



ROBERT BELINIĆ, *guitarist*



"Belinić is clearly the real deal: a genius, a poet, a super-sensitive artist. But also dazzling. The man is a virtuoso." – sandiego.com

"Mr. Belinić performs with the most intense passion, energy and charisma of any guitarist I have heard. His playing has the maturity and artistry of someone twice his age."

– NEW YORK CONCERT REVIEW

"Robert Belinić displayed charm, musicality, virtuosity and spirit. He performed the Bach Chaconne with an astonishingly warm and evocative tone, full of feeling."

– NORD KURIER (Germany)

"Belinić performed at times as if the guitar were narrating a story, and at other times as if there were an entire orchestra onstage. His expressiveness on the guitar is unique."

– DRUSTUENE OBAVJESTI (Croatia)

"Robert Belinić displayed elegance and irresistible charm. The listeners fell silent in the wake of the beauty and power of the experience given to them by this young man. His concert ended with a standing ovation from the ecstatic audience. His is a brilliant career in the making."

– SLOBODNA DALMACIJA (Croatia)

First Prize, 2002 Young Concert Artists International Auditions • 2002 Jean Fergus New Artist Prize • 2002 Princeton University Concerts Prize • 2002 Beracasa Foundation Prize of the Montpellier Radio-France Festival • The Claire Tow Prize • The Alexander Kasza-Kasser Prize • First Prize, 2001 Young Concert Artists European Auditions (Leipzig)

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ROBERT BELINIĆ, guitarist

Robert Belinić is described by the *New York Concert Review* as a performer "with the most intense passion, energy and charisma of any guitarist I have heard." A champion of new music, he premieres YCA composer-in-residence Chris Rogerson's *Air* for solo guitar, written for the guitarist himself at the Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts in Virginia, as well as the Kravis and Macomb Centers for the Performing Arts. Mr. Belinić also recorded the premiere of a guitar concerto on a CD of composer Roberto Di Marino's works to be released later this season. As soloist he performs with the Phoenix, Edmonton, Milikin-Decatur, and Quad City symphonies.

Among his many appearances in the U.S., Mr. Belinić has performed as soloist with orchestras including the Neponset Valley Philharmonic Orchestra, Sarasota Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra of the Triangle, the Victoria, La Crosse, Hilton Head, El Paso, Wichita, Fox Valley, Meridian, and South Bend symphonies and in recital and residency at Spivey Hall in Atlanta and the University of Florida in Gainesville. Other engagements have been at Carnegie's Weill Recital Hall, Merkin Concert Hall and with the La Jolla Music Society, and he has appeared on the Grand Teton Music Festival's Medalist Series.

In Europe, Mr. Belinić has been heard in Slovenia, Russia, Ukraine, Hungary, Poland, Italy, France, Germany, Austria, Lichtenstein, The Czech Republic, and with the Zagreb Philharmonic. He was a founding member of the Croatian Guitar Quartet.

Mr. Belinić won the Young Concert Artists European Auditions in Leipzig, Germany, and was the first guitarist ever to win the Young Concert Artists International Auditions in New York in 2002. He made his debut in New York sponsored by the Claire Tow Debut Prize and his Washington, DC debut at the Kennedy Center sponsored by the Alexander Kasza-Kasser Prize, and also debuted at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston. He was awarded YCA's Fergus New Artist Prize and the Beracasa Foundation Prize for an appearance at the Montpellier Radio-France Festival. Other important New York appearances include performing the Rodrigo's *Concierto de Aranjuez* in 2008 with the Orchestra of St. Luke's, conducted by Michael Stern, and a solo recital at the Morgan Library & Museum.

Born in 1981 in Zagreb, Croatia, Mr. Belinić grew up in the nearby town of Popovača. When he was eight years old, Mr. Belinić became a national celebrity as the child star of "*Tale from Croatia*," the first film released in newly-independent Croatia. He began his study of classical guitar at the age of eleven at the music school in Kutina with Zvonko Šušnjar, continuing his studies with Ante Čagalj in Zagreb. Mr. Belinić was the recipient of the 2002 Ivo Vuljević Award for outstanding young Croatian musicians, and was a prize winner of the 2006 Parkening International Guitar Competition in California. He earned a Master's Degree from the Leopold Mozart Hochschule für Musik in Augsburg, Germany, where he held a two-year assistantship with Prof. Franz Halász.

[Pronounced: *BELL-in-itsh*]

NOTE: When editing, please do not delete references to Young Concert Artists, nor special prizes
Please do not use previously dated biographies.