



Greek flutist **Polychronis Karamatidis** and Romanian guitarist **Matei Rusu** first met in 2013 at Conservatorium Maastricht, The Netherlands. They made their debut as a duo in January 2015 at "The Night of Classical Music" event in Maastricht. Since then they have been highly active, performing all over Europe. The duo has been awarded several prizes in international chamber music competitions, such as: the First Prize in the Chamber Music Category of the "eMuse" Music Competition, the Second Prize in the "ENKOR" International Chamber Music Competition, the Third Prize in "Twents" Chamber Music Competition (Enschede, The Netherlands) and the Third Prize in the "Leopold Bellan" International Concours (Paris, France).

Through the grace of their interpretation, the duo aims to take the audience into the world of classical music. From original compositions to arrangements, many of which made by the duo themselves, their repertoire covers all the style periods of the history of music. Embracing the works of living composers, Duo con Spirito is focusing on enriching the repertoire and promoting the scene of contemporary music.

During the last years the duo developed several projects. Most notable were "Astor Piazzolla - Libertad in Tango" (awarded the Third Prize in the "Musik & Vermittlung" competition organized by Hochschule für Musik Detmold), projects aiming to combine artworks with music from similar stylistic periods and the Con Spirito Quartet (flute-guitar-violoncello).

In the "Unternehmen: Musik Projekt Wettbewerb" (2018) their project "Die Stimme hinter den Mauern" was awarded the Third Prize. In the same year, the duo was awarded a scholarship to participate in the "Research-Led Performance Workshop" in Venice, a workshop focusing on the interpretation of contemporary music for flute and guitar.

Polychronis Karamatidis and Matei Rusu finished their Bachelor of Music at Conservatorium Maastricht, where they studied under the guidance of Prof. Philippe Benoit and Prof. Carlo Marchione. At the moment, they are following the Master's Programme in Chamber Music at Hochschule für Musik Detmold with Prof. János Bálint and Prof. Thomas Kirchhoff.

Duo con Spirito participated in international festivals (such as Iserlohn Guitar Festival 2018 (Germany), Braga Guitar Festival 2018 (Portugal), etc.) where they took part in masterclasses with Hübert Käppel, Alexander Bondurianski, Zoran Dukic and other well renowned professors and performers of today's classical music world. In addition, the duo has frequently attended lessons with members of the Auryn Quartett, Marc Tooten and Dale Kavanagh among others.

Polychronis Karamatidis was born in 1995 in Thessaloniki (Greece). His musical background comprises numerous recitals as solo, orchestral and ensemble player. As a young flutist he was awarded, among other prizes, the First Prize of the "Summer Music Academy" Competition of the State Conservatoires in Volos (Greece).

He began his orchestral activity in 2011, performing with various orchestras including the Youth Symphonic Orchestra of Greece, "Con Fuoco Orchestra" and "Amikejo Orkest". Deeply devoted to chamber music, he has performed in various instrumental combinations. His interest in contemporary music and love for chamber music found their meeting point in 2016, when he started collaborating with the Contemporary Ensemble of Conservatorium Maastricht.

During his career he took part in masterclasses with great names of the flute world such as Peter-Lukas Graf, Samuel Coles and Philipp Jundt among others.

Matei Rusu, born in 1994 in Iasi (Romania), began his musical journey at the age of 6. Throughout his career, he has performed as a soloist, as a member of several chamber music ensembles and also as part of orchestra.

He has participated in numerous guitar competitions and festivals such as "José Tomás" Villa de Petrer (Spain), "FORUM" Gitarre Wien (Austria) and "Sinaia" International Guitar Festival (Romania) where he was awarded the Second Prize in the Youth Category.

Rusu has followed numerous masterclasses with well renowned classical guitarists such as Judicael Perroy, Marco Socias and Alex Garrobe among others.