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ANOTHER NIGHT ON EARTH International Electric Guitar Ensemble Launches

Ensemble Features HEIKO OSSIG, STEVEN MACKEY, DAVID ROBERTSON, GRETCHEN MENN, DANIELE GOTTARDO, JIJI, JAMES MOORE, JOE GORE

Debut Mini-Concert Premieres Octet Arrangement Of JOSQUIN DES PREZ's 15th Century Masterpiece *NYMPHES DES BOIS*

Concerts Stream on anothernightonearth.rewardmusic.com

The international guitar ensemble Another Night on Earth makes its debut performances at **anothernightonearth.rewardmusic.com** on Dec. 16th, 2020.

Each of the group's eight members has a unique style and sound, but all share an unusual distinction: they're electric guitarists performing traditional and contemporary classical music. Formed during the COVID-19 crisis, the group collaborates remotely, developing an ever-expanding repertoire stretching from the Middle Ages to the present day.

ANOE is the brainchild of <u>Heiko Ossig</u>, a renowned concert guitarist who teaches at the University of Music and Theater in Hamburg, Germany. There, he created the innovative Guitar Lab, where students meld traditional classical guitar approaches with modern technology. Ossig invited American composer/guitarist and Princeton University music professor <u>Steven Mackey</u> as a guest lecturer. (Mackey is probably the world's leading exponent of employing electric guitar in modern classical composition.) When the pandemic made that visit impossible, Ossig launched this project as an alternative.

In addition to Ossig and Mackey, the group includes six distinguished musicians:

- <u>David Robertson</u> is one of America's leading orchestral conductors. After a long tenure as music director of the St. Louis Symphony and appearances with many of the world's leading orchestras, he now serves as the director of conducting studies at New York's Julliard School. He also wields a mean Telecaster.
- <u>Gretchen Menn</u> is a California guitarist known for her virtuosity, musicality, and sheer stylistic range. A classic rock specialist, she performs with Zepparella, one of the leading Led Zeppelin tribute bands. But she also boasts a formidable classical pedigree,

and she combines her influences in exciting and distinctive ways, often in ambitious extended-form compositions.

- Italian virtuoso <u>Daniele Gottardo</u> boasts drop-dead technique and a phenomenally broad stylistic range. His rock shredding is second to none, but his repertoire also embraces classical music and jazz. Guitar icon Steve Vai has cited Daniele as his favorite contemporary player.
- Korean-born classical guitarist <u>Jiji</u> is an assistant professor of music at Arizona State University. A tireless advocate for new music, she has premiered many works by emerging composers, often employing electric guitar. She has performed at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, and other premier classical music venues.
- The *New York Times* rightly described composer/guitarist <u>James Moore</u> as "model new music citizen." His career highlights include performing the music of John Zorn, George Crumb, and Steve Reich at such venues at BAM and the Barbican. He's currently pursuing a PhD in music composition at Princeton.
- Sometime last century <u>Joe Gore</u> dropped out of the PhD music composition program at UC Berkeley to play in rock bands. He went on to record and tour with Tom Waits, PJ Harvey, Tracy Chapman, Courtney Love, John Cale, and many other artists. He's also a music journalist who has edited the magazines *Guitar Player* and *Premier Guitar*.

ANOE's debut mini-concert features an octet arrangement of a late 15th-century masterpiece: Josquin des Prez's *Nymphes des bois*. Josquin composed this piece as a memorial to Johannes Ockeghem, another Renaissance master and Josquin's teacher. David Robertson, who has conducted the piece in its original choral form, proposed this sublime elegy as a prayer for serenity in troubled times. The concert will also include two newly composed electric guitar duets. ANOE is currently developing many more pieces, with performances to be scheduled soon.