



Who am I?

My journey with the guitar began when I was seven years old. My cousin first placed the instrument in my hands, it only had two strings, but that didn't stop me from figuring out how to play Smoke on the Water with just one finger. That Christmas, I received a guitar with six strings, and from that moment on, music became an essential part of my life.

I later studied at the Kunsthumaniora Arts School in Antwerp, where I had the opportunity to perform the first and second movements of the Villa-Lobos Guitar Concerto with the school orchestra at the age of seventeen. I continued my studies at the Fontys Academy of the Arts, earning my Master's degree under the guidance of Johan Fostier, and most recently completed my postgraduate studies with Antigoni Goni at the Koninklijk Conservatorium in Brussels.

Over the years, I've been fortunate to have my work recognised at several international competitions in Greece, Spain, Russia, the Netherlands and Belgium. In 2023, I was awarded first prize at the Twente Guitar Festival. More recently, I received second prizes at the Antwerp Guitar Festival and the Rust Guitar Festival in Austria, and most recently a third prize at the International Guitar Festival in Nürtingen. I'm grateful for every step of this journey and excited to continue sharing music, stories and new projects with you.

In this newsletter you can expect:

Solo guitar
programs

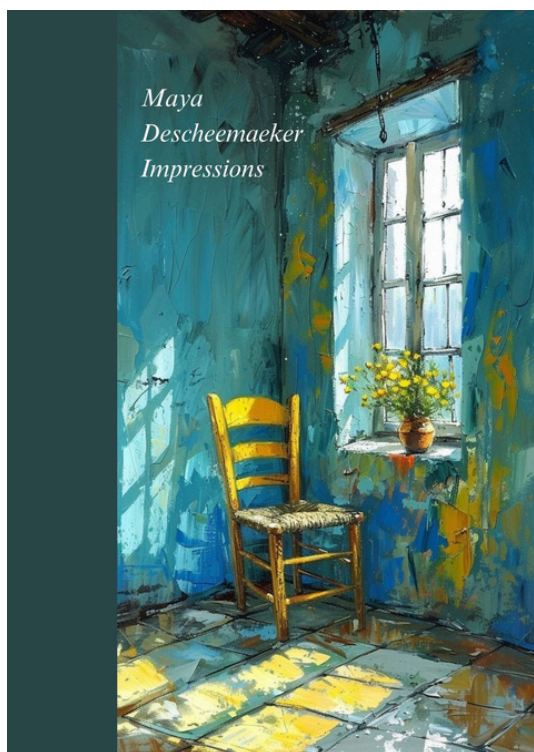
Upcoming
projects

Recital in
Love2arts

Solo guitar programs

Over the past couple of months, I've been revisiting the repertoire I've built throughout the years, searching for the pieces that resonate with me most today. From that process, two recital programmes naturally began to take shape.

Some of these pieces have stayed with me for over five years, and it still brings me so much joy to play them. They've grown with me, challenged me, comforted me, and somehow never lost their magic. I still love performing them more than ever.

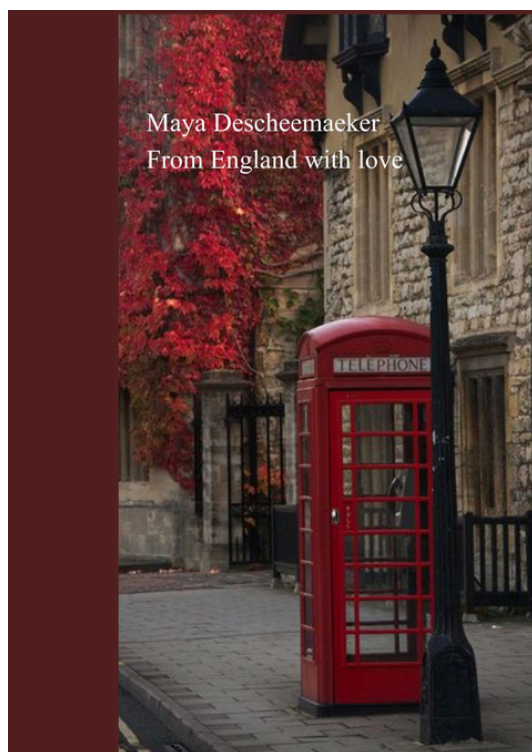


Maya
Descheemaeker
Impressions

Impressions

In this program composers from Spain to Mexico will take you on an unforgettable journey. They will take you to the sun, where everything feels just right. But also to the darkness, where the light is hard to find.

More information on my website.



Maya Descheemaeker
From England with love

From England with love

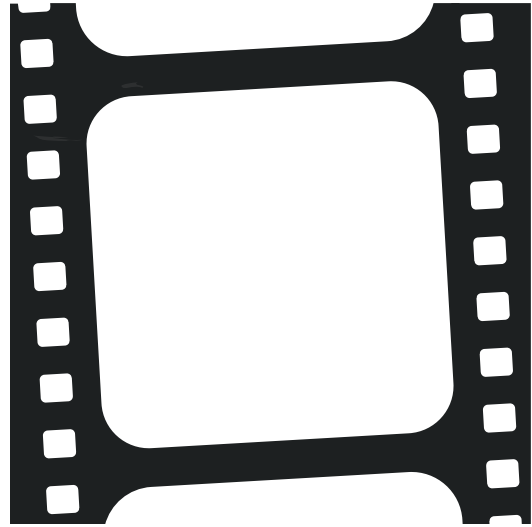
The English have their own way of expressing, very sensitive but also reserved. There is melancholy and suffering but also humour and joy. This all in a raincoat on your way for the 4 o'clock cup of tea.

More information on my website.

Upcoming projects

100 days of practice

From 1 January to 10 April, I'll be joining the 100 Days of Practice Challenge, posting daily videos on [Instagram](#). I'd love to take you along in my practice routine at home a little window into the work that happens behind the scenes.



Bar à l'aise

Bar a'laise Gent

On the 12th of april at 4pm I will play a recital at the super cozy Bar a'laise.

Verlorenkost 9, 9000 Gent

New duo???

Recently, I started rehearsing new music for a guitar duo with Yohrind Ramesh Naidu, something I'm genuinely excited about. It's been inspiring to explore fresh repertoire together, and I can't wait to share more of this project with you soon.

Stay tuned for more...

And just for fun: here's a little throwback picture from seven years ago, time flies!





Recital at love2arts art gallery

In November, I had the pleasure of playing a recital at the Love2Arts Gallery in Antwerp. I truly enjoyed sharing my music with the wonderful audience present, your warmth and attentiveness made the evening unforgettable.

After so much dedication and hard work, feeling the audience's appreciation up close is incredibly meaningful to me. Your support is what makes live music come alive. So from the bottom of my heart: thank you. It means everything. Without you, none of this would matter, you are the reason I play.

For this recital, I performed a mix of both of my current classical guitar programmes, followed by a small encore at the end: a charming piece by Armand Coeck.

One of the most personal challenges for me that evening was performing *Obsequio a el Maestro* by Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco, a piece I had never previously played for a teacher. This is my first year without a guitar mentor, and while that feels liberating, it can also be daunting. Bringing this work to the stage with a fully self-shaped interpretation was both exciting and a little frightening... but it also reminded me why I love what I do: music invites us to take ownership, trust ourselves, and share something real.

Thank you for being there to receive it.

Thank you for reading!
