

THE 35TH
RARITAN RIVER
MUSIC
FESTIVAL

***NEW MUSIC, NEW ARTISTS,
NEW VENUE...
PLUS OLD FAVORITES!***

MAY 2024



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RARITAN RIVER MUSIC

National Winner:

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Adventurous Programming

Outstanding Achievement Award

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Award for Diversity Achievement

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Honored by the Senate and General Assembly of the
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organization within the Garden State*” and “*a
distinguished member of the New Jersey cultural
community.*”

Thanks to all the long-time supporters and new friends
who help bring the programs of Raritan River Music to
the Western New Jersey community – and beyond!

For more details about the festival, as well as Raritan
River Music’s nationally recognized educational
enrichment programs and the *Music from Raritan River*
and *The Book of Imaginary Beings* CDs, please visit the
Web site:

www.RaritanRiverMusic.org

Thank you for supporting Raritan River Music!

**THE 35TH
RARITAN RIVER MUSIC FESTIVAL
PRESENTS**



***More Music from Raritan River:
New Commissions plus
Leo Brouwer 85th Celebration***

Saturday, May 18, 2024 at 7:30 PM

**Historic Hunterdon County Courthouse
71 Main Street, Flemington, New Jersey 08822**

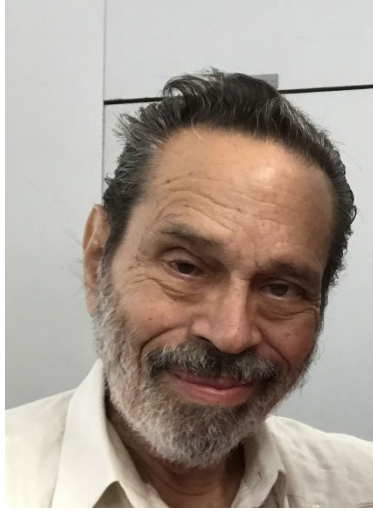
More information and tickets:
www.RaritanRiverMusic.org

*Please visit www.RaritanRiverMusic.org
for festival program notes, videos, artists' bios,
volunteers, contributors, and more.*



**Introductory Comments about the
Historic Hunterdon County Courthouse**
The Honorable Marcia Karrow,
Mayor of Flemington, New Jersey

THE PROGRAM



Music by Leo Brouwer

**Through the Looking Glass,
(After Lewis Carroll) (2021)**

A Tribute to Julian Bream & the Legacy of his
Duo with John Williams

*Dedicated to the Newman & Oltman Guitar Duo
Commissioned by Raritan River Music and
New York Guitar Festival*

Performed by Newman & Oltman Guitar Duo

from Sonata Cubana No. 7 (2021)

Sonera Meticulosa

Dedicated to João Luiz

New Jersey Premiere Performance

Performed by João Luiz

from Sonata No. 1 (1990)

Fandangos y Boleros

Performed by Celil Refik Kaya

INTERMISSION



**Music by Paul Moravec
Raritan Triptych (2008)**

Dedicated to Newman & Oltman Guitar Duo

Commissioned by Raritan River Music

Performed by Newman & Oltman Guitar Duo



**Music by Celil Refik Kaya
Uplands Wedding (2012)**

Premiered at Raritan River Music Festival

**Performed by Celil Refik Kaya,
Laura Oltman, Michael Newman**



Music by João Luiz
Djavan's Portrait (2011)
Premiered at Raritan River Music Festival
Performed by João Luiz,
Laura Oltman, Michael Newman



Music by Paulo Bellinati
Baião de Gude (1997)
A Furiosa (1997)
Performed by Celil Refik Kaya, João Luiz,
Laura Oltman, Michael Newman

Following the concert, please join us in the galleries for a reception to meet the performers and view art created by students for the 2024 Hunterdon Teen Arts Festival.

*Special thanks to:
George Price, Buildings & Grounds Supervisor,
Hunterdon County*

*Natalie Zaman, Executive Director,
Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage Commission*

About the Performers

Celil Refik Kaya

www.celilrefikkaya.com

Since his concert debut at the age of 6, Turkish-American guitarist Dr. Celil Refik Kaya has received high promised repetitions and accolades for his myriad accomplishments at an early age, being the youngest to win First Prize in the 2012 JoAnn Falletta International Guitar Concerto Competition with the Buffalo Philharmonic; prizewinner of international guitar competitions including Sofia Bulgaria, Naxos Greece, Vienna, Istanbul, and throughout the United States, highlighted awards winner at top competitions such as 2012 Guitar Foundation of America (GFA), Indiana International Guitar Competititon, Boston Guitar Competition, Texas International Guitar Competition, Schadt String Competition, and Philadelphia Guitar Competition. In 2017 he was awarded “Rising Young Musician of the Year” by the Donizetti Classical Music Awards in Istanbul.

Dr. Kaya’s first recording, Jorge Morel Guitar Music, has been critically acclaimed by American Record Guide as ‘the performances are just perfect—he doesn’t try to make the music more than it is, but he does realize the real heart in these pieces.’ Kaya has also recorded the works by Carlo

Domeniconi and Agustin Barrios Mangore for Naxos Records and has been invited for more projects in the future.

Dr. Kaya appears as a soloist and international artist touring around the United States and Turkey. As a concert soloist, he has collaborated with professional orchestras such as the Buffalo Philharmonic, Virginia Symphony, Presidential Symphony Orchestra in Turkey, Istanbul State Symphony, Hilton Head Symphony, Brevard Festival Orchestra, Lake Placid Sinfonietta, Bilkent Symphony and many others and has gained his great artistic recognition internationally. He has also conducted many masterclasses in music festivals and universities throughout the United States and Turkey.

Dr. Kaya has presented the premieres of concertos by Roberto Sierra (Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra), Derwyn Holder (New Jersey Baroque Orchestra), Leonard Handler, and Suleyman Alnitemiz (Istanbul State Symphony). As a performer Kaya works closely with our generation's great composers including Lowell Liebermann, Jorge Morel, and Roberto Sierra, among many others.

Dr. Kaya performed in the most prestigious concert halls and festivals around the United States including solo recitals, concerto performances and masterclasses on the D'Addario Performance Series at Carnegie Hall, Masters of the Guitar Series at Concertgebouw, The Frick Collection Museum in NYC Summer Artists series, New York Guitar Seminar Festival at Mannes College, Round Top Festival in Texas, Brevard Music Festival, Raritan River Music Festival and Ankara International Music Festival, also numerous Radio broadcast and concert performances throughout United States and Turkey.

Born in Istanbul, Turkey, Dr. Kaya began his interest in classical guitar at the age of 6 with his father, Dr. Mehmet Refik Kaya. Early primary instructors included generation-influenced educators such as Yusuf Doğan Büyükoğüt, Raffi Arslanyan, and Soner Egesel. When he was 19, Kaya earned

his Bachelor Degree of Music from the Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University State Conservatory with the Highest Honor Degree in Istanbul, and was granted the “Excellence” Scholarship from the Turkish Educational Foundation. During his Bachelor’s degree he studied composition with the famous Turkish composer Mehmet Nemutlu.

Dr. Kaya expanded his worldwide notice throughout the time he pursued his Master Degree of music in New York City at Mannes School of Music. As a full-scholarship student in the studio of Michael Newman, he also received the Excellence in Performance Awards by the Mannes School of Music. Kaya also studied privately with Grammy award-winning guitarist Sharon Isbin. He studied composition in the United States with Frederic Hand and Donald Grantham.

Besides a concert soloist, Kaya is also known as an avid composer where he has more than 100 pieces including works for orchestra, solo guitar, violin, piano, string trio, duets and many others. His chamber and instrumental works were performed throughout United States, Turkey, South Korea and Sydney’s Opera House. His selected works were published by Les Productions d’Oz in Canada and FDPublications in the United States.

Dr. Kaya in year 2017-28 was the only the third recipient of Harvard’s prestigious Dumbarton Oaks – Early Career Musician Fellowship as well as the recipient of Harrington Fellowship at The University of Texas at Austin under the study of renowned guitarist Adam Holzman.

Celil Refik Kaya is currently the Coordinator of Guitar Studies at the Kean University, Music Conservatory and the New Jersey City University.

Celil Refik Kaya is represented by Diane Saldick LLC, 225 East 36th Street, New York NY 10016

diane.saldick@verizon.net www.dianesaldick.com

João Luiz

<https://music.hunter.cuny.edu/faculty/full-time-faculty/joao-luiz/>

<https://www.youtube.com/c/Jo%C3%A3oLuiz12>

Two-time Latin Grammy nominee guitarist, educator, and composer João Luiz, began to play the popular music of his native Brazil professionally during his childhood and was later trained in classical guitar by his mentor Henrique Pinto. Winner of the 2006 Concert Artists Guild Competition as a member of the critically acclaimed Brasil Guitar Duo, João has performed extensively in the United States, Asia, Europe and Latin America. As a performer and composer João is equally at home with classical, Brazilian and world music; his solo guitar, chamber music, and concerto repertoire covers all the main works in the guitar literature from Dowland to Berio and Brazilian rhythms from choro to baião. His versatility led him to be chosen to collaborate with Yo-Yo Ma and Carlos Prieto on a project to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Cuban composer Leo Brouwer in a landmark concert in Cuba in 2014.

His arrangements and compositions have been recorded and played by Marina Piccinini, Fábio Zanon, Quaternaglia, Olson/De Cari Duo, Danilo Brito, Paquito D’Rivera, Clarice Assad, Bridget Kibbey, Jiji, Sybarite 5, Newman & Oltman Guitar Duo, Aquarelle Guitar Quartet, and the New York City Classical Guitar Society. Luiz’s Harp Concerto Recife written for Bridget Kibbey was premiered by the Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra in 2019. His concertino for guitar and strings MadriAfro I was premiered in New York by the São Paulo Chamber Soloists in 2022.

Recent commissions include works for the USC Thornton School of Music guitar department, NYC Master Chorale, Duo Amaris, GFA, and Duo Sonidos. João has recorded more than fifteen CDs playing solo, duo, trio and in

quartet, most of which have featured his arrangements of classical or Brazilian works. João also formed the Trio Virado with flutist Amy Porter and violist Jaime Amador to promote contemporary Latin American chamber music. The first CD of the trio, Mangabeira was released in the fall of 2015 featuring world premiere recordings of works written specially for the trio by Assad, Hand and Brouwer. João's most recent solo album, Central Guitar, features twentieth century guitar works by Brazilian composers such as Gnattali, Guarneri, and Gismonti. For his solo debut for Zoho records, João released in 2022 From Spain to São Paulo with Spanish guitar works by Sor, Torroba, Mompou, and Segovia.

João holds a Master of Music degree from Mannes College of Music, and as the recipient of the Augustine Foundation scholarship he earned his Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Manhattan School of Music. Eager to expand the repertoire of his instrument João has commissioned and premiered works written for him by Sérgio Assad (24 studies), Leo Brouwer (Sonata n.7), Clarice Assad, David Leisner, Ronaldo Miranda, Mariel Mayz, Sebastian Zubieta, Marco Pereira, David Sampson, and Frederic Hand.

João is the director of chamber music at CUNY Hunter College and also teaches guitar at Stony Brook University and Mannes School of Music. He is a recipient of the prestigious 2023 CUNY Feliks Gross award in recognition of his outstanding scholarship.

Newman & Oltman Guitar Duo

Laura Oltman and Michael Newman, guitars

www.guitarduo.com

“The pair's Vulcan-mind-meld delivery is downright astonishing.” (*Guitar Player Magazine*)

Hailed as a “revelation to hear” by *The Washington Post* and now celebrating their 46th anniversary season, the Newman & Oltman Guitar Duo’s 12 CDs have been critically acclaimed.

Ensemble-in-Residence at Mannes School of Music since 1987, Newman & Oltman’s concert tours have taken them to world cultural capitals and premier venues across five continents and to 49 of the United States.

The Duo has demonstrated extraordinary stylistic and cultural breadth in their collaborations with such diverse artists as Pulitzer Prize-winner author Frank McCourt, composer/conductor Marvin Hamlisch and the Pittsburgh Symphony Pops, mezzo-soprano Frederica von Stade, fiddler Eileen Ivers, pianist Clarice Assad, violinist Tim Fain, and the ETHEL, Calder, Bergamot, and Turtle Island string quartets.

Champions of new music, Newman & Oltman have built a unique repertoire of works composed for the duo by leading and emerging composers, such as Leo Brouwer, Paul Moravec, Augusta Read Thomas, Daniel Binelli, Lowell Liebermann, Dušan Bogdanović, Arthur Kampela, João Luiz, Michael Chapdelaine, and Roberto Sierra. Their collections of music arranged for two guitars are published by Theodore Presser and Mel Bay Publications.

One of the duo’s recent commissions, *Concierto Buenos Aires*, composed for them by Nuevo Tango Master Daniel Binelli, received acclaimed performances by Newman & Oltman in with l’Orchestre de l’Opéra de Reims in France and with the Virginia Symphony.

To celebrate the 80th birthday of Cuban composer Leo Brouwer in 2019, Newman & Oltman performed the world premiere of Brouwer's new guitar duet, *The Book of Imaginary Beings*, a major new ensemble work dedicated to the duo. The recording for the MusicMasters label was released in Spring 2020 on Audiophile Vinyl LP, CD, and streaming. Subsequent Brouwer commissions include the 2021 *Through the Looking Glass, after Lewis Carroll*, created as a tribute to Brouwer's friend Julian Bream, as well as the new *Fairy Fantasy*.

Laura Oltman teaches guitar at Princeton University, Lafayette College, and Raritan Valley Community College. Michael Newman serves on the guitar and chamber music faculties of Mannes School of Music, The College of New Jersey, and New Jersey City University.

Their recordings uniformly garner critical praise: "A reference standard" (*Billboard*); "Their duet recordings reveal a finely blended sound and true unity of timbre and style" (*The New York Times*); "beautifully realized performances" (*Guitar Player Magazine*).

As founders and music directors of New Jersey's Raritan River Music, the Duo was awarded the National ASCAP/Chamber Music America Award for Adventurous Programming (www.RaritanRiverMusic.org). Laura and Michael are co-founders and artistic directors of the New York Guitar Seminar at Mannes (www.mannesguitar.com) and the Lanciano International Guitar Seminar (www.lancianoguitar.com).

Laura and Michael are the recipients of grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, as well as the City of Fiuggi (Italy) Career Prize, presented to the duo at the XI Fiuggi International Guitar Festival.

Drawing upon their artistic and creative experiences, Newman & Oltman have designed an entrepreneurship and career skills presentation offering marketing advice and

practical tools on ways to compete and succeed in an ever-changing marketplace, presenting their vision which engages the participants in the discussion for arts and business departments of colleges and universities throughout the country.

Newman & Oltman play 1978 and 1981 Thomas Humphrey Pre-Millennium guitars with D'Addario EXP Composite High Tension strings.

For more info: www.guitarduo.com

Recordings for MusicMasters/SONY/The Orchard, Musical Heritage Society, Sheffield Lab Audiophile, MSR Classics/Albany Records

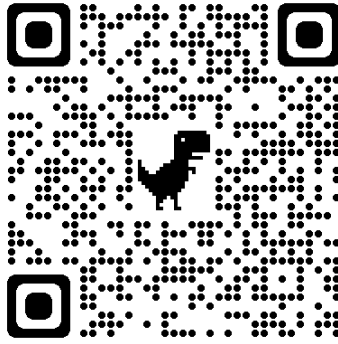
Newman & Oltman Guitar Duo is represented by GENEVIEVE SPIELBERG INC.

12 Princeton Street, Summit, New Jersey 07901

phone: (908) 608 1325 fax: (908) 608 1326

e-mail: info@gsiartists.com





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Watch for broadcast listings in June and July

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UPCOMING CONCERTS 35TH RARITAN RIVER MUSIC FESTIVAL



Manhattan Chamber Players
Feat. Katie Hyun, Violin; Andrew Gonzalez, Viola;
Michael Katz, Cello; Chelsea Wang, Piano

*Brahms & Dvořák:
Titans of the Romantic Era*

Saturday, May 25, 2024 at 7:30 PM
Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church, Stewartsville, NJ



Thanks to all the long-time supporters and new friends who continue to help make the Raritan River Music Festival a valued event in the Western New Jersey community.

- Web mastering by Dave Oltman Design.
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May is National Chamber Music Month



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