

Scottish Guitarist Sean Shibe will bring his genre-bending, canon-breaking performances to the Newport Music Festival this summer

Newport Music Festival 50th Anniversary Season July 4 - 22

NEWPORT, R.I. —Scottish Guitarist **Sean Shibe** will join over 50 artists from around the globe to perform during the **Newport Music Festival's** 50th anniversary season, July 4-22. Shibe gained worldwide acclaim in 2017 with the release of his first solo album and launch of his adventurous project, "softLOUD." Newport audiences will be able to see him perform at four concerts throughout the festival – July 6th at the first of three Sunrise Concerts at the Chinese Tea House; July 7th he will perform Bach's Suite for Lute BWV997 at Emmanuel Church; July 10th at the Bellevue House; and July 13th at Belcourt of Newport. Tickets are on sale now at www.NewportMusic.org.

The 26-year old released his first solo album, "Dreams and Fancies" (Delphian Records) to critical acclaim in 2017. The recording received an Editor's Choice nod by Gramophone and an Instrument Choice Award nomination from BBC Music Magazine. Earlier in that same year, his "uncompromisingly monumental" project "softLOUD" premiered at the East Neuk and Edinburgh Fringe Festivals. The program juxtaposes early Scottish lute pieces for acoustic guitar with electric guitar arrangements and features Pulitzer prize-winning composer Julia Wolfe's powerful elegy "LAD," (originally written for nine bagpipes) and David Lang's "Killer."



The release of those projects within months of each other showcased Shibe's diverse talents and garnered worldwide praise for the young guitarist.

"Shibe [is] an infallible galvaniser as well as something completely different... genius, a term which should rarely be applied to performing musicians, but at 25 he has it." - Gramophone Magazine, Editor's Choice.

"Mesmerising... Shibe brings an electrifyingly discursive quality ... balanced by an even-tempered yet intensely reflective grace." - David Nice, The Arts Desk

"It also speaks volumes of an adventurous musician that, singularity of instrument aside, his album could hardly be further from the music Shibe played at the Edinburgh Fringe. Both incarnations of his performing are unmissable." - The Herald

Born in Edinburgh in 1992 of English and Japanese heritage, he studied at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and with Paolo Pegoraro in Italy. At the age of 20 he became the first guitarist to be selected for the BBC Radio 3 New Generation Artists scheme, and the only solo guitarist to be awarded a Borletti-Buitoni Trust Fellowship.

He has performed at internationally renowned venues including Aldeburgh Festival, Bath International Festival and Heidelberger-Frühling. He returned to the Marlboro Summer Music Festival on the invitation of Mitsuko Uchida and has extensively toured in China. With an acute interest in commissioning new works for the instrument, Sean Shibe will premiere new pieces by Michael Murray, while appearing as soloist with the Scottish Ensemble, and records John Adams "Naive and Sentimental Music" with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra.

He has appeared with the BBC Scottish Symphony, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, BBC National Orchestra of Wales and BBC Symphony Orchestras. Recent collaborators include the BBC Singers, Danish String Quartet, cellist Isang Enders, harpsichordist Mahan Esfahani and singers Ben Johnson, Robert Murray and Robert Tritschler.

About the Newport Music Festival

Since 1969 the Newport Music Festival has presented world-renowned and emerging classical music artists. In its 49 seasons, the Rhode Island festival has hosted over 2,500 concerts featuring 130 artists making their American debuts, leaving an indelible mark in classical music history.

The upcoming 50th anniversary season (July 4-22, 2018) will feature a broadening of the festival's musical landscape and will include [Joshua Bell](#), [A Far Cry](#), [Imani Winds](#), [Jake Heggie](#), [Charlie Albright](#) and [Frederica von Stade](#), to name just a few. The season will also celebrate the anniversaries of Rossini, Debussy and Bernstein and also include works by living composers. The festival will continue to honor its legacy by presenting the Mark P. Malkovich III Memorial Concert, the highly regarded French Opera Night, and three Sunrise Concerts at the Chinese Tea House. It will also renew its pledge to the local community and visitors to Newport by presenting free public concerts and strengthening its commitment to local artists and music programs. Concerts will take place in the renowned Newport Mansions, including The Breakers, The Elms, The Chinese Tea House and Belcourt Castle, as well as other nearby locations. Tickets are now on sale for all concerts and can be purchased at www.NewportMusic.org.

Press Inquiries
Dayla Arabella Santurri
781.479.6951 [@DaylaArabella](#)
Dayla@DaylaArabella.com

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50th Anniversary
July 4-22, 2018
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For Tickets & More Information
www.newportmusic.org
401.849.0700
info@newportmusic.org