



Guitar Soundings

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BERTA ROJAS

SCGS 2024-2025 INTERNATIONAL SERIES

All performances take place at the Illsley Ball Nordstrom Recital Hall at Benaroya Hall, 7:30 PM

Berta Rojas (Paraguay) • Saturday, May 3, 2025 7:30 PM



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Berta Rojas (Paraguay) • Saturday, May 3, 2025 7:30 PM

SCGS is thrilled to present Latin Grammy Award winner, **Berta Rojas**, in the final concert of the SCGS 2024-2025 International Concert Series. Dale Kavanagh was originally scheduled for this date but due to extremely lengthy delays processing work visas to the U. S. at the current time, we have had to reschedule Dale to a future concert series. We are extremely fortunate that Berta was available for the May 3rd concert date and are looking forward to her concert and master class.

Berta Rojas is recognized as one of the most influential women in the Hispanic World by EFE News Agency in 2014 and EsGlobal in 2017. She was named a Fellow of the Americas of the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts for her artistic excellence, and honored by her country with the title, Illustrious Ambassador of Musical Arts, granted by the Senate. In 2015, the Chamber of Deputies awarded her the National Order of Merit of the Comuneros, and the Cabildo of the capital, Asunción, the title of Master of the Arts. The Autonomous University of Encarnacion granted her an Honorary Doctorate in 2016 as did the Universidad Americana. The Foreign Ministry of Paraguay gave her the National Order

of Merit Don José Falcón in 2017 in acknowledgement for her outstanding contribution to culture. The Carlos Colombino Award bestowed by the National Secretariat of Culture followed suit. In 2019, the National University of Asunción also granted her an Honorary Doctorate. In 2022 she received the Golden Guitar Award: A Life Dedicated to the Guitar, bestowed by the Giuseppe Verdi Conservatory of Milan. More recently in 2023, she was awarded with the National Order of Merit in the Grade of "Grand Cross", the highest degree of recognition granted by Paraguay.

Berta's acknowledged warmth and musicality have won her the admiration of audiences at major venues worldwide. Among them are, the 92Y, the Weill Recital Hall of Carnegie Hall and the Fredrick P. Rose Hall of Jazz at the Lincoln Center in New York, the South Bank Centre of London, at Shakespeare's Globe in London as a guest of the grand master, John Williams, the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C., and Flagey Studio 4 in Brussels, where she performed with the Brussels Philharmonic Orchestra for Belgian National Television. In 2011, Berta, along with guest star Paquito D'Rivera, initiated the four-year tour "In the Footsteps of Mangoré" following the travels

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BERTA ROJAS ~ MASTER CLASS



BERTA ROJAS ~ MASTER CLASS INFORMATION

Sunday, May 4, 2025 - 10:00 AM - Brechemin Auditorium - UW School of Music

The Berta Rojas master class will be held on Sunday, May 4, 2025, at the University of Washington School of Music, in Brechemin Auditorium, at 10:00 AM. The master class is open to up to four performers, and open to all to audit. The performance fee is \$40 per soloist or ensemble. If you are interested in performing in the master class and/or applying to the David Marshall Scholarship Fund to cover the fee, please submit online [here](#) or send a completed application form (PDF or Email Text) to: SCGS@ seattleguitar.org.

Please note that there is a limit of one David Marshall Scholarship award per student for each season. Please also note that the scholarship application form is separate from the master class application form. If you are applying for a scholarship, please submit both applications before the deadline for the class.

The deadline to apply for both the master class and the David Marshall Scholarship is Friday, April 25, 2025. Selected players and scholarship recipients will be notified by Monday, April 28, 2025. The master class is open to auditors, and the fee to attend is \$10.00. University of Washington students may audit the class for free. There is no pre-registration necessary to audit master classes, and auditors may pay the fee at the door on the day of the class.

SCGS 2024-2025 INTERNATIONAL CONCERT SERIES

All performances take place at the Illsley Ball Nordstrom Recital Hall at Benaroya Hall, 7:30 PM

“...Berta Rojas, guitarist extraordinaire” –Mark Adamo (Washington Post)

< cont. fr. p. 2

of Paraguay's Agustín Barrios, pioneer of the classical guitar in the Americas. The duo performed in twenty countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, concluding the journey at the National Theater of the capital of El Salvador, the final resting place of the celebrated composer.

Berta was awarded a Latin Grammy for her album *Legado* (2022) in the category of Best Classical Album. The same album received another statuette for Best Contemporary Classical Contemporary Composition for *Anido's Portrait*, written by Sergio Assad. She has been nominated to the Latin Grammy on three other occasions: in the category of Best Tango Album for *History of Tango* (2015), recorded with the Camerata Bariloche; in the category of Best Classical Album for *Salsa Roja* (2014); and in the category of Best Instrumental Album for *Día y Medio – A Day and a Half*, a duo with Paquito D'Rivera (2012).

Berta takes her audience on a colorful journey of sound at each concert, embracing new works by composers in diverse genres. She is an Associate Professor at the Berklee College of Music in Boston, MA.



Berta Rojas: Saturday, May 3rd, 2025

Tickets on sale – see page 11 for order form or:

For information on purchasing tickets by mail, phone, online, and in person, please visit:
<http://www.seattleguitar.org/ics.htm>

Benaroya Hall Information:

The SCGS International Concert Series performances are held at [Benaroya Hall](#) (Illsley Ball Nordstrom Recital Hall) located at 200 University Street, Seattle, WA 98101-3428

Visit SCGS online at: www.seattleguitar.org

SCGS Membership and Member Renewals available online now!

(Go to the SCGS website and click “Join SCGS”. It's quick and easy!)

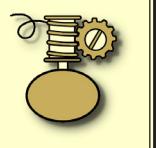
Donate Online to SCGS!

(Go to the SCGS website, click “Donations”, and then click the “Make a Donation Online” button.)

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<http://www.facebook.com/seattleclassicguitarsociety/>



OFFICE OF ARTS & CULTURE
SEATTLE



NOTICE OF CONCERT CHANGE - MAY 3, 2025



NOTICE OF CONCERT CHANGE

Seattle Classic Guitar Society International Series

Berta Rojas will step in for Dale Kavanagh to perform on May 3, 2025

Due to recent changes by the U.S. government resulting in extremely long approval and processing times for artist work visas, Canadian guitarist Dale Kavanagh will not be able to tour the United States this spring. We will reschedule her for a performance in a future concert series. The Seattle Classic Guitar Society is excited and honored to announce that the extraordinary, **Grammy Award-winning guitarist Berta Rojas will be stepping in to perform on the same date, May 3, 2025.**

If you have a ticket for Dale Kavanagh and are planning to attend the May 3rd performance with Berta Rojas, no action is needed. You may take your ticket to the Benaroya Box Office the evening of the concert and they will provide updated tickets to you.

If this updated artist lineup is not what you had hoped to attend, you may request a refund for the full value of your tickets by sending an email to scgs@seattleguitar.org



GIVEBIG 2025



April 22 to May 5: Early Giving

May 6-7: GiveBIG 48-hour campaign, ending on Wednesday, May 7 at midnight.

Each year, the Seattle Classic Guitar Society reaches out to diverse communities through concerts, master classes, a guitar orchestra, open mic performances, and educational outreach projects, with free opportunities available to partake in all of these programs. We so appreciate your support over the years, helping SCGS offer music and education to populations that might not be able to afford or have access to the arts.

GiveBIG Washington is a fund-raising event that starts with early giving on April 22, and culminates with a 48-hour public campaign on May 6-7. As in previous years, SCGS is taking part in GiveBIG this year. Any donation you make to SCGS through GiveBIG will help us reach our community involvement goals. Thank you in advance for your donation and for being a part of our mission.

GiveBIG 2025 SCGS Donation Link:

<https://www.wagives.org/organization/Seattle-Classic-Guitar-Society>

“Flowers are the music of the ground. From earth’s lips spoken without sound.”

—Edwin Curran

Dear friends of the SCGS,

It's that time of year again! The cherry blossoms are in full bloom here in the Pacific Northwest, and we're delighted to share that some wonderful springtime guitar concerts are coming your way!

The [Free Concerts at the Good Shepherd Center](#) have been graciously filling the Chapel Space with beautiful music on Saturday afternoons, bringing our community together in harmony. In March, the amazing duo of Melissa Schiel and Tamara Caulkins performed a beautiful recital of music by Fernando Sor, highlighting some lesser-known works and insights into the life of this famous 19th-century guitar composer. Tamara's 1830s guitar, crafted in Mirecourt, France, beautifully accompanied Melissa's mellifluous voice. Please join us on **May 31 at 2:00 pm** for a wonderful afternoon of guitar music with a free concert by Seattle-based classical guitarist, [Naeim Rahmani](#) at the Good Shepherd Center!

SCGS was thrilled to welcome the Los Angeles Guitar Quartet back in April! Their program, “From Bach to Brazil,” was a resounding success, bringing an unforgettable night of music to the Benaroya Hall stage. Some highlights included original compositions by LAGQ members Douglas Lora and William Kanengiser, transporting us through different historical periods and musical styles. Douglas's *Maracasalsa* beautifully blended a “Bacchian” model with traditional Brazilian rhythms, and William's Neo-Baroque *Air & Ground* led to an exciting finale that seamlessly transitioned into a lively bluegrass style.

We are delighted to announce that the [International Series at Benaroya Hall](#) will be wrapping up the 2024-2025 season with a special concert by the incredibly talented Paraguayan-born guitarist, [Berta Rojas](#), on Saturday, May 3, 2025, at 7:30 pm. Berta was awarded a Latin Grammy for her album *Legado* (2022) in the category of Best Classical Album, and she is an Associate Professor at the Berklee College of Music in Boston, MA. (Dale Kavanagh was originally scheduled to perform this concert date, but due to recent changes by the U.S. government, which have unfortunately resulted in extremely lengthy processing and approval times to secure a performer work visa, Dale is unable to perform in the U.S. this spring. We're planning to reschedule her for a future concert series, and we're really looking forward to having her back.)

We hope you'll join us for the [GiveBIG](#) 48-hour fundraising campaign on May 6–7! We truly appreciate your support over the years. Your generosity has helped SCGS offer music and education to populations that might not be able to afford or have access to the arts.

Thank you again for your continued support and enjoy the music!

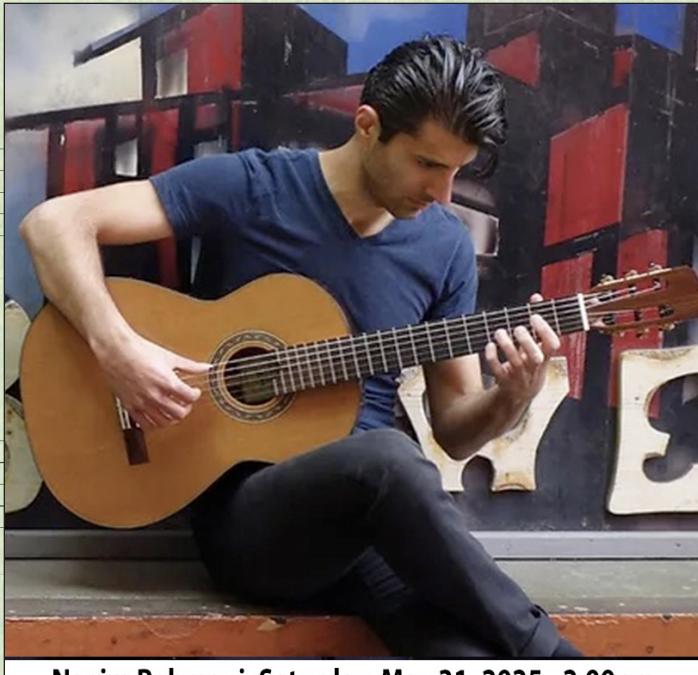
Best wishes to all,

Hilary

Hilary Field, Executive Director, SCGS



SCGS 2025 GOOD SHEPHERD FREE CONCERT SERIES



Naeim Rahmani: Saturday, May 31, 2025 - 2:00pm

FREE CONCERTS AT THE CHAPEL AT THE GOOD SHEPHERD CENTER!

The Seattle Classic Guitar Society is proud to present the 2024-2025 Free Concerts at the Chapel Series!

Please join us for these free concerts at the beautiful historic Chapel Space at the Good Shepherd Center, with a free parking lot in the lovely Wallingford neighborhood. The Chapel is located on the fourth floor of the Good Shepherd Center, accessible by elevator or stairs. These free concerts will be on Saturday afternoons at 2:00–3:00 PM.

Free tickets are available at the door the day of the concert. 4649 Sunnyside Ave. N., Seattle, WA 98103

For more info:

<https://www.seattleguitar.org/gsc.htm>

Naeim Rahmani: May 31, 2025





Diversity Resources by Ciyadh Wells
<http://www.ciyadhwells.com/resources>

Guitar Music by Black Composers
<http://guitarmusicbyblackcomposers.com/>

The Institute for Composer Diversity
<https://www.composerdiversity.com/>

Oxford Music Online
Women Composers by Time Period with Links
<https://www.oxfordmusiconline.com/page/women-composers-by-time-period>

Hildegard Publishing Company
Black Women Composers
https://www.hildegard.com/resources.php?page=afro_american

Music by Black Composers
<https://www.musicbyblackcomposers.org/resources/living-composers-directory/>

Boulanger Initiative - Women Composers
<https://www.boulangerinitiative.org/>

Early Music America
Resources for Diversity in Early Music Repertoire
<https://www.earlymusicamerica.org/resources/resources-for-diversity-in-early-music-repertoire/>





EVENTS CALENDAR

Events are also listed on our website: www.SeattleGuitar.org



Thursday, May 1, 7:30 PM, Bellevue, WA

Eastside Classical Guitar Open Mic

First Thursday of the month. Doors open at 7:00 PM, playing will begin at 7:30 PM and close by 9:30 PM. Coldwell Banker Bain Building on Bellevue Way SE, half a block south of Main Street. 150 Bellevue Way SE, Bellevue, WA 98004

Contact Maureen for more information.

Email: maureen@maureenrammell.com

Saturday, May 3, 7:30 PM, Seattle, WA

Berta Rojas in Concert

The Seattle Classic Guitar Society is proud to present Latin Grammy award-winner Berta Rojas in the 2024-2025 International Series at Benaroya Hall.

“One runs out of superlatives when writing about Berta Rojas, it has all been said before, countless times.” - Steve Marsh, Classical Guitar Magazine

Illsley Ball Nordstrom Recital Hall, Benaroya Hall

200 University Street, Seattle, WA 98101 \$45.00, \$35.00 students, seniors, SCGS members. For more information and tickets, please visit <https://www.seattleguitar.org/ics.htm>

Sunday, May 4, 10:00 AM, Seattle, WA

Berta Rojas Master Class

Brechemin Auditorium - UW School of Music

The master class is open to performers and auditors, and the fee to attend is \$10.00. University of Washington students may audit the class for free. There is no pre-registration necessary to audit master classes, and auditors may pay the fee at the door on the day of the class. The fee for soloists and ensembles to perform is \$40. Scholarships to cover the fee are available. Deadline to apply: Friday, April 25, 2025. <https://www.seattleguitar.org/masterclasses.htm>

Wednesday, May 7, 12:30 PM, Seattle WA

University of Washington students of Michael Partington will perform a program of chamber music in the North Allen Library on the UW campus featuring guitar with flute, violin and saxophone. Admission is free, for more information visit: <https://music.washington.edu/upcoming>

Friday, May 9, 8:00 PM, Seattle, WA

Michael Nicolella performs Tom Baker’s piece “Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Glacier” for guitar, mezzo-soprano,

alto flute, viola and tenor saxophone with Kin of the Moon on the Wayward Music Series at the Good Shepherd Chapel in Wallingford, 4649 Sunnyside Ave. N. Seattle WA, 98103, admission \$5-\$20 sliding scale. For more info: <https://www.waywardmusic.org>

Tuesday, May 20, 6:00–8:00 PM, West Seattle, WA

Unplugged! - An open mic without a mic!

New Start Time!

C&P Coffee Company, 5612 California Ave. SW, Seattle, 98136. A wonderful place for amateurs, professionals & budding musicians, to come share their music & listen to the music of others. 3rd Tuesday of each month. For more information contact Brian: briandunbar54@gmail.com

Friday, May 23, 7:30 PM, Seattle WA

University of Washington students of Michael Partington will perform a program of chamber music in Brechemin Auditorium, UW School of Music, featuring guitar with flute, violin and saxophone. Admission is free, for more information visit: <https://music.washington.edu/upcoming>

Friday, May 30, 8:00 PM, Seattle, WA

Michael Nicolella performs with the Seattle Symphony “100 Years of Epic Film Scores” at Taper Auditorium, Benaroya Hall, 3rd and Union downtown Seattle. Info and Tickets: <https://www.seattlesymphony.org/>

Saturday, May 31, 2:00 PM, Seattle, WA

Naeim Rahmani in Concert, Free

The Seattle Classic Guitar Society is proud to present Naeim Rahmani in a free concert at the Chapel Space at Good Shepherd Center. Good Shepherd Center, 4649 Sunnyside Ave N, Seattle, WA 98103

<https://www.seattleguitar.org/gsc.htm>

Saturday, May 31, 8:00 PM, Seattle, WA

Michael Nicolella performs with the Seattle Symphony “100 Years of Epic Film Scores” at Taper Auditorium, Benaroya Hall, 3rd and Union downtown Seattle. Info and Tickets: <https://www.seattlesymphony.org/>



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> Events Calendar continued from p. 8

Sunday, June 1, 2:00 PM, Seattle, WA

Michael Nicolella performs with the Seattle Symphony “100 Years of Epic Film Scores” at Taper Auditorium, Benaroya Hall, 3rd and Union downtown Seattle. Info and Tickets: <https://www.seattlesymphony.org/>

Tuesday, June 3, 7:30 PM, Bellevue, WA

Bellevue College Guitar Program presents **Eva Beneke** in concert. Carlson Theatre at Bellevue College. 3000 Landerholm Circle SE, Bellevue, WA 98007. For more info and tickets: <https://studentweb.bellevuecollege.edu/guitarclub/>

Thursday, June 5, 7:30 PM, Bellevue, WA

Eastside Classical Guitar Open Mic

First Thursday of the month. Doors open at 7:00 PM, playing will begin at 7:30 PM and close by 9:30 PM. Coldwell Banker Bain Building on Bellevue Way SE, half a block south of Main Street. 150 Bellevue Way SE, Bellevue, WA 98004

Contact Maureen for more information.

Email: maureen@maureenrammell.com

Tuesday, June 17, 6:00–8:00 PM, West Seattle, WA

Unplugged! ~ An open mic without a mic!

New Start Time!

C&P Coffee Company, 5612 California Ave. SW, Seattle, 98136. A wonderful place for amateurs, professionals & budding musicians, to come share their music & listen to the music of others. 3rd Tuesday of each month. For more information contact Brian: briandunbar54@gmail.com

Monthly:

First Friday of the month, 6:00–6:30 PM, Seattle, WA

Mark Hilliard Wilson plays music for meditation at St. James

Cathedral. Livestreamed:

St. James Vimeo page: vimeo.com/stjamescathedral

St. James Facebook page: facebook.com/stjamesseattle



NORTHWEST GUITAR FEST NEWS

Next year's 2026 Northwest Guitar Fest will take place in Victoria, B.C., Canada, March 20th-22nd with Simon Farintosh as director.

The winners of the 2025 Northwest Guitar Fest adult competition were:

1st: Catherine Huo

2nd: Austin Culler

3rd Misha Smirnov

4th: Jesse Marshall



Congratulations everyone!!!

Submit items for the Newsletter & Events Calendar at: SCGSNewsletter@hotmail.com Submission deadline for the July/August issue is June 12th, 2025. For articles, space is limited, no guarantee of inclusion, articles subject to board approval and editing.



CLASSICAL GUITAR OPEN MICS

UNPLUGGED! - AT THE C & P COFFEE COMPANY

An open mic (without a mic) in the cozy C&P Coffee Company in West Seattle.

WHEN: 3rd Tuesday of each month, 6:00-8:00 PM.

WHERE: C&P Coffee Company, 5612 California Ave. SW, West Seattle, 98136.

WHY: Practice Performing. Share Your Joy.

QUESTIONS: Contact Brian Dunbar at:

briandunbar54@gmail.com.

LAKE STEVENS OPEN MIC

Last Thursday of each month 7:00–9:00 PM

Lake Country Baptist Church

8830 8th St SE, Lake Stevens, WA 98258

(It's a portable building in the back of the parking lot.)

Contact person – Filipp: <https://www.snohomishguitar.com/>

EASTSIDE CLASSICAL GUITAR OPEN MIC

New Host and Location!

First Thursday of the month. Doors open at 7:00 PM, playing will begin at 7:30 PM and close by 9:30 PM. Come on down if you can!!! There is plenty of parking. I am asked by management to emphasize that only the main front doors are to be open for access. I'll have it clearly marked. We are in the Coldwell Banker Bain Building on Bellevue Way SE just half a block south of Main Street. 150 Bellevue Way SE, Bellevue, WA 98004

Maureen O'Reilly

Email: maureen@maureenrammell.com



Submit items for the Newsletter & Events Calendar at:

SCGSNewsletter@hotmail.com Submission deadline for the July/August issue is June 12th, 2025. For articles, space is limited, no guarantee of inclusion, articles subject to board approval and editing.



Seattle Classic Guitar Society

A nonprofit organization promoting the art of the classic guitar in the Puget Sound area.

Board of Directors:

Kindred Ritchie – Chair, President

Bill Clements – Vice President

Elizabeth Brown – Treasurer

Stella Kosim – Operations Manager

Jessica Papkoff – Newsletter Editor

Executive Director:

Hilary Field

For more information contact us at:

SCGS

P.O. Box 30167

Seattle, WA 98113

E-mail: SCGS@seattleguitar.org

Phone: 206-365-0845

Website: www.SeattleGuitar.org

Board meetings are monthly, 2nd Monday, 7-9pm. SCGS members may attend by contacting SCGS (see above) to confirm location.

Donations are gladly accepted and are tax deductible; SCGS is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

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P.O. Box 30167



Seattle Classic Guitar Society



Seattle Classic Guitar Society Membership Application

Yes! I want to help support the Classic Guitar in Puget Sound!

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

Please indicate if you are a new or renewing member and membership type. Memberships are for 1 year. Donations are greatly appreciated. All donations are separate from the membership amount and are fully tax-deductible. Donations and Memberships may also be made online at: www.seattleguitar.org.

Membership:

New Member
 Renewal
 \$20 Student/Senior
 \$25 Individual
 \$40 Couple

Donations:

\$50 Friend
 \$100 Contributor
 \$250 Benefactor
 \$500 Patron
 Other amount: \$_____

My employer will match my donation!

(Please enclose matching gift form or use your employer's online process.)

What does membership do for me?

Membership in the SCGS gives you discounts on tickets to the International Concert Series, a one-year subscription to Guitar Soundings newsletter, notification of events via mail and email. Your support also helps us to bring the finest international artists to perform in the Seattle area, educational outreach in schools, open mics and support for local artists year after year.

Please send your check or money-order, made payable to SCGS, to:

P.O. Box 30167, Seattle, WA 98113

Email: scgs@seattleguitar.org | Website: www.seattleguitar.org