

John Hughes, proprietor OR Liz Friedman, proprietor
Gardner Farm Inn Green Room Artist Development, LLC
tel: (917) 509-5110 tel: (518) 221-3485 e-mail: Liz@GreenRoomArtistDevelopment.net

Strumming from A to Z ... A Guitar Intensive at The Gardner Farm Inn

Friday Evening November 17th thru Sunday Noon November 19th 2017

at

Gardner Farm Inn

59 Brunswick Rd, Troy NY 12180

This special guitar intensive weekend of strummed instrument activities includes a guitar social, master led discussion and demonstrations, one-on-one instructional sessions, a salon concert, and more at the [Gardner Farm Inn](#). The **Master Artists** leading the weekend activities are guitarist **Scott Hill** and charango player **Carlos Boltes** of the [Alturas Duo](#), whose focus is the South American folk tradition as well as the contemporary classical, and [Maria Zemantauski](#), a nylon-string guitarist and composer whose style is heavily influenced by Spanish classical and flamenco music and dance.

Strumming from A to Z At-A-glance

Friday (Nov. 17th):

- 4pm - 7pm Guest Check-In at Gardner Farm Inn
Dinner on Your Own (Explore Troy)
- 8pm Social Event w/music - "getting to know you" Guitar Jam

Saturday (Nov. 18th):

- 8:00 AM Breakfast
- 9:00 AM Master Artist led Discussion & Demonstration (1.5 hour) - topic tbd
- 10:30 AM Late Morning Individual (One-on-One) Sessions (45 minutes each)
- 12:15 PM Lunch on Your Own (suggest enjoying downtown Troy)
- 1:00 PM Afternoon Individual (One-on-One) Sessions (45 minute each)
- 4:00 PM Informance (Open to public) at St Paul's Episcopal
- 5:30 PM On Your Own Time
- 7:00 PM Gardner Farm Inn Guitar Soiree featuring Alturas Duo & Maria Zemantauski
- 8:00 PM Buffet Dinner with South American/Spanish wines

Sunday (Nov. 19th):

- 9:00 AM Breakfast
- 10:00 AM Participants Performance & Feedback Session (done by noon)
- 12 noon Check out is usually by 11, but is extended for participants

This musical weekend intensive is designed to bring together guitar and other plucked string enthusiasts to explore the world of Flamenco and South American strumming in a fun, friendly, and music-loving setting. While participants spots are limited, all are encouraged to inquire regardless of proficiency level. As the Gardner Farm Inn is a bed and breakfast with five guest rooms a number of participants can eliminate their travel time to immerse themselves in their passion with the Gardner Farm Inn's signature warm hospitality. For those more close by who are interested in the guitar gathering and talking about

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strings and strummings and learning from the weekend's masters, you will want to be sure to register for each day's slate of activities. To participate in the full weekend, advanced registration* is required and can be made via the Special Event page of the Gardner Farm Inn's website: GardnerFarmInn.com Inquiries may also be made by telephone by calling the Gardner Farm Inn at **(917) 509-5110**.

**Once registration is made it is considered a final sale and is non-refundable.*

Strumming from A to Z is a collaboration between John Hughes, proprietor of Gardner Farm Inn, and Liz Friedman of Green Room Artist Development, LLC. Friedman is an artist manager who specializes in artist development for performers (classical, jazz, and world music) and composers and also curates the classical music website HudsonSounds.org.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS:

Maria Zemantauski is a nylon-string guitarist and composer whose style is heavily influenced by Spanish classical and flamenco music and dance. She has performed in Spain, Italy and across the continental United States to great acclaim. Her albums, *Mrs. Laughinghouse* (1997), *Seeing Red* (2000), *Under the Lemon Tree* (2005), and *Petty Feet & Mistletoe* (2010), have received stellar reviews from music critics around the world.

Maria's programs are a dynamic blend of artistic freedom, innovation and tradition. This is not surprising considering that as a child, she resisted guitar lessons, telling her encouraging parents that she wanted to "discover the instrument on her own without being told what to do." As one reviewer wrote, "Zemantauski has continually pushed the boundaries of the possible with her trusty 6-string, blending genres that have little or no business appearing on the same bill, much less in the same song. It's rarely less than electrifying to watch her do it." She believes that the expressive possibilities of the guitar are limitless and pursues her music with passion, confidence and grace.

With a Masters Degree in Cultural Anthropology, Maria Zemantauski is a relentless promoter of the arts as a vital educational component and an integral part of society. She is highly regarded for combining both performance and sociocultural analysis and is a frequent guest lecturer at colleges and universities nationwide, including the University of San Francisco, University of California at Santa Cruz, Eastman School of Music, Ithaca College School of Music, St. Lawrence University, California State University at San Marcos and The University of Kentucky at Lexington. Her music can also be heard in the award-winning documentary, *Radical Harmonies*, an historical perspective of Women's Music Festivals and *The Heretics* a documentary film about the Women's Art Movement of the 1970's in the USA.

Maria performs extensively as a soloist or with her ensemble, "Alegria," which has been described as an "elegantly understated global music ensemble." She is also a founding member of "GX3+" trio. Maria has been the Coordinator of Cultural Affairs at Hudson Valley Community College in Troy, NY since 2004 and is also on the faculty in the college's Department of Fine Art, Theater Art & Digital Media.

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Praised by *The Washington Post* as playing with “marvelous virtuosity,” **Alturas Duo** is recognized as one of the most engaging ensembles performing chamber music today. Bringing together the worlds of South American folk, western classical, and contemporary music, guitarist **Scott Hill** and violist and charango player **Carlos Boltes** have performed throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe, as well as Central and South America, to great acclaim. Christopher Zimmerman, Music Director of The Fairfax Symphony, notes: Scott Hill and Carlos Boltes as “the Alturas Duo are the quintessential 21st century artists.”

With its unusual combination of viola, charango, and guitar; Alturas Duo creates spirited and passionate programs that move with ease between the Baroque of Bach, South American melodies and rhythms learned through the oral tradition, and new repertoire written specifically for the duo. Their performances oscillate from the beautiful and serene to strong and pulsating, taking audiences on a journey to new musical heights and to earn Alturas Duo numerous awards from First Prize at the New England International Chamber Music Competition 2006 to the 2010 CMA/ASCAP Award for Adventurous Programming.

Their quest for new musical experiences has led Alturas Duo to exciting performances with artists and ensembles as diverse as guitarist and composer Horacio Salinas, charango virtuoso Ernesto Cavour, flutist Nicole Esposito, quena virtuoso Marcelo Peña, pianist Polly Ferman, Argentine bandoneón legend and Piazzolla bandmate Daniel Binelli, the chamber choir Voce, the Washington Choral Arts Society, and Fairfax Symphony Orchestra. When joined by Andean woodwind specialist and flutist Gonzalo Cortes, the Alturas Duo becomes the Elqui Trio allowing additional textures and exploration of other musical dimensions. The Alturas Duo also collaborates with French soprano and pianist Alexandra Aubert as the ADAA Trio.

As their instrumentation is quite unique, Alturas Duo works regularly with composers to broaden the repertoire and expand possibilities. This has led to 50+ additions to the repertoire featuring the guitar, viola, and/or charango in chamber music settings as well as works for the choral and orchestral worlds. Collaborations with composers include Ronald Pearl, Thomas Schuttenhelm, David Macbride, Dan Román, José Lezcano, Javier Farías, and Raimundo Penaforte to name a few. Some of the most significant works Alturas Duo has commissioned and premiered include Farías’ *Oceana* (for guitar, viola, charango, and mixed chorus) and *El Vuelo de tu Alma* (for guitar and charango, alt. with string orchestra), David Macbride’s *No mas muertes*, and Ronald Pearl’s *The Places We Left Behind* (for guitar and viola).

Their work with such performers and composers has had the Alturas Duo performing in venues and for presenters such as Carnegie Hall, Merkin Hall, Symphony Space, the Smithsonian Institute, the Historic Asolo Theater, Le Petit Trianon (CA), La Maison de Mai (Paris), the 34th International Viola Congress, La Guitarra California, and Music Mountain.

The 2017-18 concert season has Alturas Duo maintaining a busy schedule of performances, master classes and lectures as well as premiering pieces by Ronald Pearl, Javier Contreras, Russell Nadel, Joshua Hummel, and Javier Farías. In addition to their ongoing work with the Elqui and ADAA trios,

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Alturas Duo will be performing with Cuarteto Latinoamericano to premiere *Suite Folklorica Argentina* by Esteban d'Antona.

Alturas has been recorded for release on the Briosio, Con Brio, and Ravello Records (PARMA) labels in addition to its collaboration with Joseph Holt and the Choral Arts Society of Washington for an award winning release of a collection of works by the celebrated Argentinian composer Ariel Ramírez, including *Misa Criolla*, for Naxos.

The Alturas Duo was founded in 2001 while Carlos Boltes and Scott Hill were pursuing their graduate studies at the Hartt School of Music. In addition to its performing and commissioning work, Alturas Duo embraces its role as educators and music advocates with students in elementary school to university level and beyond. At various points during its history, Alturas Duo has had the pleasure to serve as a "Goodwill Ambassador" for the Chilean-American Foundation and as Artist-in-Residence for Intake Music in Stamford (CT), an organization that promotes music education through multiculturalism, with the goal of incorporating native South American instruments into different styles of music. The name Alturas, Spanish for "heights," is derived from the poem "Alturas de Macchu Picchu" by the Chilean poet Pablo Neruda.

The natural affability of violist Carlos Boltes and guitarist Scott Hill set a friendly and spirited tone to the concert, presented in one gallery of Mexico-Arte Museum. The pair did what audiences expect today in an intimate and informal chamber music setting: engage with brief and lively explanations and stories about their repertoire, their journey as musicians, the Andean charangos Boltes plays in addition to the viola.... Of course, their expressive virtuosity also resulted in a sparkling concert.

---Jeanne Claire van Ryzin, Austin360.com

Carlos Boltes was born in Santiago, Chile where he began his musical studies by learning the charango from his brother Giovanni Vaccani, later mastering that instrument while touring extensively throughout South America as a member of the Chilean group Barrocco Andino. He earned his bachelor's degree from the Universidad Catolica de Chile and a master's degree from Carnegie Mellon University, both in viola performance. His main teachers have been: Enrique López, Atar Arad, and Larry Dutton. Mr. Boltes has served as Principal Violist of the Orquesta de Cámara del Teatro Municipal de Santiago and Connecticut Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra. He has recorded for Naxos, Briosio, and CBS Records. Mr. Boltes has been a recipient of the Boston Fund Individual Artist Fellowship and an Andes Foundation

Performance Grant. In 2010, he received the Connecticut 2010 "Latino de Oro" award. In addition to his work with the Alturas Duo, Elqui and ADAA trios, Mr. Boltes teaches privately and is on the faculty of the Mancera Festival in Valdivia, Chile.

A native of Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada, **Scott Hill** has performed with orchestras, choirs, instrumentalists and vocalists throughout Canada, United States, Europe, and South America as a soloist and chamber musician. He has most recently premiered music for solo guitar by Javier Farías and Masatora Goya as well as works for guitar and voice by Thomas Schuttenhelm and Maxim Vladimiroff

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and music for guitar and flute by Arthur Hernandez. Scott Hill has performed in master classes for some of today's finest musicians including Oscar Ghiglia, John Williams, and the Miami String Quartet. He is a Canada Council for the Arts grant recipient. In addition to Hill's work with the Alturas Duo, Elqui and ADAA trios, he is a Play USA Carnegie Hall Teaching Artist through his work with the INTAKE organization, and maintains a private teaching studio in Avon, CT. Mr. Hill earned an Honours Bachelor of Arts degree in music from Lakehead University and a Master's Degree in Guitar Performance and a Graduate Professional Diploma in chamber performance from the Hartt School of Music.

ABOUT THE GARDNER FARM INN:

The history of **Gardner Farm Inn** dates back to the 1700's when Stephen Van Rensselaer deeded a tract of land in Rensselaerwyck, then Brunswick, now a part of Troy, to Asa Gardner. Gardner and his wife Helen made their livelihood on the fertile soils of Rensselaer County. Asa Gardner died in 1821; Helen sold the farm, which changed hands twice before being purchased by John Sampson in 1836.

John Sampson was a prominent business man in New York City of the firm of Tisdale & Sampson, hardware dealers. In 1836 he retired from active business and came to Troy and bought the old Gardner farm on the Brunswick road, which was one of the handsomest residences in the vicinity. Sampson was successful in his business and accumulated a comfortable property, leaving a good estate for those days at his death. He died in the city of New York, March 2, 1844; his widow survived him until November, 1868.

Upon her death, son Albert Augustus Sampson modernized the family homestead, bringing the kitchen from the basement to the main level, adding a new formal dining room, bedrooms and servants quarters. While the original house was built in the Federal style, the modernization included aspects of Greek Revival and Italianate style, popular in the second half of the nineteenth century.

Early on, a tunnel was dug under the Brunswick Road to the Poestenkill River, directing fresh water to a cistern in the basement. This fresh water was used for cooking and bathing, a luxury at the time. Though undocumented, the Gardner Farm is believed to be a safe house on the Underground Railroad, with the tunnel being used to help enslaved fugitives while on their journey to freedom. Later the tunnel was used again, to help smuggle alcohol during Prohibition.

The property remained a single family home. In the 1960's, it was purchased by Herbert Fadeley, then President and Chairman of Troy Savings Bank. The Fadeley's raised their family here until 1986 when they sold the home to the ARC of Rensselaer County as a home for people with disabilities. The ARC maintained the residence until 2015 when it was purchased by John Hughes, and the old Gardner Farm was reborn.