

Minneapolis Guitar Quartet

As one of the founding members, **Joseph Hagedorn** has been with the Minneapolis Guitar Quartet since 1986. He has produced dozens of arrangements for the MGQ and performs on all of the group's five CD recordings. This native Iowan received his Bachelor of Music degree from Cornell College, and his Master of Music degree from the University of Minnesota. Joseph's teachers include Richard Stratton, Christopher Carrington, Nelson Amos, and Jeffrey Van, and he has been on the music faculty of the University of Wisconsin-River Falls since 1988. Joseph's solo and concerto appearances have taken him to more than 25 American cities and Canada. He has been heard twice on the nationally broadcast radio program *Saint Paul Sunday*, once with the MGQ and again with St. Paul Chamber Orchestra violinist Leslie Shank. In 1990, Joseph was the First Prize winner of the prestigious Guitar Foundation of America International Concert Artist Competition.

Maja Radovanlija was born in Belgrade, Serbia, and completed her Bachelor's degree at the University of Belgrade, as a student of Prof. Srdjan Tosic. She has been awarded several academic and competition prizes including 1st prize at the International Competition in Kjustendil, Bulgaria. Maja has performed extensively as solo and chamber musician, touring Serbia, Bulgaria, Slovenia, Macedonia, Greece, Tunisia, Switzerland and other European countries. As a graduate student (M.M and D.M) at Indiana University, she studied guitar with Ernesto Bitetti and early music with lutenist Nigel North. Maja's eclectic musical background includes performances with Mu Daiko Japanese Theater and improvised concerts with guitarist/composer Alex Lubet. In 2011, she was appointed to the guitar faculty at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. Maja joined the Minneapolis Guitar Quartet in 2012.

Benjamin Kunkel is an active solo and chamber musician and has given concert appearances across the United States. Recent performances include the Minnesota Guitar Society, Cleveland Classical Guitar Society, Cleveland Composers Guild, Greater Cleveland Flute Society, Heights Arts, and Chamber Music Midwest. He regularly collaborates with acclaimed Minneapolis-based choral group The Miranda Ensemble. Benjamin earned a Master's degree at the Cleveland Institute of Music in 2009, studying under world-renowned guitarist Jason Vieaux. While at the Cleveland Institute of Music he was twice awarded the Rosalia Ablan Memorial Prize in Guitar. He earned his Bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota in 2007 as a student of Jeffrey Van. Benjamin frequently premieres new works, collaborating with composers to expand the classical guitar's repertoire and is currently on the faculty of Century College and St. Joseph's School of Music. Benjamin has the special distinction of being the first native Minnesotan to be a member of Minneapolis Guitar Quartet, which he joined in 2014.

Born in Prizren, Serbia, **Milena Petković** has performed in Hungary, Italy, Serbia, Bulgaria and the United States as a soloist and chamber musician. She has played in a wide variety of ensembles, including guitar duos and with flute, violin, and voice. She has received awards in competitions at the International Guitar Festival in Bulgaria and the Guitar Open Festival and Naissus Festival in Serbia. Milena received a Bachelor of Music Degree in Novi Sad, Serbia and she holds a Performer's Diploma and Master's Degree from the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University, where she studied with Ernesto Bitetti. Milena is currently in her final year of doctoral studies at the University of Minnesota, studying Guitar Performance with a minor in Music Education. Milena's teaching appointments include The Saint Paul Conservatory of Music, St. Joseph's School of Music and McNally Smith College of Music. She has also worked with the Minnesota Guitar Society for their *Guitar In Our Schools* program. Having joined in 2021, Milena has the special distinction of being the second Serbian native to be a member of the Minneapolis Guitar Quartet.