

Sunday
APR 6
7:30 pm

Pavilion

JJI
Guitar



This event is made possible through the generous support of the Lena M. Stranathan Chamber Music Fund.

PROGRAM

- O vis aeternitatis* Hildegard von Bingen (1098–1179)
arr. Gulli Björnsson
- Occhi io vissi di voi* Claudia Sessa (1570–1617)
- Asturias* Isaac Albéniz (1860–1909)
- Dynjandi* Gulli Björnsson (b. 1991)
- The Unquestioned Answer* Laurie Spiegel (b. 1945)
- Caprice No. 24 Niccolò Paganini (1782–1840)
- “Spring” Reimagined Antonio Vivaldi (1678–1741)/Max Richter (b. 1966)
arr. JJI
- Electric Counterpoint, Movements II and III* Steve Reich (b. 1936)
- Cor* Kristis Auznieks (b. 1992)
- Very Berry Strawberry* JJI (b. 1993)
- You Break It, You Buy It* JJI
- Everyone Wants a Piece of You* JJI

Program is subject to change.

There will be no intermission during this performance.

Praised by *The Washington Post* for her “mesmerizing” and “stirring” performances, JJI is an adventurous guitarist known for her virtuosity and command of diverse repertoire. Equally at home with both acoustic and electric guitar, her concert programs range from traditional and contemporary classical to free improvisation.

Through her impeccable musicianship, compelling stage presence and commitment to commissioning and performing new musical works, JJI has solidified her reputation as a top 21st-century guitarist. In 2021, *The Washington Post* selected JJI as “one of the 21 composers/performers who sound like tomorrow,” and *The Kansas City Star* recently described her as “a graceful and nuanced player.” In recent seasons, JJI has presented solo recitals at Carnegie Hall’s Weill Recital Hall, Lincoln Center, 92nd Street Y, Caramoor, Celebrity Series of Boston, Caffe Lena, Tippet Rise, San Francisco’s Herbst Theatre and the National Art Gallery, among other distinguished venues. Her performances have been featured on PBS (*On Stage at Curtis*), NPR’s *From the Top*, WHY-Y-TV, FOX 4-TV, *Munchies* (the Vice Channel) and Hong Kong broadcast station RTHK’s *The Works*. In 2016, she became the first guitarist in 30 years to secure first prize in the Concert Artists Guild Competition.

JJI has premiered solo and chamber works by a diverse range of musical artists, including David Lang, Nicky Sohn, Michael Gilbertson, Hilary Purrington, Shelley Washington, Kate Moore, Chris Rountree, Gulli Björnsson, Molly Joyce and Paul Lansky. Her most recent release, *UNBOUND*, is the culmination of a multiyear commissioning and recording project. A sought-after and versatile collaborator, JJI’s recent chamber and ensemble performances include appearances with the New York Philharmonic’s Nightcap Series, Cuarteto Latinoamericano, the Verona Quartet, Wildup, Duo Linu and soprano Molly Netter, among others.

JJI has also gained a reputation as a sought-after concerto soloist. Recent appearances include performances with the Asheville Symphony, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, Utah Symphony, Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, Augusta Symphony, Duluth Symphony Orchestra, Sinfonietta Riga, New West Symphony, New York Youth Symphony, American Composers Orchestra, Southwest Michigan Symphony, Kansas City Symphony and more. Equally fluent in classical and contemporary genres, her interpretation of *Concierto de Aranjuez* has enthralled audiences across the country, and her premieres of new guitar concertos, including Steven Mackey’s *Aluminum Flowers* in 2024, continue to break new ground. Over the last five years alone, JJI has premiered major concertos by composers Natalie Dietterich (*light, beloved*, 2018), Hilary Purrington (*Harp of Nerves*, 2019) and Kristis Auznieks (*Apvāršnis Kamolā*, 2021), in addition to Mackey.

A committed educator, JJI is an associate professor of music in guitar at Indiana University Jacobs School of Music and a former assistant professor of guitar at Arizona State University’s School of Music, Dance and Theatre. She has presented master classes and workshops extensively, including at the Peabody Institute, Eastman School of Music, Yale University and Dublin’s National Concert Hall, among many others.

JJI’s recordings are available on New Amsterdam Records, Orchid Classics and SKANI.

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