

## Risa Carlson - BIO

### RISA CARLSON

Since beginning her study of the guitar at age six, Risa Carlson has climbed into the top ranks of guitarists from her generation. Her solo performances have been described as "moody, often virtuosic, musically rich ... brilliantly articulated" (The Baltimore Sun), and, in duo, her performances have been hailed as having "exquisite taste and perfect arc, making the dense textures clear and liquid" (The St. Louis-Post Dispatch).

A featured performer and lecturer at festivals such as the Manuel Barrueco Masterclass, Alexandria Guitar Festival, and the UTB Guitar Ensemble Festival, Ms. Carlson also maintains an active concert schedule, and appearing in concert as a soloist and in chamber ensemble across the United States. Recent highlights include the John E. Marlow Guitar Series, the Library of Congress, and the Phillips Collection Concert Series in the District of Columbia; Merrick Hall in Maryland; Columbia Artist Management Hall of New York City; for the Fort Worth, Dallas, and Houston Guitar Societies in Texas; for the St. Louis Guitar Society in Missouri; for the Miami Classical Guitar Society in Florida; for the Philadelphia Guitar Society in Pennsylvania; and for the Omaha Classical Guitar Guild in Nebraska.

In addition to her solo appearances, Ms. Carlson regularly performs in duo as a member of the highly praised Duo Erato with guitarist Martha Masters. The duo has been hailed by the Fort Worth Star as "so tightly coordinated that it often seemed that the two women were playing a single instrument." Ms. Carlson has premiered several new works, including Michael Daugherty's *I Loved Lucy* and Paul Mathews' *devil gits sat on*, both for flute and guitar, and *Serenata* for solo guitar by Bruno Amato.

Ms. Carlson was a top prizewinner at one of the most prestigious international competitions, the 18th Annual Guitar Foundation of America International Competition in San Antonio, Texas. Her other competition successes include top prizes at the 1997 Baltimore Chamber Music Award and the 1995 National Guitar Summer Workshop Competition. Carlson is Chair of the guitar department at the Levine School of Music in Washington D.C.