



GUITARSARASOTA

Ana Vidovic

7:30 p.m. Saturday. Fellowship Hall at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 2256 Bahia Vista St., Sarasota. \$15 members, \$20 nonmembers, \$7.50 students. 362-2991; guitarsarasota.org.

Crowd Pleaser

By Gerry Galipault; Photo by Michael Benabib

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Ana Vidovic is a talented classical guitarist whose star is rising. And it doesn't hurt that she has the looks to match. At her MySpace page (myspace.com/anavidovicguitar), male fans have posted marriage proposals. "I read those comments and it's very nice, not so much for the marriage proposals," Vidovic says, laughing, "but to show their support. It gives you strength."

Sorry, guys, she's in a relationship. But that shouldn't affect her popularity. Fans can enjoy her magical musical touch in person Saturday night at Sarasota's St. Paul Lutheran Church as part of GuitarSarasota's concert series.

Born in Karlovac, Croatia, near Zagreb, the 28-year-old Vidovic came by her passion for music honestly. Her father and brother are both musicians. Inspired by her brother, Viktor, she took up the guitar at age 5. "I used to listen to my brother, and he would practice for many hours," she said. "The sound of the guitar is very soothing and warm; I was in my own little world and very happy, so it wasn't very difficult for me to sit and practice and concentrate. "I always had a desire to be the best that I could be. I've always loved being on stage and looking out at the people. There's something special about having everyone listening to you and hanging on your every note, seeing their faces and their reactions."

She has had several career milestones:

- She was the youngest student to attend the prestigious National Musical Academy in Zagreb.
- She studied at the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore, where she now lives.
- She has won a number of prizes and competitions: The Albert Augustine International Competition in Bath, England; the Fernando Sor competition in Rome; the Francisco Tárrega competition in Spain; the Eurovision Competition for Young Artists; the Printemps de la Guitare in Belgium, and the Young Concert Artists International Auditions in New York.
- She has graced the cover of several guitar-related magazines.

"I've traveled the world and experienced many different cultures, and get to do what I love," Vidovic said. "How many people can say that?" Vidovic has recorded five albums, including "Federico Moreno Torroba: Guitar Music 1" (on the Naxos label) in 2007.

She is now signed to The Orchard and is working on her next project with several producers, among them Richard Gottehrer. Rock aficionados might recognize Gottehrer's name. In the 1960s, he co-wrote "My Boyfriend's Back" and played in The Strangeloves (best known for "I Want Candy"). He later went on to produce early albums by Richard Hell & The Voidoids, The Fleshtones and Blondie. He was also a co-founder of Sire Records.

"He's a wonderful man, very talented, has a lot of experience and a great ear," Vidovic said. "It's interesting to have someone from a different genre to work with, who can give you a different approach. We'll see what we come up with."