

Classical Guitarist **Aniello Desiderio** was born in Naples in 1971. At the age of eight, he performed in public for the first time, displaying such outstanding gifts that music critics started to speak of him as an *enfant prodige*, or child prodigy. He has won 18 first International Awards in both national and international competitions, and special prizes for the best interpretation of different kinds of music. Desiderio has performed around world, throughout Europe, Asia, North and South America, and Southeast Asia. His performances include many prestigious venues, including Alte Oper in Frankfurt, Konzerthaus in Vienna, Mercadante in Naples, and Carnegie Hall. Desiderio is known for his touch, speed, and precision on the guitar. He is particularly renowned for interpretations of Paganini, Scarlatti, and Carulli. Desiderio studied under Stefan Aruta, Bruno Battisti D'Amario, Costas Cotsiolis, and Emero Cordero. He graduated in 1992 from the Conservatorio Arturo Vivaldi in Alessandria. In 2000 Desiderio was soloist at the seventieth birthday celebration of Loren Maazel in Bavaria. His CD, *Italica Famosa*, released that year, was nominated for the Golden Guitar Award as best CD of the year. In 2003 Desiderio co-founded the World Guitar Ensemble, consisting of ten virtuoso classical guitarists. The following year, he formed a baroquetango fusion group, Napoletanissimo, which toured the United States.

In 2005 Desiderio, with the World Guitar Ensemble, toured through Europe, making numerous appearances at German festivals such as Ludwigsburg, Rheingau, Bremen, Mosel, and the Mozart Festival in Würzburg. In 2010 he performed the *Concierto Madrigal* of Joaquim Rodrigo with Angel Romero. In 2012 John McLaughlin selected Desiderio to perform at the European premiere of his concerto *Thieves and Poets*. Desiderio has served on the faculty of the International Music Academy of Koblenz, Germany, and the Conservatorio di Musica Domenico Cimarosa of Avellino, Italy, and the Conservatorio di Potenza, Italy. He has conducted master classes for the Summer International Academy for Mozarteum in Salzburg, Austria. He is a professor at the University of Music in Cosenza, Italy.