

Christopher Barber

Open Windows

Barber, a native of upstate New York, is a guitarist, composer and music educator based in Vienna. His music is many-faceted and yet highly personal, bringing together a wealth of influences and experiences to make a distinctive artistic statement.

"I wanted to do a CD using only the nylon-string guitar. Years before I moved to Europe, when I was studying music in the USA, I learned classical guitar. Although I've played all kinds of music, often using electric guitars, this instrument has remained my preference," comments Christopher Barber. "Open Windows focuses on my own compositions. Most of the eleven tracks gravitate between worlds that are usually fenced in using categories like 'Jazz' or 'Classical'. But music flows like water, and it can just as well be described with words like 'earthy' or 'conceptual'. I hope that the four pieces by other composers will help listeners as points of orientation." Heitor Villa-Lobos and Antônio Carlos Jobim, both of whom have had a profound influence on Barber's music and his approach to the guitar, are certainly familiar to anyone interested in the music of Brazil. The Cuban Leo Brouwer - he recently celebrated his eightieth birthday and is still going strong - creates works combining compositional rigor with a refreshing openness to the sounds of our time. Finally, Sidney Bechet's Petite Fleur pays homage to the great African-American musical heritage that Barber grew up with in the USA.

Open Windows is available on all major digital distribution platforms. Yet acquiring the lovingly produced CD is recommendable, especially on account of the informative booklet text (English/German). Here Christopher Barber writes about his personal motivations, inspirations and experiences while shedding light on the cultures and traditions behind the music.

"The pieces of music I love most are open windows - for the ears, for the mind."



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ATS RECORDS

OPEN WINDOWS
Christopher Barber

Tracklisting

01. All I Got (4:03)
02. Raining Thinking South (4:20)
03. Sonata (3:35)
04. Étude #8 (4:00)
05. Aventureira (3:21)
06. Preludio Epigramatico #4 (1:43)
07. For L. B. (2:54)
08. Goldzahn (2:05)
09. Corcovado (3:18)
10. Petite Fleur (2:37)
11. Waiting for Liz (3:19)



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| Release Date | A: | 27/05/19 |
| | D: | 27/05/19 |
| | USA, Japan: | 07/05/19 |
| Format | | CD |
| Catalog Number | | CD-0930 |
| File Under: | | Jazz, Classical |



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