

# Press release

## LIAT COHEN VALSE

Barrios • Piazzolla • Tansman

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### *VALS - Dance, Passion, and Poetry*

This album offers a sensitive journey into the heart of the classical guitar's many faces, where the waltz is reinvented across cultures and eras. **From Latin America to Europe, each piece explores a unique way of making the instrument sing, balancing intimate pulses with virtuous energy.**

Written specifically for the guitar—or deeply rooted in its musical language—these works reveal the richness of a writing style that blends polyphony, tonal color, and natural phrasing. As a miniature orchestra, the guitar displays its full capacity to suggest melodic lines, harmony, and rhythm simultaneously.

**The spellbinding rhythms of Brazil and Argentina—from Tico-Tico to Piazzolla, whose incisive and syncopated writing makes the dance vibrate with an almost orchestral tension—meet the luminous delicacy of Antonio Lauro's Venezuelan waltzes and the poetic depth of Agustín Barrios and Heitor Villa-Lobos.**

Alongside these worlds are the elegant and structured lines of Alexandre Tansman, where clarity dialogues with a subtle modernity, as well as the lyrical and idiomatic singing of Francisco Tárrega, who shaped the very soul of the romantic guitar.

With Roland Dyens and Nikita Koshkin, the guitar enters a more contemporary sonic theater: free-spirited virtuosity, sharp contrasts, and bold textures. In Koshkin's work, based on the poem by Edgar Allan Poe, the composition becomes almost narrative, woven with shadows, tensions, and unexpected colors.

**Dancing, melancholic, fiery, or dreamy, the waltz becomes a common thread here—a breath that traverses' styles and continents.**

The guitar becomes, by turns, an orchestra, an inner voice, and pure movement, inviting the listener into an experience that is both intimate and vibrant.



LISTEN



## Liat Cohen, Guitar

“Liat Cohen’s guitar is to music what a beating heart is to life.” *Le Monde*

“A dazzling guitarist.” *Paris Match*

“Stunning!” *France 3*

“Liat Cohen leans lovingly over her guitar, drawing from it tears, storms, and tenderness.” *Crescendo Magazine*

Liat Cohen gave her first recitals at the age of 14. Dubbed the “Princess of the Classical Guitar,” her playing is celebrated as inventive, sensual, and virtuosic. The first guitarist to be awarded the Nadia Boulanger Prize by the Fondation de France, Liat also earned a First Prize from the Conservatoire de Paris (unanimously and with honors), as well as a “Concert Diploma” from the Schola Cantorum and an “Execution Diploma” from the École Normale de Musique de Paris, both awarded unanimously and with the jury’s highest praise. She is also a prize winner of numerous international competitions.

Recognized as one of the world’s leading guitarists by *Guitare Magazine* (France) and *Classical Guitar Magazine* (UK), Liat performs across all five continents. Her magnetic stage presence and her noble, lyrical tone—underpinned by a profound mastery of the instrument—serve as a source of inspiration for many contemporary composers. As the dedicatee of numerous concertos and solo works, she recorded a portion of this repertoire on the album *Concertos*, released by Warner Classics. Also under the Warner Classics label, she released the double album *Virtuosi* with the Talich Quartet. Her performances with the Prazak Quartet and the Talich Chamber Orchestra have been broadcast by Mezzo TV, and her DVD *A Guitar in Prague* was awarded the prestigious *Opus d’Or*.

With a discography of fifteen albums, each presenting an original musical landscape, Liat continuously expands the repertoire of her instrument. *Rio-Paris* (Warner Classics) is an unusual journey into the heart of Brazilian classical music, created alongside Natalie Des-say, Agnès Jaoui, and Helena Noguerra. This quartet

of performers distills their talents through the most beautiful works of the Brazilian repertoire, reaching rare heights for a classical guitar album: it hit number one across all categories and spent several months at the top of the classical charts, receiving extensive media coverage. This success led to performances at the operas of Rouen, Marseille, Reims, Limoges, Paris, Metz, Clermont-Ferrand, Saint-Étienne, and the legendary Olympia in Paris.

In her album *Madrid-Paris* (Warner Classics), she is joined by opera stars Rolando Villazón, Sandrine Piau, and Charles Castronovo. Liat collaborates with world-renowned conductors and orchestras, including the Orchestre National de Lorraine, the Orchestre National de Provence, the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, the Israel Chamber Orchestra, the Bern Symphony Orchestra, the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, and the Istanbul State Symphony Orchestra.

She graces the world’s most prestigious stages: Prague’s Rudolfinum, Radio-France, Théâtre du Châtelet, Palais des Beaux-Arts in Brussels, Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, Círculo de Bellas Artes in Madrid, Palazzo Barberini in Rome, the Opera of Limoges, the Arsenal in Metz, Salle Cortot, the National Theatre of Costa Rica, the Montpellier Opera, and the Skirball Cultural Center in Los Angeles. She is also a regular guest at international festivals such as Gstaad, Montpellier, Buenos Aires, London, Melilla, Córdoba, and Cap Ferret.

Both muse and musician, she relentlessly explores and transcends her repertoire. Her projects include transcriptions of J.S. Bach’s works, which she recorded at Mont-Saint-Michel Abbey during her residency, recordings featured on the album *Liat Cohen Plays Bach*.

# Programme



## ZEQUINHA DE ABREU WALDIR AZEVEDO

1. Tico-Tico Brasileiro 3'53

## ASTOR PIAZZOLLA

2. Libertango 2'31

Edmundo Carneiro - *percussions*

## ANTONIO LAURO

3. La Negra 2'32

## ROLAND DYENS

4. Tango en Skai 2'56

## ANTONIO LAURO

5. Valse Venezolano n.2 1'19

6. Valse Venezolano n.3 1'58

## AGUSTIN BARRIOS

7. Valse op.8 n.4 4'13

## ROLAND DYENS

8. Fuoco 4'31

## ASTOR PIAZZOLLA

9. Primavera Portena Tango 6'36

## ALEXANDRE TANSMAN

10. Valse Caprice 1'45

11. Valse Romantique 4'06

## AGUSTIN BARRIOS

12. Primavera Valse 5'35

## HEITOR VILLA-LOBOS

13. Valse-Choro 4'04

## MANUEL M.PONCE

14. Valse 2'29

## FERNANDO SOR

15. Walzer No.1 2'10

16. Walzer No.4 3'12

## FRANCISCO TARREGA

17. Grande Valse 3'01

## NIKITA KOSHKIN

18. Usher Valse 6'54

Total time: 63'56

Recorded in December 2025

at Eshel Sound Studios

Sound engineer: Rafi Eshel

Label manager: Maël Perrigault

Photos: Avshalom Levi

Bar photo: Yuval Chen

Liat plays a Paco Santiago

Marin guitar with SAVAREZ strings.



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