

Gulli Bjornsson

Guitarist/Composer

Gulli Bjornsson (b.1991) is a guitarist, composer and programmer from Iceland whose music typically ties electronics, live instruments and visuals to experiences in nature. Gulli's music has been described as "hypnotic" (News Gazette) "a knockout – wondrously inventive" (Soundboard Magazine) and "Virtuosic, modern, occasionally discordant, but still accessible" (Classical Guitar Magazine).

He has written for *Aizuri Quartet, Sō Percussion, Contemporaneous, Amanda Gookin, Jiji, Vicky Chow, Steve Cowan, Mirror Strings* among many others. His compositions have recently been featured by *Carnegie Hall, 92nd Street Y, Le Poisson Rouge, Caramoor, Green Music Center, Centre Culturel Canadien Paris, Purdue Convocations, Krannert Center, Rockefeller tri-University, KPU music, NDR Kultur, Ung Nordisk Musik, Oh My Ears Festival, Unruly Sounds, Nantucket Musical Arts Society* among others.

Gulli has received accolades for his compositions from *Changsha, Rust* and *Veria* International Guitar Composition Competitions and received grants from distinguished institutions such as *Fulbright, The American Scandinavian Foundation, Valitor, Landsbankinn* and *The International Advisory Board*. He has also been the recipient of multiple awards for his guitar playing: *1st prize at Nótan* (a national music competition in Iceland), winner of *The Lilian Fuch's Chamber Music Competition* and a finalist in *The ASTA National Solo Competition, European Guitar Award* and *The International Young Talents Competition*. Gulli was also the recipient of *The Eliot Fisk Prize* and *The Andrés Segovia Award* for his studies at *Yale School of Music* and *Manhattan School of Music*.

Gulli holds a Bachelor of Music degree from *Manhattan School of Music* and *Master of Music and Master of Musical Arts* degrees from *Yale School of Music*. Currently he is a candidate for the Ph.D. degree in composition at *Princeton University*.

You can find further info about Gulli on his website and artist pages:

<https://www.gullibjornsson.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/gulli.bjornsson/>

<https://www.instagram.com/gulligitar/>

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REVIEWS

*"it is a knockout! ... I predict that many who hear Cowan's exceptional performance will immediately seek out the printed music" - **GEA soundboard***

*"... to create "virtuosic" solo guitar works for her to hammer through — and she delivers. A pair of mesmerizing performances — of... Gulli Bjornsson's "Dynjandi" - **Washington Post***

*"Dynjandi by Icelandic composer Gulli Björnsson was inspired by a magnificent series of seven waterfalls ... The piece, like the falls, is in seven sections and features fantastic arpeggios culminating in strummed chords representing the chaotic motion of water, slower sections portraying still pools between falls, clusters perhaps showing water dashing against rocks, and a broad harmonic sweep as well as Jiji's virtuosity brilliantly evoking a feeling of awe before the grandeur of nature." - **San Francisco Chronicles***

*"It is fun to think of the highly virtuosic work as evoking long boats speeding across the North Atlantic in search of new worlds. The quieter middle movement serves as a nice respite between the propulsive "Voyage" and the exciting and invigorating final section, which depicts a battle between the Vikings and the natives who populated the "new" land. It's modern, occasionally discordant, but still accessible." - **Classical Guitar Magazine***

*"I commend Jiji for the daring of her programming of such exploratory works as Björnsson's "Dim Waves Rise" in which her solo playing was supplemented by an electronic setup that produced hypnotic impulses imitating ocean waves. The composer Björnsson was present at the performance and he stood to accept the strong applause for his piece. Less impressive for me was the excessively repetitious 1987 "Electric Counterpoint" by Steve Reich in which a reverberation unit repeated, on and on, Jiji's chords." - **The News Gazette Illinois***