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## The 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Long Island Guitar Festival Will Feature a U.S. Debut and Present World-Class Performances by Internationally Renowned Musical Masters

Brookville, N.Y.—The 27<sup>th</sup> annual **Long Island Guitar Festival**—recognized for the high caliber of the exceptionally talented musicians it draws from the classical and jazz guitar worlds—will take place **April 9-14, 2019**, at Tilles Center’s Krasnoff Theater on the LIU Post campus of Long Island University.

“The ‘Long Island’ in the festival title clearly refers to its location and origins, rather than to its scope,” wrote *The New York Times* in 2014.

Founded in 1993 by **Harris Becker**, Director of Guitar Studies in the Department of Music of the School of Performing Arts at LIU, this premier event provides a unique opportunity to hear world-class artists in person as well as watch them teach master classes, conduct workshops and perform in concert. The festival also features the sixth annual **National High School Guitar Competition** and **High School Guitar Ensembles’ Showcases**. Sharing Becker’s vision is former LIU student and Assistant Festival Director **James Erickson**, a talented instrumentalist who’s a member of the Artesian Guitar Quartet, which also includes Becker.

“The 2019 festival is honored to be featuring the U.S. debut of acclaimed guitarist **Laura Snowden**, who was selected by Julian Bream to give the Julian Bream Trust concerts at Wigmore Hall,” noted Becker, adding that she also performed at the Royal Albert Hall and Shakespeare’s Globe Theatre at the invitation of guitarist John Williams. “Laura was the first guitarist to graduate from the world-renowned Yehudi Menuhin School in London, where classical guitar tuition was funded by a generous gift from the Rolling Stones.”

Other artists scheduled to appear at this “eclectic and international festival” include **Eduardo Fernandez** from Uruguay, who won first prize in the Andrés Segovia International competition in Mallorca, Spain; **David Leisner**, whom *American Record Guide* called “among the finest guitarists of all time;” multi-talented **Robert Trent**, who plays modern guitar, Renaissance lute, archlute and 19<sup>th</sup>-century instruments, and whose “sweet, crystalline sound” was praised by *The Philadelphia Inquirer* for his ability “to plumb the emotional depths of each work;” **Jérôme Ducharme** of Quebec, whose musical career took off after he won first prize at the 2005 Guitar Foundation of America International Competition; jazz guitar virtuoso **Mark Marino**; and **Harris Becker**, who has performed extensively both as a soloist and chamber musician in the U.S., Canada, Mexico, South America and Asia. Besides his ongoing work at LIU, Becker is the co-

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founder and artistic director of the summer music festival in rural Quebec, "Songe d'été en musique."

The **National High School Classical Guitar Competition** is open to residents of all 50 states who are attending 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 30 applicants who submit all required materials to the Long Island Guitar Festival by February 21, 2019. Competition rules and guidelines as well as a full list of performers and concert schedules are available at [www.liu.edu/gfest](http://www.liu.edu/gfest)

Festival sponsors include The D'Addario Foundation, the Augustine Foundation, Savarez, Murphy's Music, LIU's John P. McGrath Fund, and dedicated individuals. The Long Island Guitar Festival represents Long Island University's ongoing commitment to reach out to the arts community here and abroad and continue its established tradition of excellence in guitar performance and pedagogy.

"We provide beautiful music, promote great artistry and connect professional musicians with students, amateurs and the general public," said Becker. "It is truly something special."

Tickets for individual concerts are available at the Tilles Center box office (516-299-3100) or online at the Tilles Center web site (<https://tillescenter.org>). An all-event pass, which costs \$150, can be purchased only through the LIU Post Department of Music. Individual concert tickets cost \$25 per person (\$20 for students and seniors). High School Guitar Ensemble concert tickets cost \$15 (\$10 for students and seniors). The Emerging Artist concert costs \$15 (\$10 for students and seniors). Tickets to audit master classes are \$10.

#### **About Long Island University (LIU)**

LIU is one of the nation's largest private universities. Since 1926, LIU has provided high quality academic programs taught by world-class faculty. LIU offers hundreds of accredited programs to approximately 20,000 students, with a network of over 200,000 alumni, including leaders in industries across the globe. Visit [liu.edu](http://liu.edu) for more information.