

Press release Long Island Guitar Festival 2017
News Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Brookville N.Y., December 1, 2016

Celebrating the 25th Annual Long Island Guitar Festival at LIU Post
Event to also feature a National High School Classical Guitar Competition, the Long
Island Guitar Festival Guitar Orchestra and High School Guitar Ensemble Showcase
concerts.

www.liu.edu/gfest

The Department of Music of the School of Performing Arts at LIU Post is pleased to
announce the 25th Annual Long Island Guitar Festival - Eclectic & International,
directed by Harris Becker, to be held April 2- 9, 2017 at Tilles Center's Hillwood
Recital Hall. The festival is recognized internationally as a premier event hosting
exceptionally talented musicians from the classical guitar world.

The Long Island Guitar now in its 25th season will provide a unique opportunity for
students and the general public to see world-class artists teaching and performing. The
concerts proposed for the 2017 festival will feature **David Leisner, Benjamin Verdery,**
Vida Guitar Quartet, Raphaella Smits, Huy Thanh Nguyen, Gohar Vardanyan and the
Saigon Guitar Quartet. We also will feature the **National High School Guitar**
Competition, and the **LIGF Guitar Orchestra** as well as master classes and workshops.

Festival sponsors include the D'Addario Foundation for the Performing Arts, the
Augustine Foundation, Savarez, Murphy's Music, LIU's John P. McGrath Fund, and
dedicated individuals. The festival represents LIU's ongoing commitment to reach
out to the arts community and continue an established tradition of excellence in
guitar performance and pedagogy.

"The "Long Island" in the festival title clearly refers to its location and origins, rather
than to its scope." - New York Times, March 2014

This year's festival musicians have received great critical acclaim:

David Leisner - "He moved easily through the brisk passagework and sharp
accenting of the Ginastera Sonata, and his approach to the work's many coloristic
effects was remarkably fluent and free-spirited. In more lyrical music . . . he played
with an affecting gracefulness and warmth."

The New York Times

Raphaella Smits - "... one of the most delicate and most cultivated performers of
our time." (**Jean Bernard, Diapason, FR**)

Benjamin Verdery is without a doubt a great guitarist possessing an astonishing technique.

- **Cordoba Times, Spain**

Ana Vidovic, an exceptionally gifted and interesting musician - who, at 25, is about to release her sixth recording has been steadily building a reputation as one of the most technically accomplished young players around. And her playing on Saturday was virtually immaculate - detailed, precise and polished.

But this was no mere virtuostic display. Vidovic's playing is nuanced and intensely personal, both deeply felt and deeply thought."

-**Washington Post Review of the concert at the Marlow Guitar Series**

Gohar Vardanyan - "With a musicality and emotional quality in her playing that one would expect from someone much older than the young wunderkind, Vardanyan is the complete package. Not only is she able to draw you into her performances with engaging musical interpretations, but she has the technical facility that is required of any concert level guitarist."

- **Guitar International Magazine**

Vida Quartet - "exquisite tonal and dynamic control, super-tight ensemble and unerring musical instinct. There's only one word for it: magic" Gramophone

The Long Island Guitar Festival offers several ticket options:

All-Event Pass, \$150 (includes all events)

Individual concert tickets, \$25 per person (\$20 for students and seniors)

High School Ensemble concerts tickets, \$15 (\$10 for students and seniors)

Emerging Artist concert, \$15 (\$10 for students and seniors)

Tickets to audit master classes, \$10

Tickets to select concerts may be purchased in person at the Tilles Center for the Performing Arts box office, by calling 516-299-3100, or online through the Tilles Center Web site. Box office hours are 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday. There are per-ticket fees when ordering online or through TillesCharge.

Tickets to all events are available at the door and can also be purchased by mail through the LIU Post Department of Music. The All-Event Pass can be purchased only through the Department of Music. A mail-in ticket order form can be found on the Festival website - www.liu.edu/gfest.

Also featured at the event is a National High School Classical Guitar Competition. This competition is open to residents of all 50 states who are attending and matriculated in a public or private high school through the date of the competition

finals. Applicants may not be represented by professional management. The Competition will be limited to the first thirty (30) applicants who submit all required materials to the Long Island Guitar Festival by March 15, 2017. For more information and competition rules and guidelines please visit www.liu.edu/gfest

Long Island University

Founded in 1926, Long Island University (LIU) is one of America's largest and most comprehensive private universities with locations and programs spanning the New York metropolitan area, overseas and online. With more than 193,000 alumni worldwide, the university offers nearly 500 academic programs and educates more than 23,000 students in New York through accredited programs in Brooklyn, Brookville (LIU Post), Brentwood, Riverhead, Rockland and Westchester (LIU Hudson). Its international unit, LIU Global, provides study-abroad options at overseas centers in Australia, China, Costa Rica, South Africa, India, Taiwan and Thailand, with European sites scheduled to open in 2015. In addition to academic excellence, LIU hosts NCAA Division I and II athletics as well as the internationally-acclaimed Tilles Center for the Performing Arts and George Polk Awards in Journalism.

LIU Post, Located in Brookville, N.Y., offers more than 200 undergraduate, graduate and doctoral programs at one of Long Island's most scenic locations along the Gold Coast. Ranked a Best Regional University by U.S. News and World Report, the university features world-class faculty, a vibrant campus life and residence halls for more than 1,600 students. Graduates who earn their degrees from LIU Post have achieved great distinction in the fields of dance, theater, art, television, movies, music, management and finance, health care, education and technology.

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