



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:

Concert agenda

recent concerts/
projects

Summer plans

Concert agenda

26/04 17h

Solo recital in an intimate environment

l'Atelier Zeidler

Schaarbeek BE

Send me an e-mail if you would like to come (maya.ds@hotmail.be)

14/06 11h

Solo recital

(h)Arth-Ot-heck

Mortsel BE

More information soon

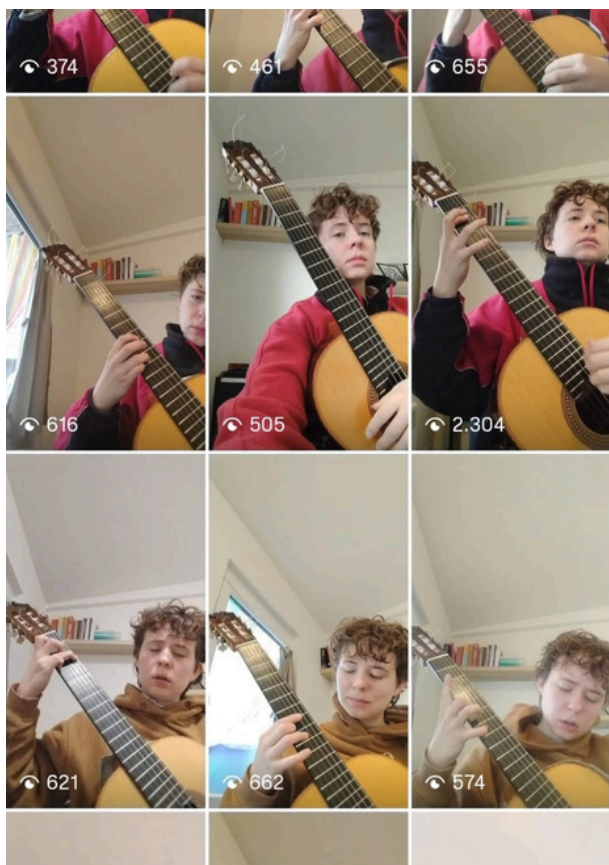
18/10 11u30

Apretiefconcert

Kasteel van Schoten BE

More information soon





Recent concerts/projects

100 DAYS OF PRACTICE

On April 10, I proudly completed the 100 Days of Practice Challenge. During this period, I shared a video from my practice sessions every day for 100 days on Instagram and Facebook.

It wasn't always easy. Some days, it was hard to find the motivation to play in front of a camera, but on other days it gave me energy and inspiration. In the final days, I started working on new repertoire. I noticed that filming actually accelerated this process. I immediately became aware of how my phrasing came across and was able to adjust it on the spot. That's definitely something I will carry with me moving forward.

All the videos are still available to watch on my Instagram and Facebook pages.

CONCERT IN BAR A'LAISE

On April 12, I performed a concert at Bar a'laise in Ghent, a cozy living-room-style café that regularly hosts concerts. For me, it was quite a challenging performance, a bit outside of my comfort zone. There was background noise, as you would expect in a café, which required extra focus.

Still, I am very proud of myself. I performed a piece that I had only started working on two weeks earlier (as you can tell, I do enjoy a challenge 😊). It went surprisingly well. Of course, there are always things to improve, but for a first performance, I am very satisfied.

Bar a'laise is definitely worth a visit, whether for a concert or simply to enjoy a drink.



Summer plans

Voterra guitar project

In 2024, I already took part in this project, where you get to make music with a group of ambitious guitarists in the heart of Tuscany, guided by inspiring musicians. During that edition, the focus was mainly on lessons and workshops, ranging from individual guitar lessons to improvisation, business, and even acting classes, everything you need as a classical musician today.

This edition is a special anniversary edition, bringing back a selection of alumni. This time, the focus will be on chamber music and sharing experiences about building a career.

I am really looking forward to being inspired again by musicians who are at a similar stage in their journey. Making music together and sharing experiences, it promises to be a truly valuable and unforgettable week.



and inspired by Antigoni Goni

The Volterra Project

SYMPOSIUM
Celebrating **20 years**

200 alumni
36 countries
360° approach

July 10-18th 2026

Composer in residence:
Dušan Bogdanović

Artists in residence:
Antigoni Goni
Luca Isolani
Eleonora Perretta
Maarten Vandenbenden

CHAMBER MUSIC RESIDENCY
ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS
INNOVATIVE WORKSHOPS
CAREER PRESENTATIONS

the Volterra Project #thevolterraproject www.volterraguitar.org

A real vacation?



I can already hear you thinking: will she also take a real holiday? One where she can fully relax and unwind? Yes, absolutely!

For now, the plan is to travel for ten days with my partner. We will take the night train to Berlin, and after two days continue our journey, again by night train, to Stockholm. There, we plan to rent a car and spend some time in nature.

I'm already really looking forward to it!
