

Chairman's Letter

LACCS have been, for nearly 30 years, a pioneering organization – if not the only one - which has systematically encouraged the import of cultural values into Europe and viceversa.

As Chairman of LACCS I welcome the Baltic Guitar Quartet, a brilliant combination of styles and talents who have established reputations as winners of international competitions. I can say, that each member of the guitar quartet is a gifted guitarist for their innovative style and original harmonies.

The British audience will have the opportunity in tonight's concert, to appreciate a well combined programme of music by European, Latin American and Lithuanian composers, which is undoubtedly, an important contribution to LACCS classical guitar series in England.

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to Taylor Wessing, a leading international law firm, for its support to make this concert a successful evening and, finally, my cordial thanks to the Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania for its praiseworthy effort in bringing artists and the music of Lithuania to the British audience.

I am very much looking forward to this evening's performance.



J R Monroy
Chairman

London, 7th February 2012

BALTIC GUITAR QUARTET

The Baltic Guitar Quartet is a leading guitar ensemble in the Baltic region, formed in 2004, by young musicians from Lithuania – Zigmas Čepulėnas, Sergej Krinicin and Saulius S. Lipčius and the Belgian guitarist, Chris Ruebens.



Zigmas Čepulėnas studied with Algimantas Pauliukevičius at the Vilnius Conservatoire and then at the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre with Julius Kurauskas. After his Bachelor's degree, Zigmas gained a Master's degree in chamber music with violinist, Prof. Petras Kunca of the National Vilnius String Quartet. He has had masterclasses with Aleksander Frauchi, Antonio Gonsalves, José María Gallardo del Rey, Reinbert Evers, the Corona Guitar Quartet and with the flamenco guitarist Paco Serrano. Zigmas has performed with the Vilnius University Chamber Orchestra and has made several recordings for Lithuanian National Radio. He enjoys making arrangements for classical guitar quartet, adding pieces from symphonic works to rock music.

Sergej Krinicin had his first lessons from the founder of Lithuanian classical guitar school, Jurgis Rimkevičius. He studied for three years with Aleksander Frauchi in Moscow, and then in 2003, completed his Master's degree at the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre, where he studied with Julius Kurauskas. Sergej has played with the Lithuanian Chamber Orchestra (directed by Prof. S. Sondeckis), among others. He often performs with the Lithuanian singer Judita Leitaitė; they have released a recording of Russian romances. Since 2010, he has been playing in the 'Gentlemen Duo' with the Lithuanian violinist Vilhelmas Čepinskis. He teaches at the Music Academy of Vytautas Magnus University.

Saulius Lipčius belongs to the fourth generation of professional musicians in his family. He began studying piano but then became interested in guitar at the age of 12. In 2006, he received his Master's degree from the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre. Since 1998, he has played in duo with his father – the cellist from the M. K. Čiurlionis String Quartet. In June 2003 they premièred *Lonely Picasso Stands in Prickly Grass* for guitar and cello by Lithuanian composer Diana Čemerytė, in the Purcell Room. They made a recording of poetry and music with the Lithuanian actress, Virginija Kochanskytė. Saulius's first solo recording called *Guitar Temptations* was released in 2011. He has been teaching at the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre since 2008.

Chris Ruebens was born in Eeklo, Belgium in 1975. He started to play guitar at the age of 9. He graduated from the music school of Eeklo in 1994 with the highest award; he had also studied flugelhorn and baritone horn and completed the theatre course at the same academy. He gained his Master's degree from the Lemmens Institute in Leuven with Peter Pieters and then studied with Godelieve Monden. In 2008, Chris moved to Vilnius and joined the Baltic Guitar Quartet. www.bgq.lt