

**SRO Artists, Inc.**

<http://www.sroartists.com> | [gigs@sroartists.com](mailto:gigs@sroartists.com)

PHONE: (608) 664.8160

FAX: (608) 664.8161

**PROGRAM NOTES: LA GUITARA – GENDER BENDING STRINGS (Performing Arts Center Tour, March 2007)**  
(Revised February 2006; Expires 30-April 2007) p. 1 of 1

---

**La Guitara: Gender Bending Strings**

A Celebration of Women Guitarists featuring: **Patty Larkin, Badi Assad, Ellen McIlwaine**

*“Flawless...Patty Larkin and other pickers shine on La Guitara...an anthology of 14 brilliant guitar performances by women.”* **Washington Post**

*“Guitar Goddesses... Patty Larkin brings together some of the best women players in the world.”*  
**Boston Globe**

*“Guided by an overriding intelligence, La Guitara successfully delivers the wide spectrum of great female players on a well-crafted silver platter”* **Vintage Guitar**

In a ground-breaking performance of women guitarists **La Guitara explores the contribution of women to the evolution of modern guitar**. Brain-child of guitarist/singer/songwriter Patty Larkin, this highly anticipated tour coincides with “La Guitara: Gender Bending Strings,” a compilation CD featuring 14 female guitarists of varied genres, released on Vanguard Records . Partial proceeds from the sale of the CD will benefit "Guitars In The Classroom" a national music education program.

**“The goal of La Guitara is to better define the contribution of women to the history of modern guitar,” explains Ms Larkin.** “I have been asked repeatedly, *Why are there no great female guitar players?* The answer is, *There are.* Demographics are changing as young girls and women take up the instrument with increasing dedication and commitment to technique and repertoire. It is my belief that women guitarists of the past played a part in the evolution of the instrument and that their story is largely untold. I also believe that there are women guitarists today who are actively changing our preconceptions about gender and guitar heroes. This project is dedicated to these artists, past and present, waiting to be discovered, needing to be heard.”

**PERFORMING TONIGHT...**

**PATTY LARKIN :** Patty is that rare combination of talents - a superlative singer, an accomplished songwriter and an exquisitely inventive guitarist. Guitar World calls her “genrestretching, string-popping alterna-folk.” As an instrumentalist, she skillfully and effortlessly mixes celtic, rock, folk, blues and funk. She is a musical sorceress whose creativity and comfort level in the studio includes loops, effects and other digital wizardry commonly found in all sorts of contemporary music, but rarely among the acoustically inclined. A favorite with critics over her 10-CD history, she has honed a reputation as a ‘musician’s musician’ and is that unique level of artistic sophistication that transcends borders and redefines genres. **[www.pattylarkin.com](http://www.pattylarkin.com)**

**BADI ASSAD :** Tom Jobin once said it seems that Brazilians were born with a guitar in their arms. Badi Assad (pronounced bah-JEE ah-SAHJ) epitomizes this innate musical sensibility. Throughout the 90s, Badi’s music - featuring classical guitar, percussion and vocals - paid homage to the music traditions of her home country while extending them in new and unprecedented directions. Today - and six CDs later - her body of work explores everything from interpretations of traditional Brazilian guitar to world beat influenced originals to neoclassical compositions. In concert, she simultaneously plays guitar and percussion while singing and doing vocal improvisations. The result: an unabashedly powerful one-woman ensemble that defies categorization. **[www.badiassad.com](http://www.badiassad.com)**

**ELLEN MCILWAINE :** “You’ve got attitude.” Those were the parting words of Ellen’s ex-manager right after she fired him for telling her that including Jimi Hendrix in her band was a bad idea because he was black. A ground-breaking artist of the ‘70s, she is probably the only guitar player in the world who has played with Jimi Hendrix, Johnny Winter, Taj Mahal and Jack Bruce. Long known as one of the world’s great slide players, Ellen McIlwaine’s music is based in the blues. But hers is a gutsy brand of blues, based on tradition but drawing on influences as far east as Egypt, India and Japan and as close to home as R&B. Influential and highly spirited, she is revered worldwide by guitarists and songwriters alike. With 10 recordings under her belt, she continues to blaze trails with slide guitar in hand across North America and abroad. **[www.ellenmcilwaine.com](http://www.ellenmcilwaine.com)**

**CREDITS...**

**Produced by:** Patty Larkin and Bette Warner  
**Executive Producer:** Patty Larkin  
**Label:** Vanguard Records - [www.vanguardrecords.com](http://www.vanguardrecords.com)  
**Tour Direction:** SRO Artists, Inc. - [www.sroartists.com](http://www.sroartists.com)  
**Tour Production:** Lamartine Productions-lamartine2@aol.com  
**Web site:** [www.pattylarkin.com/laguitara](http://www.pattylarkin.com/laguitara)