

# Ben Barron

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## Spirit Of the Guitar

This album is a collection of some of the most well-known and beloved pieces in the guitar repertoire. All of the pieces on this album are close to my heart. The title, "Spirit of the Guitar," expresses the importance of these pieces to me.

With the exception of "Jazz Sonatina" and my own piece "Ode to Christopher," the works on this album were ones that I heard as a child and inspired me to play the guitar. They are some of the greatest works ever written for the guitar, and, in my opinion, it is no accident that they were written by composers from Spain, Brazil, Paraguay and Cuba. The guitar is an integral part of the Latin culture and, in turn, the very sound of the guitar as it is today owes its roots to this culture.

Now as to the exceptions: The Jazz Sonatina was written by brilliant Yugoslavian guitarist/composer Dusan Bogdanovic with whom I studied. He composed this great concert piece in 1992, which was during the time I studied with him and I learned it for the first time from the original manuscript written in his hand. I composed the piece here entitled "Ode to Christopher" when my brother John Christopher Barron (1960-2006) passed away suddenly. I was so grief-stricken that I felt a need to express my sorrow by writing a piece that reminded me of him. This CD is dedicated to my brother in loving memory.

## About Ben Barron

Guitarist Ben Barron is a native of Northern California. Growing up in a musical family, Ben began his piano studies at age 5 and at age 9 began his passion with playing the guitar. Ben joined his father and brothers in musical performances starting at age 10, played the guitar professionally throughout his teens, and also began studying with renowned guitarist Rey DeLaTorre during this period.

Ben is a graduate of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music from which he holds a Bachelor of Music degree and a Master's in Classical Guitar Performance. At the Conservatory he studied Twentieth Century guitar compositions with David Tanenbaum and Dusan Bogdanovic, and later worked with master guitarist, George Sakellariou.

Ben's solo guitar CD "20th Century Romantics" was heralded as a "fine disc" by Classical Guitar Magazine. Ben is active as a teacher and a performer in the San Francisco Bay Area and has performed live on television and radio. In addition to teaching and performing, Ben is completing "The Very Best of Joe Pass" a book of over 25 solos transcribed by Ben and guitarist Warren Haskell.

### Contact

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## Select Quotes

- "Listening to Barron is like going on a journey with a trustworthy guide. He plays with tremendous panache."  
- **Classical Guitar Magazine**
- "A fine guitarist."  
- **Guitar Review**
- "The Wynton Marsalis of the guitar."  
- **Dusan Bogdanovic, guitarist, composer**
- "A formidable talent who possesses both an ear and a gift for the guitar."  
- **Rey De La Torre, virtuoso guitarist**
- "If you are interested in hearing the classical guitar in the tradition of Miguel Llobet or Rey De La Torre, Ben (Barron) is the one to hear. Having worked and known both Miguel and Rey, I say bravo, Ben!"  
- **Joaquin Nin-Culmell, composer, professor emeritus, U.C. Berkeley Music, Department Chair**
- "Ben combines wonderful musicality with exceptional technique."  
- **George Sakellariou, virtuoso guitarist**