed Homestead Resort (Hot Springs, VA), the Cathedrals of Saint Paul the Apostle and Saint John the Devine (New York City, NY), the Peabody Conservatory (Baltimore, MD), as well as adjudicated performances in Chicago, Philadelphia, and Orlando. The guitar students of PFHS, under Mr. Wells' direction, continue to help spread the good word of guitar education.

Wells maintains a private teaching studio and many of his students have excelled in local and regional competitions and been inspired to pursue music at the collegiate and professional levels. He holds the distinction of having the largest cumulative number of students compete in the MGI Competition since its inception in 2007.

In 2013, Wells completed his Master of Music in Guitar Performance at the Shenandoah Conservatory in Winchester, VA studying under the direction of Dr. Glenn Caluda. Mr. Wells has performed in masterclasses with Oscar Ghiglia, Eduardo Fernandez, Jason Vieaux, Bruce Holzman, Julian Gray, Matteo Mela, Stanley Yates, Raphaella Smits, Andrew Zohn, among others. Mr. Wells commissioned the work entitled "Lullaby with Variations" from Miroslav Lončar and performed it in a 2015 recording produced by Les Productions d'OZ of the composer's works for solo and ensemble called A Fantastic Journey.

Mr. Wells has served as guest conductor for the East Carolina University Summer Guitar Festival Ensemble, the Washington College Guitar Festival



ensemble, the Chesterfield County All-County Guitar Ensemble, and the Stafford County All-County Guitar Ensemble. He is an active member of the Guitar Foundation of America, the National Association for Music Education, Virginia Music Educator Association (VMEA), The VMEA Guitar Council, and the Aguado Guitar Concerts.

Charlotte Kuenen

MGI Board Member & MGI Youth Guitar Competition Volunteer

Charlotte Kuenen, CFP®, has been an MGI board member for five years and serves on the Executive Committee. She is a financial planner and asset manager at Morgan Stanley and is married to MGI Board member David Kirstein. Besides the classical guitar, Charlotte loves boating and yoga.

Bill Herrmann

MGI Board Member & MGI Youth Guitar Competition Volunteer

Lovingly called “Captain Banana” by the MGI staff, Bill Herrmann has been a dedicated volunteer, serving the MGI Youth Guitar Competition since the inaugural event in 2007 and as a member of the Board of Directors of Marlow Guitar International since 2008. Among his many duties with the competition, he is the provider of refreshments for the student contestants and their families through the three days of competition and he provides general assistance to the staff and contestants throughout the competition. Mr. Herrmann is retired from the U.S. Department of Commerce where he was a United States representative to APEC and the OECD and coordinated U.S. bilateral science and technology relationships with China, India and Japan. He also worked at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) where he developed hardware and software systems to predict the weather and map the ocean floor. Mr. Herrmann has a degree of proficiency in French and Spanish.

David Kirstein

MGI Board Member & Vice President, & MGI Youth Guitar Competition Volunteer

David Kirstein is a native Washingtonian and a partner in the Washington, DC law firm of Kirstein & Young PLLC, with a practice focus on commercial aviation, federal regulatory, and antitrust law. He is married and has a son who is a film producer/director in New York. David started playing guitar at age 12 and took up classical guitar while in law school and has studied with Carlos Barbosa-Lima. He has been a member of the Board of Directors of Marlow Guitar International for 18 years and was a frequent host of competition judges and Marlow Guitar Series performers for many years.

THE 15TH ANNUAL MARLOW
GUITAR INTERNATIONAL YOUTH
GUITAR COMPETITION

Tomoko Shinagawa

MGI Youth Guitar Competition Volunteer

Tomoko Shinagawa joined the corps of MGI Competition volunteers in its 6th season. She is a native of Japan and currently resides in Maryland. Tomoko's interest in classical music started at the age of five with her mother's insistence that she takes piano lessons. As an organic chemistry major, she enjoyed both piano lessons and chemical experiments in her university years in Osaka. Lately, she has further challenged herself with classical guitar lessons. She also volunteers with Marlow Guitar International's Marlow Guitar Series and enjoys attending its music performances. Tomoko retired in 2015.

Susan Healy

**Former MGI Administrative Director & MGI Youth Guitar Competition
Volunteer**

Born in NYC and raised in Connecticut, Susan graduated from American University with a BA in 1979 and an MA from George Washington University in 1992. Coming up for air after raising three kids, Susan filled a need in the administrative part of the International Conservatory of Music, predecessor to Marlow Guitar International. She spent time learning Quickbooks (certificate from Montgomery College) to keep financial records, read books on marketing, sold tickets (gloriously answered the phone during dinner) and kept databases current. Most of all, she loves meeting the inspiring performers of the John E. Marlow Guitar Series, listening to aspiring, hardworking young guitarists performing in the MGI Competition, and working enthusiastically with the many wonderful people who are part of the Marlow Guitar International board and audience. She has put an indelible stamp on the community contribution we all continue to make.



Dr. Claudia Moy

MGI Board Member & MGI Youth Guitar Competition Volunteer

Claudia Moy recently joined the Board of Directors of Marlow Guitar International and has been a volunteer for the MGI Competition since 2017. Though not a musician herself, she has been a supporter of the Marlow Guitar Series and the MGI Competition since her son, Chris, competed in the first year of the program and took home the grand prize in his second year as competitor. Dr. Moy is an epidemiologist with experience in academia as well as at the NIH, where she currently works in the area of clinical trials in stroke and other neurological disorders.

Joey ikner

MGI Youth Guitar Competition Volunteer

Joey Ikner currently teaches in the Fairfax County Public Schools. He was professor of guitar at Auburn University from 2012 to 2018, and was guitar director at Freedom High School in South Riding, VA prior to that. Widely regarded as a dedicated, conscientious and effective guitar pedagogue, Joseph Ikner is regularly sought to conduct master classes and clinics throughout the United States and participates in Guitarcurriculum.com, a program of the Guitar Foundation of America. Joseph Ikner has also directed guitar studies at Campbell University and served on the faculty at Shenandoah Conservatory while seeking a Doctorate of Musical Arts in Guitar Performance. He holds a MM, and BM, magna cum laude, in Guitar Performance from East Carolina University.

Deborah Drayer

MGI Youth Guitar Competition Volunteer

Deborah Drayer joined the MGI Competition volunteer staff in 2009 assisting with event logistics. For many years Deborah served on the Board of Directors of the Marlow Guitar International and she still volunteers with the John E. Marlow Guitar Series. Ms. Drayer received a Bachelor of Music degree in piano performance from American University where she studied with Rita Sloan and Evelyn Swarthout Hayes. Deborah sang for seven years with the Cathedral Choir of St. Thomas More in Arlington Virginia where she was also a member of the Motet Choir under the direction of Dr. Haig Mardirosian. She received a Graduate Certificate from the George Washington University in Fundraising Administration, and eventually entered public service from which she recently retired after working on healthcare issues in a legislative staff office to the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services.

THE 15TH ANNUAL MARLOW
GUITAR INTERNATIONAL YOUTH
GUITAR COMPETITION

Tim Healy

MGI (ICM) Founder, former MGI President, & MGI Youth Guitar Competition Volunteer

I grew up in Wyoming a long time ago, learned as many jokes as possible but studied seriously both business (BS.BusAd from Georgetown University School of Business) and music (BMus from New England Conservatory) to be able to pay expenses. I was fortunate to meet Susan Rose and even more fortunate to marry her. She is the smart side of us. In 1980, fueled by a dream, we returned to DC and embarked on an epic journey: The International Conservatory of Music was born. In 1992, our dear friend John Marlow died and coincidentally the D'Addario Guitar series ceased. We (along with Regis Ferruzza, Wade Dunn and an inveterate Board of Directors) created the John E. Marlow guitar series, bringing the best guitarists in the world to perform in the DC metro area. In 2007, our dear friend and Board member, Amy Cutts created the MGI Youth Guitar Competition which has thrived since then. In 2018 I retired from the MGI board and now enjoy attending performances worry free. In 2020, I created a new community program for MGI, Marlow Guitars for Vets. This program provides free guitar instruction and instruments for military vets to aid in their recovery from trauma.

I served on the Village Council of Chevy Chase for 4 years, was a founding member of the Montgomery County Commission on the Humanities in 1983 and still serve on the Chevy Chase Fire Board where I've served since 2012. I continue to work as a Realtor with Long and Foster where I've been a top producer for the past 32 years.

Frank Bevacqua

MGI Board Member & Secretary, & MGI Youth Guitar Competition Volunteer

Frank has worked for nearly 40 in communications for the International Joint Commission, an organization created by treaty to help Canada and the United States prevent and resolve disputes over the waters they share. He grew up in Chicago on the shore of Lake Michigan and enjoys kayaking and canoeing in the US and Canada. He and his wife, Jacqueline live in Silver Spring, Maryland and have two musically talented adult children. After attending the Marlow Concert Series for many years, Frank joined the board in 2016 because he wasn't getting enough of Tim's jokes as an audience member. Frank joined the MGI Competition corps of volunteers in 2018.



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THE 15TH ANNUAL MARLOW
GUITAR INTERNATIONAL YOUTH
GUITAR COMPETITION

Ms. Kathrin Murray

2021 MGI Youth Guitar Competition Judge



A seasoned performer and teacher, guitarist Kathrin Murray, is a passionately committed performer with the ability to transparently present music as having a "life of its own" with "beautiful tone" (The Washington Guitar Society). Born and raised in Honolulu, Hawaii, at 9 years old she was invited to join a professional ukulele ensemble. Since beginning to play the classical guitar, she has become a dedicated performer and teacher based in Baltimore, MD.

Ms. Murray has performed in the United States and Europe and has been featured as a guest artist at the Bethlehem Guitar Festival, the Charlton Kings International Guitar Festival (England), on the BBC, and at the Dutch and Finish Embassies in Washington, DC. Recent performances have taken her to Mendocino, CA, Bethlehem, PA, Fairfax, Virginia, Washington, DC, Honolulu, Hawaii, Portland and Brunswick, Maine and the Shenandoah Conservatory in Virginia. She has won the Rising Stars Recital Competition and has received the Levine Faculty Development Grant, the Peabody Career Development Grant, the Bowdoin Summer Music Festival's Performing Associate Award, and has been a three-time recipient of the Levine Performance Grant.

In 2008, she received a Maryland State Arts Council Grant for her debut solo recording, "Arabesques", which was released in Spring of 2008 on the Centaur Record Label. Of the recording, Al Kunze of Soundboard Magazine wrote, "Murray is a strong, precise, and yet lyrical player. It is nice to make her musical acquaintance."

Also a sought-after teacher, Ms. Murray has served on the guitar faculties of Frederick Community College, Towson University, Mount Saint Mary's College, and the Levine School of Music. Former students of Ms. Murray have gone on to study at the Royal Academy of Music in London and have received full tuition scholarships at major universities to study classical guitar. Currently she teaches guitar and ukulele at the Bryn Mawr School in Baltimore and maintains a significant home studio.



Ms. Murray received a bachelor's degree from the Lamont School of Music of the University of Denver, where she was a scholarship student of the renowned guitarist and pedagogue, Ricardo Iznaola, and a Master's Degree from the Peabody Conservatory of the Johns Hopkins University, where she studied with Julian Gray. She has also studied at the Bowdoin Summer Music Festival and privately with composer Gilbert Biberian in England.



2018 MGI Youth Guitar Competition senior division contestant Julia Seibert

THE 15TH ANNUAL MARLOW
GUITAR INTERNATIONAL YOUTH
GUITAR COMPETITION

Mr. Kevin Cope

2021 MGI Youth Guitar Competition Judge



Kevin J. Cope (b. 1981) started as a youthful heavy metal guitarist inspired by the likes of Megadeth and Metallica. His tastes grew into the more intellectual metal of bands like Symphony X and Dream Theater as well as the more psychedelic progressive rock of YES. Through exposure to the classical greats of the 20th century such as Igor Stravinsky, Alberto Ginastera, Richard Danielpour, and John Corigliano his own composition style became more complex while still maintaining a connection to the rock and metal music that he still loves to this day. His unique style incorporates everything from serial techniques, free atonal, Latin dance, Arabian scales, and metal.

A graduate of the University of Delaware with master's degrees in music composition and guitar performance, Kevin has studied with composers Patrick Long, Jennifer Barker, and Andrew Bleckner as well as guitarists Matthew Slotkin and Christiaan Taggart. Kevin has been the recipient of the Emerging and Established Professional Awards for Music Composition as well as the Emerging Professional Award for Music: Solo Recital from the Delaware Division of the Arts and was featured on the cover of Soundboard Magazine in their 40th Anniversary Edition with a focus on composition for the guitar.

A primary composition focus is the classical guitar but Kevin has written for a wide range of instrumentations and has received commissions for many ensembles including horn octet, guitar ensemble (Salisbury Guitar Festival), choir, woodwind quintet, chamber ensembles (Melomanie), and concert band. Solo and duo commissions have also been completed including works for guitar (including the Philadelphia Classical Guitar Society competition), flute and guitar, tenor and piano, saxophone and guitar (Duo Montagnard), and guitar duo (Duo Cortado).



Kevin's first CD Destination Unknown, Original Compositions I, Solo Guitar Vol. 1 was described by Classical Guitar Magazine as "a fascinating and stimulating debut that gets better and better the more you listen to it" while analyzing Kevin's compositions as "though there are certainly nods to less conventional modern strains, and a certain dark solemnity...infuses much of this, it still ultimately feels very accessible."

An experienced guitar teacher, Kevin teaches with the University of Delaware Community Music School and the Darlington Arts Center (Shavertown, PA) as well as teaching private guitar and composition students. Kevin is also an experienced Suzuki Guitar instructor in the Newark, DE area.

Currently the president of the Philadelphia Classical Guitar Society, Kevin continues to work to enhance the influence the classical guitar and contemporary art music in the Philadelphia area.

Kevin's works are available for purchase from StringsbyMail.com, Sheet Music Plus, and his website, www.kevinjcope.com. Recording releases include Destination Unknown (Solo Guitar Vol. 1), the saxophone and guitar piece Origin Unknown: A Pole Was Journeying, recorded and released by Duo Montagnard and the solo clarinet piece Sirocco recorded and released by Christopher Nichols and Navona Records.

Photo credit: Brian Mengini

THE 15TH ANNUAL MARLOW
GUITAR INTERNATIONAL YOUTH
GUITAR COMPETITION

Mr. Troy King

2021 MGI Youth Guitar Competition Judge



Guitarist Troy King regularly performs solo and chamber music concerts throughout the United States, Europe, and Latin America. He has been heard on the BBC and is frequently on National Public Radio in both the United States and Spain. He has given festival performances at the Interlochen Arts Festival (Michigan), the Charlton Kings International Guitar Festival (England), the Portland Guitar Festival (Oregon), the Bethlehem Guitar Festival, and the Summer Guitar Workshop (NM). Frequent tours have taken King to major concert venues in London, New York City, Boston, Philadelphia, Mexico City, Honolulu, Cheltenham (UK), Albuquerque, Cleveland, Denver, Ann Arbor, Cincinnati, Baltimore, Derby (UK), Cincinnati, San Diego, Phoenix, Portland (OR), and Washington D.C., and many more. Concert performances and/or master classes he has given at universities and conservatories include Columbia University (NYC), University of Maryland, Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, Shenandoah Conservatory of Music (VA), Baldwin Wallace Conservatory, Palomar College (San Diego, CA), and Glendale College (Phoenix, AR).

Troy King has released two solo guitar recordings, each containing World Premieres and receiving unanimous international critical acclaim: "Musique de Salon: Classical Guitar Music for a New Belle Epoque", released on the IGW label and distributed by Eroica Classical Recordings (Classical Guitar Magazine (UK) hails it as "A major international debut by any standard. A guitarist of the highest order"), and "Musica del Arte: Masterworks for Guitar by Latin American Composers", released internationally on the Centaur Records label (The American Record Guide states, "(King's) interpretations have a winning rhythmic impulse... harmonically sumptuous and lyrically expansive...a complete delight!"). He also performs along with guitarist Kathrin Murray in the Arabesque Duo, whose debut recording on Centaur Records features transcriptions of piano pieces by Grieg,



Brahms, Debussy, Granados and Turina. (The American Record Guide wrote, "The Arabesque Duo plays beautifully on this recording.") Other stellar reviews of concerts and recordings have appeared in the Washington Post, Les cahiers de La Guitare (France), Soundboard Magazine, the Baltimore Sun, The Albuquerque Journal, and the Gloucestershire Echo (UK).

Troy King won First Prize at the Fifth Portland International Guitar Competition. Other honors include winning First Prizes at the Lamont Chamber Music Competition and the Montpelier Recitalist Competition and being a finalist at the IV Manuel Ponce International Guitar Competition in Mexico.

The objective with his students is to increase their musicianship, technical proficiency, and understanding of music notation and music reading as it applies to performing classical guitar, emphasizing the importance of learning to "artistically interpret" the musical score. Troy King holds degrees from the Cleveland Institute of Music/Case Western Reserve University and the Lamont School of Music/University of Denver. His major teachers have been John Holmquist and Ricardo Iznaola. Additional instruction includes private study in England with composer/guitarist Gilbert Biberian and participation in dozens of public master classes given by various artists.

Troy King is the Director of Guitar Studies at Towson University, Towson, MD.

THE 15TH ANNUAL MARLOW
GUITAR INTERNATIONAL YOUTH
GUITAR COMPETITION

The Juries of the MGI Youth Guitar Competition

- 2007** Dr. Glenn Caluda (VA), Dr. Michael Quantz (TX), & Mr. Rene Gonzalez (FL)
- 2008** Dr. Glenn Caluda (VA), Mr. Rene Gonzalez (FL), & Mr. Nat Gunod (CT)
- 2009** Mr. Nat Gunod (CT), Dr. Matthew Hinsley, & Mr. Jeff Cogan (CA)
- 2010** Mr. Manley Mallard (IL), Ms. Kami Rowan (NC), & Mr. Jeff Cogan (CA)
- 2011** Dr. Matthew Hinsley (TX), Ms. Kami Rowan (NC), & Mr. Manley Mallard (IL)
- 2012** Mr. Ernesto Cordero (PR), Mr. Frank Wallace (NH), & Mr. John Arnold (PA)
- 2013** Mr. Ricardo Iznaola (CO), Mr. Rupert Boyd (NY), & Mr. John Arnold (PA)
- 2014** Mr. Rodney Stucky (OH), Ms. Kim Perlak (MA), & Mr. Petar Kodzas (NY)
- 2015** Ms. Joanne Castellani (NY), Mr. Frank Koonce (AZ), Mr. Yuri Liberzon (CA)
- 2016** Mr. Kerry Alt (LA), Ms. Andrea Cannon (TX), & Mr. Michael Andriaccio (NY)
- 2017** Mr. Jeremy Lutty (MD), Mr. John Arnold (PA), Mr. Timothy Olbrych (VA), Dr. Raphael Scarfullery (VA), Ms. Michele Horner (NY), & Mr. Joseph Mayes (NJ)
- 2018** Ms. Pamela Kimmel (IL), Mr. Christopher Ladd (CT), & Ms. Lynn McGrath (NY)
- 2019** Ms. Kathleen Hayes (NJ), Mr. Denis Azabagic (IL), & Mr. Bruce Holzman (FL)
- 2020** Ms. Gohar Vardanyan (NY), Ms. Laura Oltman (NJ), & Mr. Michael Newman (NJ)
- 2021** Ms. Kathrin Murray (MD), Mr. Kevin Cope (PA), & Mr. Troy King (MD)

Mr. Kareem McCullough

2021 MGI Youth Guitar Competition Set Piece Composer



Kareem McCullough, a graduate of Loudoun County Public Schools (VA), was a part of its guitar program as it began to develop into the powerful institution it has become. After graduation, he furthered his musical studies at Radford University where he studied with Dr. Robert Trent. He earned his B.M. in instrumental music education with an emphasis in guitar with cello as his secondary instrument. He performed as a soloist and chamber musician and toured with the Radford University Honors Guitar Quartet.

While still an undergraduate, he developed a passion for teaching in both private studio lessons and as an assistant for guitar classes at school. After graduating in 2012, he taught K – 12 general music, guitar, orchestra, and wind band as a substitute teacher for Roanoke City Public Schools (VA).

In 2013 Kareem pursued his M.A. in guitar performance at Marshall University where he studied with Dr. Julio Alves and served as his teaching assistant. In addition, he taught as an adjunct faculty member at the University of Rio Grande from 2014-2016, substituted as a music specialist for Cabell County Public Schools (WV) from 2015-2016, and has run a private studio since 2008.

Since 2016 Kareem has served as the director of the guitar department at Loudoun County High School (Leesburg, VA) and soon after took over as director of the orchestra program there as well. In addition to his teaching in Loudoun County, Kareem has also served as the ensemble director for the Romero Guitar Institute run by Matt Denman, was the guest conductor for the inaugural Stafford County All County Guitar Festival, performed at Carnegie Hall and toured France with the inaugural US Guitar orchestra, and has written, produced, and released an album of original music. Kareem is a member of the Leesburg Commission on Public Art which advocates the arts in all forms in the city of Leesburg. He is currently serving on the board of Benefit, an organization whose goal is to promote live music around the county and hosts a festival every year in downtown Leesburg.

THE 15TH ANNUAL MARLOW
GUITAR INTERNATIONAL YOUTH
GUITAR COMPETITION

Kareem has performed for and studied with renowned guitarist Pepe Romero, Bill Kanengiser, Benjamin Verdery, Jorge Caballero, Roland Dyens, Stanley Yates, Marija Temo, Massimo Delle Cese and many others.



2019 MGI Youth Guitar Competition senior division
contestants jamming on the rooftop



MGI Youth Guitar Competition Commissions

The MGI Youth Guitar Competition also celebrates living composers and seeks to deepen the repertoire of classical music through commissioned works for our competition. Each year three new works are written and serve as the required set pieces for each age division of the Competition.

The MGI Youth Guitar Competition Set Piece Composers and Their Compositions:

- 2009** Mr. Vincent Lindsey-Clark, United Kingdom
Pulsar, Free Fall, and Troubadour
- 2010** Mr. José Luis Merlin, Argentina
Bailongo Campero, Beso de Luna, and Un Paseo a Caballo
- 2011** Mr. Gerald Garcia, United Kingdom
Antonio, Milonga, and Havabana
- 2012** Mr. Julio César Oliva, Mexico
Columbia, Fiesta Mexicana, and Son de la Paloma
- 2013** Mr. Frank Wallace, United States of America
I. Round the World, II. Don't Say Goodbye, and III. Par 9
- 2014** Mr. Ernesto Cordero, Puerto Rico
Las Niñas, Niebla, and El Caminante
- 2015** Dr. Glenn Caluda, United States of America
Small Chaconne for the Great Whales, Song for the Rain Forest, and Celebration
- 2016** Mr. Mark Anthony Cruz, United States of America
Chiesa di Santa Maria, Chiesa di San Francesco, and I Guardiani
- 2017** Dr. Raphael Scarfullery, United States of America
Moon Dance, Rain Dance, and Sun Dance
- 2018** Mr. Sergio Assad, Brazil
Transparent Color, Wandering Shepard, and Irregular Mirror
- 2019** Mr. Guy Van Duser, United States of America
Ten Movements, Crocus Waltz, and The Butterfly Maker
- 2020** Ms. Dale Kavanagh, Canada
A Breeze through the Leaves, Washing Waves Against the Stone, and A Day on Sylt
- 2021** Mr. Kareem McCullough, United States of America
Under Quarantine: Isolation, Under Quarantine: Boredom, and Under Quarantine: Music for Tomorrow

THE 15TH ANNUAL MARLOW
GUITAR INTERNATIONAL YOUTH
GUITAR COMPETITION

Special thanks to Carol and Chris Espinosa, Portola Valley, CA for
sponsoring the 2021 MGI Youth Guitar Competition Set Piece Commissions

Under Quarantine

Youth Division

Isolation

Kareem McCullough

Sheet music for 'Under Quarantine' (Isolation) for Youth Division. The music is in G major, 6/8 time, and has a tempo of $\text{♩} = 50$. The instruction is *p legato tranquillo*. The melody consists of eighth-note patterns. The right hand part includes lyrics: *a i m i m i m i*.

Under Quarantine

Junior Division

Boredom

Kareem McCullough

Sheet music for 'Under Quarantine' (Boredom) for Junior Division. The music is in 2/4 time and has a tempo of $\text{♩} = 130$. The instruction is *mf pizz bass*. The melody consists of eighth-note patterns.

Under Quarantine

Senior Division

Music for Tomorrow

Kareem McCullough

Sheet music for 'Under Quarantine' (Music for Tomorrow) for Senior Division. The music is in 4/4 time and has a tempo of $\text{♩} = 70$. The instruction is *p*. The melody consists of eighth-note patterns with fingerings: 1, 2, 3, 4, 3, 4, 0, 3, 0, 3, 4, 1.



Acknowledgements

Marlow Guitar International gives thanks to the following people and organizations for making the 2020 MGI Youth Guitar Competition a remarkable success:

Marlow Guitar International Staff

Dr. João Paulo Figueirôa,
Executive Director

Dr. Danielle Cumming,
Artistic Director

Dr. Danielle Cumming
Dr. Candace Mowbray
Education and Grants Specialist

Teresa Sargurudoss,
Administrative Assistant

Vendors

Meagan Healy, Graphic Design

Celeste Prieto, Graphic Design

Chris Huebner & Ryan Harrington, MacMannes Inc,
T-shirt & Bags Printing

Greg Lehr, McLean Copy,
Printing

Swag Bag Content Donors

D'Addario Strings

Myrna Sislen,
Middle C Music

Teachers

Mr. Jorge Amaral, Private Studio & the International School of Music

Ms. Magdalena Duhagon,
Private studio

Mr. William Feasley, Private Studio

Dr. Joseph Ikner, Private studio

Mr. Young Jun Lim, The International School of Music

Dr. Miroslav Lončar, Private studio & Park View High School

Dr. Natasa Klasinc-Lončar,
Private studio & Dominion High School

Mr. Jamey Mann, Catoctin school of music

Mr. Kareem McCullough,
Private studio & Loudoun County High School

Mr. Andy Mitchell,
International School of Music

Dr. Matt Palmer, Private studio

Mr. Franco Latino, Levine School of Music

Ms. Mia Pomerantz, Levine School of Music

Mr. Douglas Rogers, Levine School of Music

Brian Slaymaker, Private studio

Dr. Jordan Taylor, The Catoctin School of Music

Dr. Jordan Blake Taylor,
Catoctin School of Music

Ms. Evgenia Tochenaya, Private studio

Mr. William Hart Wells, Private studio & Potomac Falls High School

Mr. Chris Wyton, Christopher Wyton Music

THE 15TH ANNUAL MARLOW
GUITAR INTERNATIONAL YOUTH
GUITAR COMPETITION

Special Supporters

Marlow Guitar International is especially grateful to the following supporters who have both given and pledged to give continued significant support to the MGI Youth Guitar Competition so that it can continue and thrive.

Myrna Sislen

*Mike Hemmer and Lori Raphael,
in memory of Joan Collings*

Amy and Jim Cutts

Carol and Chris Espinosa



The Marlow Guitar International Board extends our sincerest gratitude to John and Susie Beatty who sponsored the MGI Beatty Competition from 2007-2018.



MARLOW GUITAR
INTERNATIONAL



Thank you

We are grateful to our many donors that make programs like the MGI Youth Guitar Competition possible. The gifts of your time, talent, and treasure leave a lasting impact on us all. We encourage you to become members of MGI to get additional benefits like getting early opportunities to register for events and access to our archives of performances.

THE 15TH ANNUAL MARLOW
GUITAR INTERNATIONAL YOUTH
GUITAR COMPETITION

The Story behind the MGI Youth Guitar Competition Guitar Man

Guitar Man was the vision of guitarist Berta Rojas, who served as our Artistic Director for the first three years of the MGI Youth Guitar Competition. The idea of using the guitar as an instrument to promote cultural appreciation is one she has taken to heart – she has dedicated her career to highlighting the beauty of her native Paraguay and the legacy of the great Paraguayan composer and guitarist Agustín Barrios. We have carried forward her vision, featuring three versions of Guitar Man used in annual rotation.

In the 2009 Competition, Guitar Man made his debut. His tag line that year was “Instrument of Peace,” reflecting the many ways in which music bridges cultural divides.

In 2010, Guitar Man featured the tagline “Instrument of Joy,” celebrating a goal of the MGI Youth Guitar Competition to foster love of music, joy in playing, and the fun of sharing passion for the guitar with other young people.

In 2011, “Instrument of Harmony” Guitar Man joined the team. The classical guitar is an amazing instrument that plays all voices concurrently, from the bass and rhythm to the lead, all in harmony.





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THE 15TH ANNUAL MARLOW
GUITAR INTERNATIONAL YOUTH
GUITAR COMPETITION

Contestants in the 2021 Youth Division

Efe Alper



Efe is 12 years old and is a 7th grade student at Deal Middle School. He has been playing guitar since he was 5 with Mia Pomerantz at the Levine School of Music. He lives in Washington, DC with his 7-year-old brother, his parents, and 2 6-year-old cats. Efe likes math, science, video games and Legos.

Bethan Bray



Bethan is a 12-year-old 6th grader. This is her second time playing at MGI. She is a student of Franco Platino at the Levine School of Music. The guitar is her favorite instrument because of the unique sound and versatile repertoire. Besides playing guitar, she enjoys math, problem solving, and building lego structures.

Ariana Choi



Ariana Choi's interest in guitar started in second grade when she saw the movie Sing. Her initial strumming evolved into a love of classical guitar, and she has been taking lessons with Joey Ikner since December 2019. She is currently 10 years old and in the 4th grade at Haycock Elementary School, where her favorite subjects are math and art. In addition to guitar, Ariana enjoys piano, reading, and jigsaw puzzles.

Jay Chrisfield



Jay Chrisfield is an active 12-year-old who loves going outside in his free time. He's been playing guitar for 8 years now, and still loves the instrument. Since the pandemic started, he likes to play with his dog and gets on virtual calls with his friends.

Contestants in the 2021 Youth Division continued

Miles Maximov Fernandez



I am from Amsterdam, Netherlands. I began to learn guitar at age 6. I was originally inspired to learn guitar in Spain, where part of my family is from. When I first heard Flamenco guitarists in Granada and Sevilla, I loved the sound of guitar. Later I listened to guitar maestros such as Andres Segovia, Paco de Lucia, and John Williams, who inspired me further. My parents always encouraged and supported me to learn music and my teacher Franco Platino of Levine Music School has been a great and patient guide.

Damian Gadiyak



Damian is an 8-year-old boy who is currently a 3rd grader at St. Stephens Classical Academy. He loves classical music and wanted to play guitar ever since he was 3. Damian started lessons with Mr. Franco Platino in May 2020 and enjoys learning new techniques and playing new compositions Mr. Franco offers him. He also takes piano lessons together with his little sister, and they had several successful recitals and competitions, both - as solo and as a duet. In his free time Damian likes to ride his bike, read, and learn how things work (by disassembling them and then assembling them back again).

Michael Kuoh



My name is Michael Kuoh, and I am a 5th grader at Discovery Elementary School in Arlington, Virginia. Although I started learning the classical guitar a year and half ago, I have always liked music, because it makes me feel calm after a stressful day. For me, playing the guitar allows me to find peace and express my feelings, even though I may not always be able to say them in words. I am a curious person, as I always want to learn more about the world and how it works. You will often find me reading, whether it is an exciting novel about how people find connections with each other or a nonfiction book on math, chemistry, or physics. In addition to music and reading, I love playing soccer and tennis, participating in math circles, and teaching my little sister the ukulele. Thank you for this opportunity.

THE 15TH ANNUAL MARLOW
GUITAR INTERNATIONAL YOUTH
GUITAR COMPETITION

Andy Lin



Hi. My name is Andy Lin. I started learning classical guitar 3 years ago. I first started playing the violin but then quit and started learning how to play the guitar. I like classical guitar because of all the ways you can play it and the different sounds it can make. When I don't play the guitar, I watch football games on TV, play video games, and read books.

Vaibhav Mathur



Vaibhav's life revolves around music. From singing to exploring instruments, he is constantly seeking new styles, methods, and opportunities to feed his musical curiosity. We are all immensely proud of his ability to pick up guitar as his primary instrument and the rigor he is willing to put into any piece he is learning. We are also thrilled to see him engage musically with his elder brother, who is an accomplished piano student himself.

Apart from music, Vaibhav loves the outdoors, painting, crafts, and Origami. He can be found painting sunsets and creating flip books.

Andrew J. Mecham



Andrew J. Mecham is 11 years old and is in 6th grade at Lees Corner Elementary School. He began studying Suzuki guitar when he was 6 years old. Currently, his favorite song in the Suzuki repertoire is "Guardame las Vacas" by Luis de Narvaez. Andrew has a younger sister named Emma, and loves reading, soccer, and LEGOs. Social Studies is his favorite subject this year. He has a pet turtle named Pamela, and dreams of one day having a pet goldfish named Fluffy. Andrew is a student of Douglas.



Contestants in the 2021 Youth Division continued

Julia Mendez



This is my first guitar competition, and I am so excited to be a part of it! I started playing guitar several years ago with Mr. Fritz. Ever since he left The Catoctin School of Music, Dr. JB Taylor has been my teacher. I love to be outside. I enjoy hiking, biking, gardening, and playing tennis. My family and I live in Leesburg, where we have lived for 8 years. I have 2 parakeets who I like to play guitar for. I also love caring for my 4 hens, and I look forward to adding 2 more this spring.

Jack Mitchell



Jack has been playing guitar since the age of 5. He enjoys both classical and electric guitar. The current classical composers he enjoys playing are Ferrer, Carcassi and Sor. On his electric guitar he enjoys learning Jimi Hendrix and Jimmy Page. When not playing guitar, Jack is out playing soccer, mountain bike riding, snowboarding, or on his trampoline.

Owen Sung



My name is Owen, I am 10 years old, and I have been studying guitar since October 2020. I love guitar because it sounds so nice and pretty and when I play it, it makes me smile. I was inspired to play the guitar because of the songs I like to listen to on the radio. When I am not playing guitar, I like to go out biking with my friends, practice piano (which I have studied for 4 years), and enjoy playing video games. I have 2 younger siblings who are 6 and 3 years old.

THE 15TH ANNUAL MARLOW
GUITAR INTERNATIONAL YOUTH
GUITAR COMPETITION

Jacob Wahl

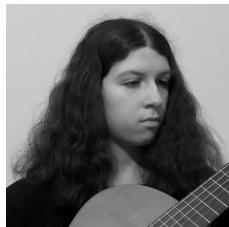


Jacob Wahl is 12 years old and is a 6th grader at Norwood School in Bethesda. He has been studying Suzuki guitar since kindergarten with Doug Rogers at the Levine School of Music. His favorite subjects in school are math and science and in his free time he enjoys swimming, reading, basketball, skateboarding, and video games.



Contestants in the Junior Division

Angelica Franco Brito



Angelica Franco Brito is currently a sophomore at Potomac Falls High School. She started playing guitar around 6 years ago and has participated in many exciting opportunities along the way, such as the PAVAN Governor's School and the All Virginia Guitar Ensemble. Currently, she takes private lessons under Mr. McCullough along with her high school guitar class with Mr. Wells. Angelica loves guitar because not only does it allow her to express herself, but it also gives her a way to meet and connect with new people.

Aside from playing guitar, she also enjoys cross country and spending time with friends and family. This is Angelica's first year participating in the Marlow Guitar Competition, and she hopes to make it a memorable experience.

Ethan Gonzalez



My name is Ethan Gonzalez. I am 14 years old and a freshman at Loudoun County High School. I have been playing guitar for about 2 and a half years. My guitar teacher is Dr. JB Taylor. I enjoy playing guitar because of all the different skills, techniques, and styles there are. I am a boy-scout, currently a life scout and working on my eagle. I enjoy playing guitar, making and painting models, swimming, playing video games, and hanging out with friends. I am a middle child with 2 brothers. I have 2 dogs, a pug named Millie and a Coton de Tulier named Bosco.

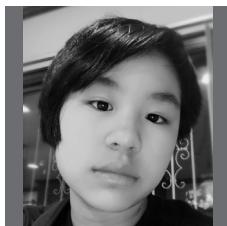
Nora Johnson



I've been playing classical guitar for around 3 years. My instructor is Matt Palmer, who is always very encouraging and kind. My other hobbies include video editing, gaming, and figure skating.

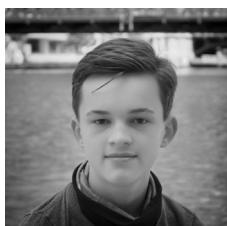
THE 15TH ANNUAL MARLOW
GUITAR INTERNATIONAL YOUTH
GUITAR COMPETITION

Rebecca Li



Rebecca is an aspiring musician with a passion for string instruments and an obsession with pop-punk bands. She spends most of her time outside of playing guitar reading YA novels and browsing the internet. Rebecca loves the guitar because of how beautiful an instrument it is.

Mark Merchant



Mark is a freshman officially attending the brand-new Crofton High School, but has never set foot inside the building. He loves soccer, gaming, coding, and music. Piano is a required instrument in his family and is his primary musical outlet. He enjoys creating piano arrangements of popular video game themes and blending them together into medleys while spicing them up a bit. Mark fell in love with the classical guitar after beginning lessons with Matt Palmer and competing in the 2017 MGI Competition for the first time when he didn't even make the 2nd round. He has been inspired by watching the older students compete and challenges himself to grow to those levels of performance and beyond. Thank you for this opportunity.

Henry Riemer



Hello! My name is Henry Jackson Riemer, I am 13 years old, and I attend Takoma Park Middle School. I started playing guitar in 2014 when I was 6 years old. Bill Feasley, my guitar teacher, is himself an outstanding player and is great at showing and teaching me the skills and techniques of the classical guitar. I appreciate being part of the art form of classical guitar that is rich in beauty and history, and I am excited about being part of the next generation of classical guitarists. Outside of the guitar I am active in student government and I play baseball. My father is a Montgomery County Councilmember, and my mother works for Pfizer in government affairs.

Contestants in the Junior Division continued

Alexander Seymour



My name is Alexander Seymour and I am from Leesburg, VA. I have always wanted to play the guitar. Around the age of 12, I started getting private lessons. The more I learned about guitar, the more I loved the instrument. Since starting lessons I have been accepted into Pavan and placed 2nd in Aguado. A few hobbies I have outside of the guitar are mountain biking, classic cars with my father, and computer hardware.

Luke Shaffer



Hello, I am Luke Shaffer. I have a younger sister named Natalie, who plays piano, and a chocolate lab named Ginger. I started playing guitar in 1st grade. Ever since then, my love for guitar has grown throughout the years. I started playing classical guitar around 4 years ago. Now, I attend Georgetown Prep as a sophomore. I play football and baseball at Prep. Besides guitar, I love to play golf, chess, and collect rock vinyls. But guitar is the thing I do that brings me the most joy.

Grey Bear Small



Grey has studied guitar for 11 years: primarily with Douglas Rogers of Levine School of Music in Virginia, and also for 2 years with Luke Dunlea and Michael Butten of the Royal Academy of Music in London, England. In 2020, Grey was awarded Honorable Mention/3rd Place in the Cogen Instrumental Concerto Competition, Senior Division. In 2017, Grey won the 5th Prize in the MGI Competition, Youth Division.

In 2013, Grey was a First Place Winner-Junior Division in the Marlin Engel Solo Instrumental Competition. Grey is in the 10th grade at Landon School, where he sings in the Bearitones and is a member of the swim and water polo teams. He is also a member of the Capital Water Polo Club. In addition to playing guitar, Grey loves skiing, snowmobiling, camping, hiking and playing the electric guitar.

THE 15TH ANNUAL MARLOW
GUITAR INTERNATIONAL YOUTH
GUITAR COMPETITION

Shreyas Venkatesan



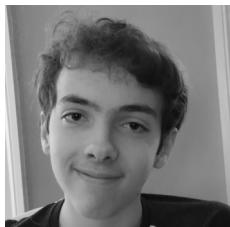
My name is Shreyas Venkatesan. I attend the 7th grade at Kingsview Middle School in Germantown, MD. I have been learning guitar for 4 years under my teacher, Jorge Amaral. I adore the unique sound the guitar makes and enjoy playing the guitar with a passion. Additionally, I like playing various sports such as basketball, football, and tennis. One of my hobbies is to read articles about cars and how they operate. I also enjoy playing video games such as Among Us, with many of my friends. This will be my 3rd year attending this competition and I wish all of the contestants good luck.

William Wang



Hello! My name is William Wang, and I have been playing Classical Guitar for about a year and a half. I started playing the electric guitar for fun and slowly transitioned into the classical guitar, gaining a passion for it. Now I love playing the guitar because of its versatility, how it sounds, and the history behind it. My family has a history of playing the piano, and I am the first one to stray away from that. My friends typically describe me as Optimistic, Energetic, Considerate, and Entertaining. I am inspired immensely by my guitar teacher and brother, who always encourages me to practice more. William is a student of Jorge Amaral at the International School of Music.

Benjamin Wolcott



Hi, I'm Ben. I'm a sophomore in high school and I've been playing guitar for 4 years. I like learning new pieces and knowing how far I've come. I've played other instruments, but I appreciate guitar the most. I like romantic pieces the best, but I have the most respect for baroque music. I have 3 older sisters and 2 cats. When I'm not playing guitar, I enjoy going on walks, doing debate, and reading. This is my first competition, and I'm looking forward to it! Ben is a student of Jamie Mann at the Catoctin School of Music.

Contestants in the Senior Division

Lachezar Balabanski



Lachi Balabanski plays guitar for the Riverside High School Artist Ensemble and the Loudoun Youth Guitars. With his friends, he formed a jazz trio which plays occasionally at school. In addition to the guitar, he plays piano, drums and used to play upright double bass in a school orchestra. Lachi also loves to swim and play basketball. Lachi is a student of Chris Wyton.

Elizabeth Brown



Elizabeth Brown, 16, is a junior at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology. She has been playing classical guitar for 5 years and studies in the private studio of Brian Slaymaker. This will be her 4th year participating in the MGI Youth Guitar Competition. While solo classical guitar is her primary musical focus, Elizabeth has also played violin in the St. Mark Children's Choir and electric guitar in the pit orchestra for her school's production of Spamalot. In addition, she and her twin brother Matthew co-organized Songs for Sarcoma, a concert series that has raised more than \$16,000 for the Sarcoma Foundation of America over the past 3 summers. In her free time, Elizabeth enjoys reading, studying languages, and playing chess. She plans on studying biology in college and hopes to pursue a career as a pediatric oncologist. Thank you to everyone who organizes this competition for all that you do!

THE 15TH ANNUAL MARLOW
GUITAR INTERNATIONAL YOUTH
GUITAR COMPETITION

Joanna Kim



Joanna Kim is equally accomplished on the classical guitar and the finger-style acoustic guitar. She has won first prizes at several competitions, including the Marlow Guitar International Youth Competition, the Aguado Guitar Competition, the Bland Music Competition, and the BringIt! Talent Show. She was also recently chosen as a top 5 finalist in the Guitar Player Magazine Acoustic Guitarist of the Year competition. Joanna began her journey by watching YouTube when she was 6, since her family has no knowledge in music. She has played solos and duets for small audiences (while singing) to large audiences for school concerts, churches, and more. She knows many different techniques as well as different genres of music. She is 16 years old, and her goal is to become a professional guitarist who can apply all the techniques and skills to compose her own songs. Joanna is a student of Dr. Miroslav Lončar.

Aangad Minhas



All my life, I have been interested in music. I especially love classical music. I started off playing the piano. Later, I joined theatre and began singing in musicals. I even learned how to play the tabla, an Indian drum. However, throughout all that, the one instrument that I have stuck with is the guitar. The guitar's effect of captivating a whole room is what drew me to it. Whether it be serenity or a joyous dance, the guitar can influence the audience into feeling the emotion of a piece with ease. To me, music is about conveying emotions and feelings through sound, and I believe that the guitar is the best tool to do so.

Tate Mullin



Tate Mullin is a high school senior and has been playing guitar since 2nd grade. In his free time, he enjoys playing ultimate frisbee, baking bread, and reading. He plans to attend college in the fall and major in environmental science. Tate is a student of Doug Rogers, Levine School of Music.



Contestants in the Senior Division continued

Esteban Olivares



Esteban Olivares is currently a junior at Potomac Falls High School. He started playing guitar in 7th grade and has enjoyed making music ever since. Esteban studies guitar privately with Dr. Natasha Klasinc-Loncar and at school with Mr. William Hart Wells. This year is Esteban's 3rd year participating in the Marlow Guitar International Competition after placing 4th then 2nd in the previous years. Esteban is very excited for this year as he finally got a new guitar and can't wait to test it out in its first competition.

Theo Wallace



My name is Theo Wallace. I am 16 years old and currently a junior at Yorktown High School. I've been learning guitar for 8 years now with my teacher Evgenia Tochenaya who has made the process really enjoyable. Two years ago, my teacher introduced me to the Washington Balalaika Society, a Northern Virginia based Russian folk orchestra. Over my music career, I've played the guitar at parks and festivals, as well as the balalaika at venues all around the area. Other than music, I enjoy leather working, skiing and wrestling, which I began last year. This is my first ever guitar competition, so I hope to gain experience and get a feel for these types of events.



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THE 15TH ANNUAL MARLOW GUITAR INTERNATIONAL YOUTH GUITAR COMPETITION

Abridged rules for the 2021 MGI Youth Guitar Competition

History

The MGI Youth Guitar Competition is a community program of Marlow Guitar International, a 501(c)3 organization headquartered in Rockville, MD. From 2007 unto 2020 the Competition was known as the MGI John and Susie Beatty Music Scholarship Competition for Classical Guitar. In 2021 the competition was renamed the MGI Youth Guitar Competition and celebrates its 15th year. Marlow Guitar International presents this event to celebrate and encourage young musicians Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia.

Changes

Marlow Guitar International reserves the right to make changes to the competition structure and requirements. Complete rules and applications are available on our website www.marlowguitar.org and any changes will be announced on Social media (Facebook @BeattyCompDC and @MGIYouthGuitar and Twitter @MGI_Youth_Guitar). Contestants and their families are urged to follow us on those platforms. Changes will also be sent to accepted applicants via email. Below is a summary of important rules specific to the competition event for 2021.

Eligibility

Students 18 years old and younger are eligible to compete in the MGI Youth Guitar Competition. The age of the student as of January 1, 2021 determines eligibility. Students must live in Maryland, Virginia, or Washington, DC, USA.

Affiliation

Family members (children, grandchildren, nieces or nephews) of MGI staff, MGI's Board of Directors, or the MGI Youth Guitar Competition staff are ineligible to compete for monetary prizes in the MGI Competition. However, family members may perform to gain experience and to receive the judges' comments.

Returning applicants

Are encouraged to compete again in the MGI Youth Guitar competition. However, returning applicants will not be allowed to repeat the program pieces they have presented in the previous year of the competition. That is, students in the 2021 MGI Youth Guitar Competition are required to perform new pieces that are different from the ones they presented in the 2020 MGI competition. If you listed a piece in your program but did not play it during the competition in 2020, you may play it in the 2021 competition.

Division Winners from the Prior MGI Youth Guitar Competitions are welcome to participate in the 2021 MGI Youth Guitar Competition provided they meet the eligibility requirements.



Grand Prize Winners from prior MGI Youth Guitar Competitions are eligible to compete in the 2021 Competition provided they have not won a prize in a national classical guitar competition, including but not limited to the GFA Youth Competition. Winning a national prize for a nonclassical guitar performance does not disqualify a contestant from participating in the MGI Youth Guitar Competition.

Age Divisions

Three age divisions will compete for MGI Competition Prizes

Youth Division	Students 12 years old and younger
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Junior Division	Students 13-15 years of age
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Senior Division	Students 16-18 years of age
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The competitor's age is determined by their age as of January 1, 2021.

Division Prizes

In each division, five cash awards will be given as follows:

First	\$700	Fourth	\$200
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Second	\$500	Fifth	\$100
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Third	\$300
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Awards

All contestants will receive a participation certificate and swag bag with T-shirt and other items. All semifinalists will receive a trophy corresponding to their final prize placement. These trophies will be awarded on Sunday night following the final round performances. **We ask that all scholarship winners be present at the award ceremony so that they can be honored and celebrated.**

Berta Rojas Grand Prize

In addition, the Berta Rojas Grand Prize will be awarded to the student demonstrating the highest level of talent, skill, artistry, and accomplishment. This student will receive an additional award of \$1500. This prize is sponsored by Jim and Amy Cutts in honor of their friend and the first Artistic Director of the MGI Competition.

THE 15TH ANNUAL MARLOW GUITAR INTERNATIONAL YOUTH GUITAR COMPETITION

Composer's Prize

In the 2021 MGI Youth Guitar Competition, a special prize will be given for the best performance of a composition written by American composer Justin Holland (1819-1887). The winner of this special award will be chosen from any age division and at any round of the competition at the judges' discretion. Contestants who include music written by this composer in their performance program are eligible for this award.

Note: A composition is defined as an original work, an arrangement, or a transcription published by Mr. Holland.

The winner of the Composer's Prize will receive a \$1000 award.

Cash Prizes and TAX Forms

Checks will be mailed after the competition and winners of prize money will be required to submit a W-9 form before prizes will be released.

Competition Structure

The MGI Youth Guitar competition features three rounds of play. All contestants participate in the preliminary round for their division. At least 5 contestants in each division will advance to the semifinal round (if there are fewer than 5 contestants, all contestants will advance). Two contestants from each division will advance to the final round.

Preliminary Round

- Contestants play their division's required piece (see below for division specifications) and one piece of the contestant's choosing.
- The required piece shall be played first from memory.
- Total playing time not to exceed 10 minutes.
- The piece chosen by the student may be originally written for guitar or a transcription approved by the student's teacher and should demonstrate a contrasting style to the required piece. Semifinalists will be chosen from the performances in this round to continue to the second round.

Semifinal Round

- Students are asked to perform a short program of music of their choosing. The music chosen by the student can be originally written for the guitar or transcriptions approved by the student's teacher and should demonstrate the contestant's ability to play contrasting musical styles.
- The contestants may repeat the pieces played in the preliminary round.



The program lengths for each division are:

Youth	Students 12 years old and younger
Junior	Students 13-15 years of age
Senior	Students 16-18 years of age

- Following the semi-final performances, the 3rd through 5th prize winners in each division will be selected and announced. Trophy prizes will be awarded at the Competition Finals on Sunday night.
- The two players selected to advance to the final round in each division will be announced at the end of the semifinal round. In the final round contestants will repeat their semifinal program. Trophy prizes will be awarded at the Competition Finals on Sunday night.

Final Round

- Students will repeat their semi-final program in the final round.

The following three bullets are changed from the original rules

- The final round will be held from 2-5 pm on Sunday May 23, 2021. This round will be recorded at Blue House Productions in Kensington, MD. Contestants will do a sound check with the technician prior to their performance and will do their final round performance in one and only one take (just as if it were before a live audience).
- The judges will review the taped performances and once they have made their decisions, winners will be notified of the results.
- There will be a broadcast of the final round's performances by Marlow Guitar International approximately 2 weeks after the finals are recorded. Following the broadcast, we ask that the winners join us for a special Zoom awards program.

Program

Prior to starting their performance in each round, the contestant will announce to the jury which pieces they will play in that round from the program list they submitted in their application. The required piece shall be played first in the preliminary round.

Note: Contestant compositions are allowed, however, contestants are strongly encouraged to choose their music programs from the established repertoire of guitar music and transcriptions for the guitar rather than their own compositions – the unfamiliarity of the new compositions can lead the judges to incorrectly penalize the contestant's playing and performance skills even when the music is performed as written.

THE 15TH ANNUAL MARLOW GUITAR INTERNATIONAL YOUTH GUITAR COMPETITION

Memorization

Memorization of the entire program is strongly recommended, but students will be allowed to read their music if they wish. Memorization of the required piece in the preliminary round is mandatory of all students.

Required Music

For the 15th Annual MGI Youth Guitar Competition, Marlow Guitar International asked composer Kareem McCullough, USA, to write the required pieces for each division. These are posted to the competition website at www.MarlowGuitar.org. Required music for the Preliminary Round of the MGI Youth Guitar Competition:

Youth Division: "*Under Quarantine: Isolation*" by Mr. Kareem McCullough

Junior Division: "*Under Quarantine: Boredom*" by Mr. Kareem McCullough

Senior Division: "*Under Quarantine: Music for Tomorrow*"

by Mr. Kareem McCullough

As in all music, metronomic (tempo) indications given for the pieces are guides only. The actual performance tempo is an artistic decision of the performer. However, the spirit of all musical indications (andante, ritardando, etc.) should be honored. Contestants are not obligated to use the Composer's suggested fingerings, if any are given.

The Use of Tuners on Stage

Contestants in the Youth and Junior Divisions may use electronic tuners if they wish once on the stage. If you do choose to use a tuner, please be efficient with your time and do so quickly. SENIORS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO USE TUNERS ONCE ON STAGE.



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Photo: 2012 Youth Division Winner Katie Cho performing at the MGI Competition
Winners Recital, Millennium Stage at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts