



### **Berta Rojas**

Praised as “guitarist extraordinaire” (Washington Post) and “ambassador of the classical guitar” (Classical Guitar Magazine) and nominated for three Latin Grammy Awards, Berta Rojas brings her world-class artistry to a special solo recital this spring.

Berta’s acknowledged warmth and musicality have earned her the admiration of audiences at major venues worldwide: the Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall and the Frederick P. Rose Hall of Jazz at the Lincoln Center, in New York, London’s South Bank Centre, the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C., the National Concert Hall

in Dublin, where she performed as a soloist with the Irish Radio and Television Orchestra, and the Flagey Studio 4 in Brussels, where she performed with the Brussels Philharmonic Orchestra for Belgian National Television.

Berta takes her audience on a colorful journey of sound, embracing new works by composers in diverse genres. The journey is echoed in recordings such as *Cielo Abierto* (2006) and *Terruño* (2009), as well as the duo with Carlos Barbosa-Lima on *Alma y Corazón* (2007) and the celebrated *Intimate Barrios* (2008) featuring works by the great Paraguayan composer and guitarist. On her latest recording, *Felicidade* (2017), she pays tribute to Brazilian music, with guest artists including Gilberto Gil, Toquinho and Ivan Lins.

In addition to continually enriching her own career through international tours and master classes, Berta Rojas is firmly committed to furthering and disseminating the classical guitar. A particular focus is on promoting the music of her country, Paraguay, as well as Latin American music more widely, and her ongoing support for the careers of young, upcoming guitarists.

#### **NEXT IN THE SERIES**

#### **Adam Cicchillitti**

November 2022

#### **Performance:**

Saturday, November 5, 2022

8:00pm.

#### **Master Class Public Presentation**

Sunday, November 6, 2022

10:00am – 12:00pm.



## *Program*

### **Ronna Erickson, guitar**

Como Lloro Una Estrella

Antonio Carrillo  
(1892 - 1962)

arrangement John Williams

### **Gef Fisher, guitar**

Vals op.8 No.4

Agustín Barrios Mangoré  
(1885 - 1944)

### **Emilio Garcia, guitar**

La Catedral

Preludio “Saudade”

Andante Religioso

Allegro Solemne

Agustín Barrios Mangoré  
(1885 - 1944)

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### **Ronna Erickson**

Ms Erickson came to music later in life, first becoming a classical guitar enthusiast in April 2009.

In addition to taking weekly lessons, she has also attended the Connecticut Valley Guitar Society’s “Guitar Day” and other workshops. She has attended the annual Hartt School Guitar Festival numerous times as well as performed in the recital at the conclusion of the Festival. She has played in Masterclass for Antigoni Goni, Jason Vieaux, Scott Tennant, Andrew York, Jorge Cabellero, Gohar Vardanyan, Christopher Ladd, Peter Clemente, and Richard Provost, Tariq Harb.

She is working on getting more classical guitar concerts and events for our area and has worked closely with the staff of the UMass Fine Arts Center to produce the ¡Guitarra! Classical Guitar Concert Series.

### Gef Fisher

Mr. Fisher is a Luthier and musician born and raised in Western Massachusetts. He studied guitar under Robert Phelps at Williams College, and briefly with Joel Brown at Skidmore College. After graduating in 2018, Gef joined Master Luthier Alan Chapman at the Old Mill in Amherst, where he lives and builds guitars with his wife Evelyn, and tuxedo cat Buddy. He has previously performed in a Masterclass with Benjamin Verdery.

### Emilio Garcia

Classical guitarist Emilio Garcia has appeared in concert as a soloist, chamber musician, and most recently as a member of the Inaugural Virtual Guitar Orchestra to raise money for Doctors without Borders during the COVID19 Pandemic. His performances have garnered awards such as the Louis A. Armstrong Jazz Award, 2nd place at the Onondaga Community College Performance Competition, and various other scholarships for excellence in performance and musicianship.

Mr. Garcia has attended masterclasses by composers and guitarists such as Grisha Goryachev, Andrea Gonzales Caballero, Mak Grgic and the renowned guitarist/composer Leo Brouwer.

Emilio Garcia holds an A.A.S Degree in Music from Onondaga Community College where he was instructed by renowned classical guitarist Kenneth Meyer, and a B.M. and M.M in music performance from the State University of New York at Fredonia under the instruction of guitarist Evan Drummond, where he also was a member of one of the university's flagship touring ensembles, The Fredonia Guitar Quartet.

Mr. Garcia currently has a thriving studio of private classical guitar students and has recently being accepted to the D.M.A. program at The Hartt School under the instruction of Christopher Ladd.

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iGUITARRA! is a program of the UMass Fine Arts Center, designed to engage audiences with the rich harmonic beauty of the classical guitar.

iGuitarra! Organizing Committee:

Ronna Erickson, Michael Sakamoto, Hillary Rathbun

SPECIAL THANKS to LeaMarie Suarez-Orozco, LaMar Cook of UMass Hotel, Jamilla Deria, Emma Messier & the FAC Box Office, Sean Conlon & FAC Operations, Anna Robbins, Kim Medeiros, James Moes, FAC Marketing and the FAC Business Office.

Program underwritten by Ronna Erickson.

UMassAmherst

Fine Arts Center

iGuitarra! Classical Guitar Series



*iGuitarra!*

Classical Guitar Series

Public Master Class with

**Berta Rojas**

Classical Guitarist

featuring

**Ronna Erickson**

**Gef Fisher**

**Emilio Garcia**

Sunday, March 6, 2022

10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art  
Amherst, Massachusetts 01002