



Press Release

ACOUSTIC GUITAR MEETING - 17th edition 28-29-30-31 MAY- 1 JUNE 2014 SARZANA (SP)

An exciting line up of acoustic guitar players and instrument makers will be present at the 17th edition of the Acoustic Guitar Meeting at the Firmafede Fortress and in the historical centre of Sarzana from 28 May to 1 June.

The 17th annual Acoustic Guitar Meeting, organized and created by the Cultural Association Armadillo Club, in close collaboration with the local council administration and the Ligurian Region, will take place in Sarzana, La Spezia, Italy from 28 May to 1 June, 2014.

The Acoustic Guitar Meeting (AGM) is considered to be one of the most important international events in Italy dedicated to the acoustic guitar. A seminal gathering of artists, producers, luthiers, and collectors attended by professionals and enthusiasts alike from around the world, the AGM proposes a rich and articulated program of events including concerts with world-class acoustic guitarists; a vast exhibition of historical and modern lutherie; collections of imported and vintage instruments; plus accessories and publications for the acoustic guitar. The AGM also features educational courses by pioneering artists in the fields of Lutherie and Guitar Technique; a contest for emerging guitarists; the City of Sarzana-Region of Liguria "Strings & Voices for Dialogue & Civil Rights" Award; as well as seminars, workshops, and a range of events to inspire the mind and the heart.

The meeting will be held both in the historical center of Sarzana, and inside the prestigious Firmafede Fortress (*La Fortezza Firmafede di Sarzana*), a citadel of the fifteenth century. Attendance has exceeded 10,000 in past years, making AGM one of the most commanding events in Europe to offer the appreciation of these fine instruments in this historic and beautiful region, to crowds from Italy and around the world.

PROGRAM

EVENING CONCERTS

Four days of concerts by some of the best international acoustic guitarists, solo and in ensemble, on the main stage of the Firmafede Fortress.

Wednesday, 28 May - 9pm (free entrance)

"ACOUSTIC ALL STARS" from the local area.

Concert with musicians selected from schools and music centers within the Province of La Spezia.

Special guest KEN NICOL (UK)

Thursday, 29 May - 7pm

"New Sounds of Acoustic Music" *Carisch award 2014 - in memory of Stefano Rosso*

A contest for young guitarists in both instrumental and song-writing with the guitar. 10 guitarists from all over Italy will perform before a panel of musicians, journalists and specialists in the field.

Thursday, 29 May - 9pm

Evening Concert:

ANDREA TARQUINI TRIO (IT) *presents "REDS" songs by Stefano Rosso*

ANTONIO CALOGERO & PAUL MC CANDLESS (IT-US)

DIRK HAMILTON & THE BLUESMEN (US-IT)

"Strings & Voices for Dialogue & Civil Rights" Award – 6th edition

Awarded to **SIR ROBERT GELDOF**. *The award will be presented by the Mayor of Sarzana and the Councillor for Culture of the Region of Liguria (see below).*

Friday, 30 May - 9pm

Evening Concert:

PAOLO BONFANTI & MARTINO COPPO (IT)
ITALIAN BLUEGRASS JAM
TIM O'BRIEN (US)
MIKE DOWLING (US)
FINAZ - MESOLELLA - MAX GAZZÉ (IT)

Saturday, 31 May - 9pm

Evening Concert:

ENSEMBLE MEREUER (IT)
STEFANO NOSEI & ANDREA MADDALONE (IT) *present "Lovin' James," songs by James Taylor*
MIKE DOWLING (US)
DIANE PONZIO (US)
TERESA DE SIO "QUARTETTO ACUSTICA" (IT)

CITY OF SARZANA-REGIONE LIGURIA

"STRINGS & VOICES for DIALOGUE & CIVIL RIGHTS" AWARD - 6th Edition

Thursday, 29 May

This award is given each year to celebrate the contribution brought by guitar music and popular song toward the advancement of social conscience, civil rights, and the declaration of universal values and dialogue among the sundry cultures of contemporary history. Past honourees include Woody Guthrie (2009), Jackson Browne (2010), Victor Jara and Violeta Parra (2011), Francesco Guccini (2012), and Miriam Makeba (2013).

This year, this prestigious award will honor **SIR ROBERT GELDOF**, musician, singer-songwriter, promoter of international events, recognized for his activism and humanitarian initiatives. Sir Geldolf will be special guest at the evening concert on Thursday, 29 May. The award will be presented on the central stage of the Firmafede Fortress by Alessio Cavarra, Mayor of the City of Sarzana and Angelo Berlangieri, councillor of the Region of Liguria.

The award is a work of art by the Ligurian sculptor Giuliano Tomaino.

Martin Guitars-EkoMusicGroup partners of the event

EDUCATIONAL COURSES IN LUTHERIE, GUITAR INSTRUCTION, AND UKULELE

Wednesday, 28 May – Thursday, 29 May – Friday, 30 May

The first three days of the AGM will be dedicated to workshops and seminars on lutherie (both guitar construction and finishing), and guitar technique/performance skill. This year also features a special new course dedicated entirely to the Ukulele, the famed and popular 4-string instrument from Hawaii. Classes will be held in Sarzana's historic Cloister of San Francesco, and will be taught by master pro craftsmen and international guitarists:

Chris Jenkins (USA) and George Lowden (UK)

Lutherie

Davide Mastrangelo (ITA), Finaz (ITA), and Mike Dowling (USA)

Guitar Instruction/Didactics

Diane Ponzio (USA)

Ukulele

Registration information online at **www.acousticguitarmeeting.net**

EXHIBITION OF FINE LUTHERIE, VINTAGE & MODERN GUITARS AND MANDOLINS, PUBLICATIONS, AND ACCESSORIES FOR THE ACOUSTIC GUITAR

Friday, 30 May – Saturday, 31 May – Sunday, 1 June

11am - 7pm (free admission)

Approximately 130 exhibitors are expected, representing from countries around the world for the exhibition of lutherie (all manner of acoustic instruments, with emphasis on the Guitar). The trade show allows visitors to appreciate the arched, luminous hallways and historic rooms of the 15th-century Firmafede Fortress. The world's finest luthiers, artists, and craftsmen will represent the top atelier companies and international brands, from Monteleone to Taylor. Conferences and lectures will be held throughout the trade show, wherein top luthiers will speak about design and modern construction techniques. AGM also hosts its own **Ukulele Village**, in the central open-air courtyard of the Fortress, where this instrument is featured in all-day concerts, seminars, and exhibitions.

Heineken will sponsor the popular open-air bar and restaurant "Heineken Meeting Point," which will offer delicious local specialties against the backdrop of the majestic Firmefede Fortress walls.

CONCERTS, JAM SESSIONS, AND TAYLOR GUITAR GIVEAWAY

Friday, 30 May – Saturday, 31 May – Sunday, 1 June
11 am - 7pm (free admission)

The Fossato stage, at the entrance of the Firmafede Fortress, will welcome visitors to the event with live performances throughout each day of the festival and tradeshow. Here, both professional and hobby players gather for day-long concerts, demos, classes, and impromptu jams.

- Friday, 30 May: **2nd Annual “Bluegrass Meeting!”**

Bluegrass musicians from Italy and overseas gather for concerts, workshops and jam sessions

- Saturday, 31 May: **“Heart Music” All Day Acoustic Show**

Contest with the best Italian acoustic guitarists, organized by Heart-Sound and Fingerpicking.net

- Sunday, 1 June: **“Bob Brozman Memorial Blues Place,”** performance of acoustic blues musicians in collaboration with the non-profit association Blues Made in Italy, dedicated to the memory of Bob Brozman.

“MANDOLIN IN THE WORLD” EXHIBITION

Master luthiers Leo Petrucci and Franco Di Filippo will present the "Mandolin in the World" exhibit inside the historic tower of the Firmafede Fortress. This exceptional collection will feature an array of the world's finest instruments, vintage and modern. A journey through the history of the mandolin, including rare historical instruments, Italian, Brazilian and American Mandolins and other similar instruments.

Conferences will be held inside the “Sala delle Capriate” hall on the 3rd floor of the Tower Area. Linda Manzer, George Lowden, John Monteleone, Jean Larrivée, Bill Collings, Richard Hoover (Santa Cruz Guitars), Dave Doll (Martin Custom Shop Guitars), Ron Huisen (Taylor Guitars), John Thomas, Lucio Coal and other excellent guests from various fields of the acoustic guitar and other fine musical instruments will present workshops and discussions on the most advanced techniques of contemporary construction.

The American guitar company Taylor will present a Taylor guitar to a lottery winner, to be chosen at the closing ceremony on Sunday, June 1. Proceeds from the raffle will go to the community of Rocchetta Vara (La Spezia), damaged by the floods in recent years that devastated the entire Liguria region.

CLOSING CEREMONY

Sunday, 1 June

Concerts and performances of the best international guitarists on the main stage will continue all day, including the exclusive "Ladies & Guitars" afternoon performance

GABOR LESKO (IT)

YURI YAGUE (IT) Winner of “New Sounds of Acoustic Music 2013”, fingerstyle

SAMUELE BORSO' (IT) Winner of “New Sounds of Acoustic Music 2013”, song-writer

DIEGO BUDICIN (IT)

“LADIES & GUITARS”

featuring ELSA MARTIN (IT) - ELISABETH CUTLER (US) - DIANE PONZIO (US)

DAVE GOODMAN (CAN)

CHRIS NEWMAN & STELLA HENSLEY (UK)

TRIO HERMANOS (IT)

All of beautiful Sarzana is on view during the AGM Festival as shops, restaurants, and public spaces celebrate the universal and versatile acoustic guitar and other stringed instruments. The city springs to life with guitar players, collectors, and builders from around the world, and businesses in the central pedestrian-only historical centre welcome guests until late in the night.

ACOUSTIC GUITAR MEETING (AGM) 2014 – FACTS AND FIGURES:

- 5 days of events, concerts, educational courses, workshops, conferences, jam sessions
- More than 50 international musicians in concert
- 130 international and Italian exhibitors
- Projected attendance to exceed 2013 (10,000 visitors last year)
- More than 35 teachers between master luthiers and international guitarists teaching at our educational courses in Lutherie, Guitar Didactics and Ukulele.
- Over 90,000 copies of the "Acoustic Guitar Meeting" catalogue printed and distributed.
- Nearly 650 artists in concert, cumulatively, in the previous sixteen editions

ENTRANCE

Festival and Tradeshow: Friday, 30 May - Saturday, 31 May - Sunday, 1 June
11am to 7pm - *free admission*

Concert: Wednesday, 28 May 9pm- *free admission*

Concerts: Thursday, 28-May - Friday, 30 May - Saturday, 31 May

9pm - € 20 - Tickets available on www.happyticket.it

or at the ticket office at the Acoustic Guitar Meeting

All three evenings reduced price € 50 (Thurs –Fri–Sat) for info contact: Armadillo Club, Tel/Fax: +39 0187

626993. Email info@armadilloclub.org

PARTNERS & SPONSORS

Technical sound equipment provided by SR Technology

City of Sarzana - Regione Liguria - Ministero dei Beni Culturali, Soprintendenza per i Beni Architettonici e Paesaggistici della Liguria - Ministero dell'Istruzione, dell'Università e della Ricerca, Direzione per la Liguria, CSA La Spezia - Università di Pisa, Facoltà di Lettere e Filosofia, Corso di laurea in Cinema Musica Teatro - Fondazione Campus Studi del Mediterraneo, Università del Turismo, Lucca - Heineken Italia spa - Eko Music Group - Martin Guitars - Fishman Pickups - Carisch spa - Mogar Music spa distr. Ibanez Guitars - Taylor Guitars - Aramini, distr. Larrivée, Lakewood, Sigma Guitars - National Reso-phonic Guitars - Santa Cruz Guitar Company - Lowden Guitars - Collings Guitars - Gold Music distr. Breedlove, Tanglewood, Cole Clark Guitars, Kala Ukuleles - Yamaha Guitars - Deering Banjo Company - Domus Musica distr. Dogal Strings, Shadow - Heart-Sound distr. PerLucens pickup - John Pearse Strings - B-Band Pickups
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MAGAZINES "DismamusicaMagazine" - "Chitarra Acustica" - "Guitar Club" - "Chitarre" - "Strumenti Musicali" - "Suonare News" - "Seicorde" - "Buscadero" - "Il Blues" - "Pagine Musica"

MEDIA PARTNERS: Fingerpicking.net - MEI-AudioCoop - Folk Bulletin - Mentelocale.it - Happyticket.it - Radio Babboleo - Blue Liguria

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