

# Music@Menlo

CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL AND INSTITUTE

## The Fifteenth-Anniversary Season: *The Glorious Violin*

July 14–August 5, 2017

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**ANNOUNCING THE 2017 SUMMER FESTIVAL**  
**FIFTEENTH-ANNIVERSARY SEASON:**  
*THE GLORIOUS VIOLIN*  
July 14–August 5, 2017



**Music@Menlo Festival Offers Total Immersion into  
Violin Repertoire through More Than Fifty Events**

**Seven Main-Stage Concert Programs Explore the Festival's Theme by Demonstrating the  
Enormous Impact the Violin has had on the Classical Musical Landscape**

**Artist-Curated Carte Blanche Series Traces and Illuminates the Evolution of Violin Playing and  
Musical Composition Over Five Concerts Presented by Many of Today's Leading Violinists  
and Ensembles**

**Multimedia Encounter Lectures led by Aaron Boyd, Fred Child, Christopher H. Gibbs,  
Ray Iwazumi, and Soovin Kim**

**Café Conversations: In-Depth Discussions with Festival Artists**

**A Stellar Lineup of Thirty-Four Festival Artists including Six Music@Menlo Debuts**

**Master Classes, Prelude Performances, and Koret Young Performers Concerts Feature Over  
Three Dozen Chamber Music Institute Young Musicians**

**Radio Broadcasts Return via a Partnership with American Public Media**

## INTRODUCTION

Atherton, CA, April 3, 2017 — David Finckel and Wu Han, founding Artistic Directors of the **Music@Menlo Chamber Music Festival and Institute**, today announced the 2017 fifteenth-anniversary festival theme: *The Glorious Violin*.

The violin has shaped the very evolution of music itself, demonstrated by the earliest violin compositions of the Baroque period, through the performances of extraordinary virtuoso luminaries of the Romantic era, and by the pioneers of instrumental expression of the twentieth century. The instrument ranks among a handful of tools whose design has remained largely unchanged for over three centuries, and no musical genre is more indebted to the modern violin family than chamber music. Music@Menlo's fifteenth-anniversary season celebrates composers, performers, and violin makers alike, illuminating the violin's history and looking at the unfolding of classical music through the lens of this beautiful instrument.

Running from **July 14 to August 5**, the festival presents **over fifty events** on Music@Menlo's three stages in Atherton and Menlo Park, California, including performances by many of the world's great artists and ensembles. Over the course of twenty-three days, the Bay Area festival presents wide-ranging musical offerings that will highlight and showcase the violin as the cornerstone of artistic development and expansion, including:

- Seven main-stage **Concert Programs**, featuring compositions that have defined and developed today's musical landscape
- Five artist-curated **Carte Blanche Concerts** that pay tribute to the violin and feature top-tier artists performing repertoire that spans from Biber to Paganini to Brahms to Bloch to Kreisler, and many more
- Five **Encounters**—the festival's signature series of multimedia symposia—that will explore the intriguing history of the violin
- Sixteen performances by the gifted young artists of **Music@Menlo's Chamber Music Institute**
- **Café Conversations**—a forum for discussions on topics related to music and the arts—led by the festival's musicians and guests, free and open to the public
- A stellar lineup of **master classes** led by renowned festival artists, also free for the public

These programs, combined with world-class performances from today's most prominent chamber musicians, underscore Music@Menlo's standing as a leader in innovation and excellence and as one of the world's preeminent music festivals.

## QUICK LINKS

- [ARTIST ROSTER](#)
- [REPERTOIRE LIST](#)
- [CHRONOLOGICAL SCHEDULE](#)

### Music@Menlo Facts & Figures – Fifteen Years of Growth

- Total annual attendance now exceeds 13,000, with free program attendance exceeding 6,000 annually
- The \$2.1 million annual budget supports over sixty-five public events each year
- 378 Chamber Music Institute participants have been immersed in a rigorous exploration of chamber music with the Institute's esteemed artist-faculty
- Nearly 300 artists have come from all over the world to perform in the main-stage concerts, lead multimedia Encounter lectures, coach students of the Chamber Music Institute, and work with Menlo School students in the annual Winter Residency
- Performances from the festival air nationwide on American Public Media's *Performance Today*, the largest daily classical music program in the United States, which airs on 260 stations and reaches more than one million people each week
- Eighty-eight CDs and digital albums have been released on the Music@Menlo *LIVE* label. Music@Menlo *LIVE*'s entire music catalogue is now digitized and offered on iTunes, Amazon.com, Spotify, and Classical Archives
- 253 interns have gained real-world professional experience from Music@Menlo's industry-leading Arts Administration Internship Program
- Thousands of Menlo School students have enjoyed an enhanced educational experience through the annual Winter Residency program, in addition to community outreach concerts at assisted living facilities, Rotary events, elementary schools, and other local organizations
- Video of Encounters and select festival content, including master classes and Café Conversations, is streamed in high definition on the Internet and during the 2016 festival drew over 8,000 views



## 2017 FESTIVAL OVERVIEW: *The Glorious Violin*

### The Artists

Music@Menlo will present a stellar roster of thirty-four guest artists this season, six of whom will be making their Music@Menlo debuts. Joining the festival lineup this summer will be pianists **Gloria Chien\*\***, **Peter Dugan\***, **Gilbert Kalish**, **Hyeyeon Park\*\***, **Juho Pohjonen**, **Orion Weiss\***, and **Wu Han**; violinists **Benjamin Beilman**, **Ivan Chan**, **Chad Hoopes\***, **Bella Hristova\***, **Paul Huang**, **Soovin Kim**, **Jessica Lee\*\***, **Sean Lee**, **Yura Lee**, **Amy Schwartz Moretti\***, **Arnaud Sussmann**, and **Danbi Um**; violists **Roberto Díaz**, **Hsin-Yun Huang**, **Paul Neubauer**, and **Richard O'Neill**; cellists **Dmitri Atapine\*\***, **Nicholas Canellakis**, **David Finckel**, **Clive Greensmith**, and **Keith Robinson**; bassist **Scott Pingel**; the **Escher String Quartet** (violinists **Adam Barnett-Hart** and **Aaron Boyd**, violist **Pierre Lapointe**, and cellist **Brook Speltz**); and French hornist **Radovan Vlatković\***.

\**Music@Menlo debut*

\*\**Young Performers Program faculty*

### Festival Concert Programs

Music@Menlo's seven main-stage **Concert Programs**—performed by an outstanding lineup of eminent chamber musicians—offer audience members a unique and immersive dive into the world of the violin.

For a comprehensive list of performers & programs, see the [chronological schedule](#) of events.

**Concert Program I: The Path to Bach** (Saturday, July 15) roots the festival's musical journey in the generation of composers before Johann Sebastian Bach and charts the early evolution of the violin. The program features one of the iconic masterpieces of the instrument's repertoire, Tartini's *Devil's Trill* Sonata, in addition to works by prominent Italian pioneers of violin music: Carlo Farina, Marco Uccellini, Giovanni Battista Vitali, and Pietro Antonio Locatelli. The latter half of the program brings together the Baroque period's most influential composers—Arcangelo Corelli, Antonio Vivaldi, and J.S. Bach, including Bach's seminal Concerto in d minor.

**Concert Program II: The Classical Style** (Sunday, July 16, and Tuesday, July 18) explores the ever more sophisticated instrumental techniques used by composers and musicians alike as the Classical tradition flourished. Alongside Haydn and Mozart, whose iconic Violin Sonata in A Major is featured, Concert Program II spotlights Giovanni Battista Viotti through his *Duetto* for Solo Violin, as well as one of his musical heirs, Rodolphe Kreutzer. The latter part of the program demonstrates Beethoven's transformation of the Classical period's resplendent violin music and his challenges to Vienna's virtuosi, with his String Quintet in C Major.

**Concert Program III: German Virtuosity** (Thursday, July 20, and Saturday, July 22) continues the festival's journey from the Classical period into the nineteenth century. Beethoven's Violin Sonata no. 10 in G Major marks the era's point of departure into the new century, preceded by

Caprice no. 3 in G Major by the sonata's dedicatee, French virtuoso Pierre Rode. Louis Spohr's first Double String Quartet illustrates the composer's reputation as a standard-bearer for the German violin tradition, and the program concludes with works by Ferdinand David and Felix Mendelssohn, whose Piano Quartet no. 3 in b minor is one of German Romanticism's most brilliant works.

**Concert Program IV: In Joachim's Orbit** (Sunday, July 23, and Monday, July 24) celebrates an emerging generation of Romantics, framed by the catalyst to these composers' artistic triumphs, the great German violinist Joseph Joachim, who served as muse to Schumann and Brahms in the creation of their greatest works for violin. Picking up from Concert Program III, Mendelssohn's *Lied ohne Worte (Song without Words)* for Cello and Piano is followed by two works by one of chamber music's masters, Robert Schumann. An equal mastery would bless Schumann's disciple Johannes Brahms, whose poetic Horn Trio follows Joachim's lesser-heard Romance, op. 2, no. 1.

**Concert Program V: French Luminaries** (Friday, July 28, and Saturday, July 29) contrastingly explores the generations of French virtuosi who cultivated a distinct national style. The program begins with the Sonata in e minor for Two Violins by Jean-Marie Leclair, who came to be celebrated as "the French Corelli." Over a century later, the Belgian violinist, composer, and conductor Eugène Ysaÿe would set listeners aflame with his intrepid approach to the instrument. His *Rêve d'enfant (A Child's Dream)* for Violin and Piano is followed by César Franck's celebrated Violin Sonata in A Major, and works by two composers for whom Ysaÿe inspired as both a composer and performer, Gabriel Fauré and Claude Debussy.

**Concert Program VI: The Age of Expression** (Wednesday, August 2) illustrates the new frontiers of artistic expression charted by virtuosi such as Fritz Kreisler in the early twentieth century. Featuring music by Borodin, Respighi, Ysaÿe, and even Kreisler himself, whose String Quartet in a minor follows Ysaÿe's magnificent Sonata in e minor for Solo Violin, the program explores a completely new approach to the violin by composers.

The 2017 festival season ends with **Concert Program VII: National Flavors** (Saturday, August 5) in a colorful overview of violin playing across the Western world, from Russia to the United States. Shostakovich's Prelude and Scherzo for String Octet reflect the visceral influence of the great Russian school of string playing, while Ernő Dohnányi's *Ruralia hungarica* for Violin and Piano draws on rustic Hungarian folk traditions. The American composer John Corigliano's *Red Violin Caprices* glorify the instrument with a distinctly modern voice, and the program concludes with the thrilling octet by the Romanian composer, violinist, pianist, and conductor George Enescu.

## Carte Blanche Concerts

For 2017, the festival's renowned Carte Blanche recital series—programs created by the world-class artists performing at Music@Menlo—returns, celebrating today's art of string playing at its finest, in the hands of the festival's incomparable performers.

### Carte Blanche Concert I: Paganini's Incomparable Caprices

Violinist **Sean Lee** (Friday, July 21) in a rarely encountered feat of virtuosity, performs the entire cycle of Paganini's caprices, with Music@Menlo debut pianist **Peter Dugan** offering the accompaniment composed by Robert Schumann.

### Carte Blanche Concert II: Quartet Connections

This concert features the **Escher String Quartet** (Sunday, July 23) performing a selection of works by some of the most celebrated composers of the string quartet genre. Works by Mozart and Haydn are set alongside Brahms's String Quartet no. 3 in B-flat Major and Antonín Dvořák's quintessentially Bohemian String Quartet no. 13 in G Major.

### Carte Blanche Concert III: Violin Universe

Violinist **Yura Lee** (Wednesday, July 26) showcases an astounding array of works for solo violin, ranging from the pre-Baroque era to the most infectiously appealing folk styles of violin playing heard today. Beginning with Franz von Biber's Passacaglia and concluding with Bach's monumental Chaconne, this program is a celebration of the violin's timeless versatility.

### Carte Blanche Concert IV: Romantic Voices

Violinist **Danbi Um** (Sunday, July 30) offers a program of music she holds closest to her heart in a stunning variety of both favorites and delightful discoveries. Ernest Bloch's Violin Sonata no. 2, *Poème mystique*, opens a rich program featuring Korngold, Kreisler, Sarasate, and Joseph Achron's moving *Hebrew Dance*. Pianist **Orion Weiss** makes his Music@Menlo debut.

### Carte Blanche Concert V: A Tribute to Fritz Kreisler

Violinist **Benjamin Beilman** (Thursday, August 3) offers a tribute to Fritz Kreisler with pianist **Hyeyeon Park** in a program of works that inspired Kreisler as a composer and performer, as well as a host of Kreisler's most famous and beloved works. Kreisler's *La gitana*, *Lotus Land*, and *Praeludium and Allegro* are among the works that are featured alongside Kreisler's arrangements of Corelli, Viotti, Bach, and Rimsky-Korsakov.

## Encounter Series

Music@Menlo's signature multimedia lecture series, led by renowned experts in their fields, offers audiences even deeper insight into the season's thematic programming. This season, a stellar lineup of scholars and performers reveals secrets of the violin and its essential role in Western music history. The Encounter series takes place in Martin Family Hall, at Menlo School.

**Encounter I: From the Birth of the Violin to J. S. Bach and the Glory of Cremona**

Escher String Quartet violinist **Aaron Boyd** traces the violin's history from its hazy origins to its apogee at the hands of Antonio Stradivari, Antonio Vivaldi, and J. S. Bach, examining the creative synergy between the instrument's earliest performers and composers. (Friday, July 14)

**Encounter II: The Emergence of the Classical Tradition in Musical Style and Performance**

Scholar **Christopher H. Gibbs** provides an overview of the emergence of the Classical style at the hands of Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven—also revealing the astounding contributions of violinist Ignaz Schuppanzigh, a friend and colleague of Beethoven's, to the musical life of Vienna. (Sunday, July 16)

**Encounter III: The Devil's Violinist: Niccolò Paganini**

Violin virtuoso **Soovin Kim** delves into Paganini's intriguing life and work, revealing how the composer and performer raised the technical standards of violin playing to stratospheric new heights, and how his legacy has endured throughout history. (Wednesday, July 19)

**Encounter IV: Towards the Age of Expression**

The penultimate Encounter of 2017, led by violinist and Juilliard School professor **Ray Iwazumi**, explores the flowering of expression of the violin during the second half of the nineteenth century, when techniques of violin playing blossomed with the great Belgian violinist Eugène Ysaÿe, who inspired a new generation of virtuosos. (Thursday, July 27)

**Encounter V: The Violin Today**

*Performance Today* host **Fred Child** moderates a distinguished panel including the incomparable violin maker Samuel Zygmuntowicz and elite Music@Menlo violinists, with a teaching lineage dating all the way back to Joseph Joachim, for an in-depth discussion of modern violin making, performance, and pedagogy—pointing directly to the future of the violin tradition. (Tuesday, August 1)

**Café Conversations**

Beginning on July 17, each weekday throughout the festival, Music@Menlo offers midday events including the popular Café Conversations and master classes. Café Conversations feature select festival artists discussing a variety of topics related to music and the arts. These forums showcase the wide-ranging expertise, generosity, and imagination of our artists and provide further insight into their remarkable careers and musical experiences. *This summer's lineup will be announced in June.*

**The Chamber Music Institute**

Music@Menlo's Chamber Music Institute is one of the most well-regarded and highly selective summer programs in the United States for string players and pianists. The Institute brings together approximately three dozen talented young musicians and a world-class roster of artists for an intensive three-week training program, consisting of the **International Program** for pre-professional artists (ages eighteen to twenty-nine) and the **Young Performers**

**Program** for pre- and early-conservatory-level students (ages nine to eighteen). These exceptional young artists are selected from top preparatory and conservatory programs across the United States and abroad, and work closely with the festival's artist-faculty in coachings, master classes, and other educational activities throughout the festival. Highlights of the Chamber Music Institute include the immensely popular Prelude Performances and Koret Young Performers Concerts, showcasing the aspiring young artists' work. The Institute's series of master classes and performances—which are free and open to the public—offers listeners an opportunity to witness the exchange of ideas between today's most accomplished artists and classical music's next generation.

*The Chamber Music Institute and its International Program and Young Performers Program participants are supported by contributions to the Ann S. Bowers Young Artist Fund.*

### Master Classes

The Chamber Music Institute's master class series opens a further window onto the transfer of knowledge and experience between generations of gifted musicians and gives an insight into the pedagogy behind musicianship. Master classes are free and open to the public to observe on a first-come, first-served basis. The schedule of master classes will be announced later in the spring.

### Festival Recording Label

Six-time Grammy Award-winning recording producer Da-Hong Seetoo returns for his fifteenth consecutive season to capture the concerts for broadcast and release. The festival's exclusive recording label, Music@Menlo *LIVE*, has been praised as “the most ambitious recording project of any classical music festival in the world” (*San Jose Mercury News*), and its recordings have received rave reviews on both sides of the Atlantic. Capturing the live concert experience on disc, the CDs feature performances from each season and are available for purchase at <http://www.musicatmenlo.org/> and at Music@Menlo's venues throughout the festival.

Music@Menlo *LIVE* recordings are also available for digital download and streaming through iTunes, Amazon.com, Classical Archives, and Spotify. The newest addition to the Music@Menlo *LIVE* catalogue, *Russian Reflections*, was released this winter; it is a unique collection of eight CDs featuring live recordings from the festival's fourteenth season.

### AudioNotes

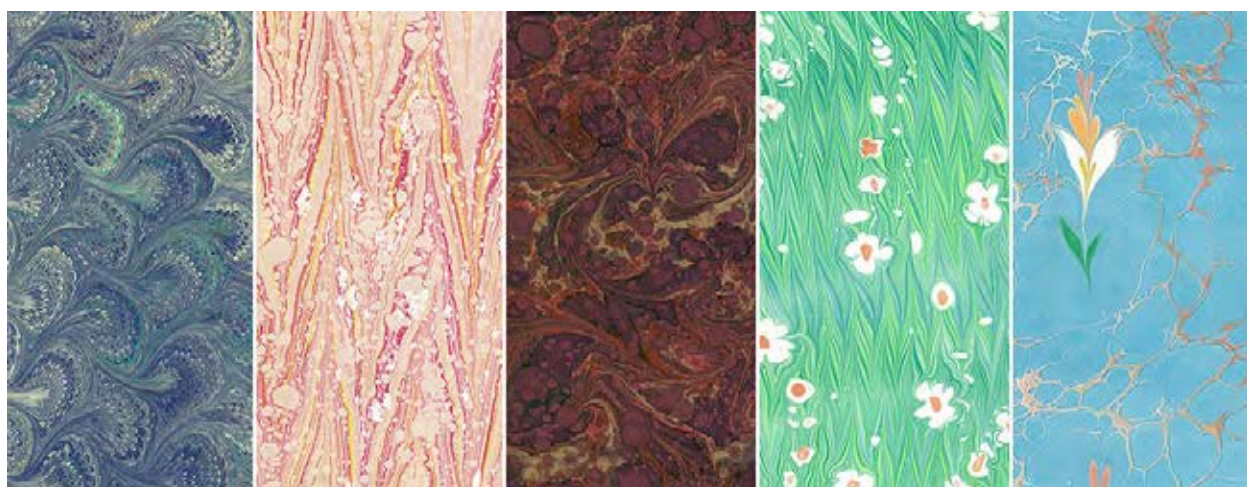
AudioNotes, Music@Menlo's innovative series of CD-based preconcert listener guides, offer audiences engaging and entertaining introductions to each festival Concert Program and Carte Blanche Concert. AudioNotes enrich the concert experience by offering cultural and historical context highlighted by musical examples and interviews with festival artists. Listeners are given expert insight on the life, works, and stories behind each of the season's composers, so they can arrive prepared for a rewarding musical journey.

## American Public Media Partnership

This summer, Music@Menlo is proud to once again welcome American Public Media as the festival's exclusive broadcast partner. Performances from the festival will be broadcast nationwide on American Public Media's *Performance Today*, the largest daily classical music program in the United States, which airs on 260 stations and reaches more than one million people each week, and via Classical 24, a live classical music service broadcast on 250 stations also reaching more than one million weekly listeners and distributed by Public Radio International. Fred Child, host of *Performance Today*, will lead the festival's final Encounter this summer. Visit [www.yourclassical.org](http://www.yourclassical.org) for archived performances, photos, and interviews. American Public Media is the leading producer of classical music programming for public radio.

## Visual Arts at the Festival

Each season, Music@Menlo invites a distinguished visual artist to exhibit a selection of their work throughout the festival and showcases their work in the festival's publications. Menlo's **Visual Artist** this summer is **Enrico Giannini**. Giannini was born into a long-standing family tradition of artistic bookbinding in Florence, Italy. Under the watchful eyes of his father and grandfather, he began as an apprentice in the Giannini workshop when he was just eleven years old. In the 1960s, he started experimenting with new techniques of marbling paper and researched alternative materials for new products. His paper designs and artistic bookbindings have been displayed in shows in the United States, Japan, and Italy, and he has taught several generations of students. He still creates new designs in his studio in Florence and collaborates with his daughter, Maria, who runs the family business, Giulio Giannini e Figlio, in Piazza dei Pitti in Florence.



*A selection of handcrafted marbled paper samples by Enrico Giannini*

## In Hand: Skill and Artistry in the Italian Tradition

*A documentary photo exhibition by Lilian Finckel*

**Lilian Finckel** is a New York-based artist working in photography, ceramics, and mixed media. Her work is documentary in nature, and her multidisciplinary practice moves through the

archival lens. *In Hand* is a photography exhibition she developed in 2016 and 2017; it seeks to draw parallels between two artistic masters, bookbinder and paper designer Enrico Giannini and violin maker Samuel Zygmuntowicz, revealing the intricate dexterities of each historic craft. Lilian Finckel graduated from Barnard College, Columbia University with a degree in art history and visual arts in 2016. The photos will be displayed throughout the 2017 festival.



### About Music@Menlo

Music@Menlo, now in its fifteenth year, is an internationally acclaimed summer festival and institute under the artistic direction of founders David Finckel and Wu Han. It is renowned for offering world-class chamber music performances, extensive audience engagement with artists, and intensive training for pre-professional musicians and for its efforts to enhance and widen the chamber music community of the San Francisco Bay Area.

### About the Artistic Directors



Music@Menlo founding Artistic Directors cellist David Finckel and pianist Wu Han rank among the most esteemed and influential classical musicians in the world today. Recipients of *Musical America's* Musicians of the Year award, they bring unmatched talent, energy, imagination, and dedication to their multifaceted endeavors as concert performers, recording artists, educators, artistic administrators, and cultural entrepreneurs. In high demand as individuals and as a duo, they appear each season at a host of the most prestigious venues and concert series across the United States and around the world.

Since 2004, David Finckel and Wu Han have together held the prestigious position of Artistic Director of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, the world's largest presenter and producer of chamber music, programming, and performing under its auspices worldwide. Their wide-ranging musical innovations include the launch of ArtistLed ([www.artistled.com](http://www.artistled.com)), classical music's first musician-directed and Internet-based recording company, whose catalogue of nineteen albums has won widespread critical acclaim. In 2011, David Finckel and Wu Han were named Artistic Directors of Chamber Music Today, an annual festival held in Seoul, South Korea, and since 2013 they have led the Finckel-Wu Han Chamber Music Studio at the Aspen Music Festival and School. In these capacities, as well as through a multitude of other education initiatives, they have achieved universal renown for their passionate commitment to nurturing the careers of countless young artists. David Finckel and Wu Han reside in New York City. For more information, please visit [www.davidfinckelandwuhan.com](http://www.davidfinckelandwuhan.com).

### Venues

Music@Menlo is based at Menlo School in Atherton, California, and presents at select concert venues throughout the Atherton and Menlo Park communities including:

- **Stent Family Hall** (capacity: 148), Menlo School, 50 Valparaiso Avenue, Atherton, CA
- **Martin Family Hall** (capacity: 220), Menlo School, 50 Valparaiso Avenue, Atherton, CA
- **The Center for Performing Arts at Menlo-Atherton** (capacity: 492), 555 Middlefield Road, Atherton, CA

### Phone Numbers / Contact Information [for publication]

Phone: 650-331-0202 / Fax: 650-330-2016 / Online: [www.musicatmenlo.org](http://www.musicatmenlo.org)

### Tickets

Ticket prices: \$48–\$80 for adults; \$20–\$35 for under age thirty. Tickets go on sale April 18.

### Press Inquiries and Photos

For photographs, press tickets, or further press information about Music@Menlo, please contact:

Milina Barry PR / 212-420-0200 / [milina@milinabarrypr.com](mailto:milina@milinabarrypr.com)

High-resolution images for press usage are available on Music@Menlo's website.

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