



**Berta Rojas**, together with master guitarist **Carlos Barbosa-Lima**, presents the program **Alma y Corazón** (Heart and Soul) featuring music from Paraguay and Brazil, uniting the music of these two countries under the theme of kinship through music. This entertaining program has received many accolades, such as the following review recently published in Soundboard Magazine:

*Next to take the stage was the spectacular duo of Carlos Barbosa-Lima and Berta Rojas with a program of South American music. They brilliantly conveyed their love of this music and the audience was very enthusiastic. Barbosa-Lima's solo of his famous arrangement Aquarela do Brasil was dazzling, and Berta Rojas's solo of Barrios' Vals, Op. 8, No. 4, was magnificent. They thoroughly captivated the large crowd, which was on its feet many times, even before the encores. What a memorable concert!*

—David Bernard, Soundboard, Vol XXXVI, No 275

The collaboration between Rojas and Barbosa-Lima began on an unforgettable night in San Juan Bautista de Las Misiones, Paraguay. In that first performance the two artists were accompanied by legendary guitarist Andy Summers of The Police.

Following this performance, Carlos and Berta recorded the álbum **Alma y Corazón**, which in addition to great Brazilian classics like Tom Jobim's "Luiza" or Zequinha de Abreu's "Tico Tico" also brings forth fresh compositions from little known contemporary Paraguayan composers, such as Jorge Martínez's "Juego de Niño," works by Juan Carlos Moreno Gonzalez, like "Scherzo sobre la Sonrisa de un Niño," "Canto del Artista," and "Tres Aires Paraguayos" as well as Félix Pérez Cardozo's "El Sueño de Angelita." With these pieces, both the album and the duo's concert performances offer tribute to the beautiful music of Paraguay.

Alma y Corazón communicates the union of the artists' different passions and perspectives, allowing us to see that this collaboration thrives on the pleasure each guitarist feels in performing music that moves between jazz, classical, and diverse Latin American rhythms of Brazil and Paraguay. It also reflects their vibrant desire to expand and explore their musical horizons while paying tribute to the music of their homelands.

In this program Carlos & Berta have carefully put together a varied program performed with the talent and skill shared by their diverse musical styles, presented with their very own *alma y corazón*.

**Pieces featured in the program:**

<b>Juego De Niños</b>	Jorge Martínez
<b>Cavatina</b>	Stanley Myers
<b>Guantanamera</b>	Joseito Fernández
<b>Luiza</b>	Antonio Carlos Jobin
<b>Tico Tico</b>	Zequinha de Abreu
<b>Tres Aires Paraguayos</b>	Juan C. Moreno González

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## Berta Rojas

**Berta Rojas** is a guitarist who moves easily between classical and other genres of music. Whether working in collaboration, as with the legendary **Carlos Barbosa-Lima**, or as a soloist, Rojas has captivated music-lovers in the Americas, Europe, and Asia. Most notably, she has appeared at both the Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall and the Frederick P. Rose Hall, home of Jazz at Lincoln Center in New York. In 2004, she opened the International First Ladies Summit in Paraguay with special guest Hillary Rodham Clinton. Praised by the Washington Post as a "guitarist extraordinaire," and by London's Classical Guitar Magazine as "Ambassador of the Classical Guitar," her musicianship and warmth make her an audience favorite.

The Kennedy Center has recognized **Rojas'** artistic excellence by selecting her as a Fellow of the Americas for the Performing Arts. She holds a Masters Degree in Music from Baltimore's prestigious Peabody Conservatory.

Beyond her musical talents, **Rojas** is committed to supporting South American artists. She is currently working as the director of the Barrios WorldWideWeb Competition, the first international guitar competition to take place via YouTube. She also directs the Ibero-american Guitar Festival held annually in Washington DC.

Critics have spared no praise about the quality of her performances:

*90 minutes maintained at the highest level of performance and interpretation.*

Colin Cooper / Classical Guitar Magazine / October 07

*The performance Paraguayan guitarist Berta Rojas gives on this enterprising, very entertaining new release is top class from beginning to end. Her phenomenal seemingly effortless technical ability allows her the luxury of presenting some very difficult works with finesse and beauty.*

Steve Marsh / Classical Guitar Magazine / October 07

*Only once in a great while does a classical CD come along which is so impeccable in every aspect of professionalism –heart touching musical artistry, interesting repertoire, and excellent technical production. Paraguayan guitarist Berta Rojas' 'Cielo Abierto' is one of these.*

Jim McCutcheon / Soundboard / December 07

## Carlos Barbosa-Lima

As a twelve-year-old boy, **Carlos Barbosa-Lima** performed public concerts in his native San Paulo, Brazil. He developed his musical talents with the help of an exceptional teacher, Isafas Savio. In 1967, at the age of 22, **Barbosa-Lima** entered the international concert circuit with a brilliant U.S. debut. Since then, he has enjoyed a remarkable career as a guitarist and arranger. He credits his success to the wisdom of his teacher, Savio, and further guidance from the legendary Andrés Segovia.

In his music, **Barbosa-Lima** mixes old world roots with the vital rhythms of the new world. He interprets an exceptional repertoire that encompasses Scarlatti, Debussy, Gershwin, Antonio Carlos Jobim, Brubeck and many others. His fanciful arrangements, which integrate diverse styles, bring him devoted fans and critical accolades. Several noted modern composers have dedicated pieces to **Barbosa-Lima**, among them Alberto Ginastera, who wrote the Sonata Opus 47, a seminal work of guitar literature.

**Carlos Barbosa-Lima** has matured into an exceptional concert and recording artist. Today, he plays with some of the world's best orchestras and renowned classical and jazz musicians. He records and tours with the new generation of artists like **Berta Rojas**, and he remains a genial central figure at annual music festivals. In this way, he carries on in the lineage of his teachers, sharing his keen musical insight with the next generation.