

Valérie Hartzell (www.valeriehartzell.co.uk) began her classical guitar studies on a half-size Ramirez at the age of three. At the age of six, she studied with maestro Alexandre Lagoya at the Académie Internationale d'Été in Nice, France.

She has performed in Europe, Canada, the U.S. and has appeared on television in Nice, FR and Houston, TX. She has also been featured on National Public Radio in Texas and Alaska, the show "Women in Music" which is broadcast on CKWR, 98.5 FM Canada, American syndicated radio show, *Classical Guitar Alive!*, and on BBC Radio 3 live on *In Tune*. She has been featured in several guitar magazines and newspapers including The Times & Citizen (UK), The Bedfordshire Oracle (UK), Anchorage Daily News (USA), South Warrington News (UK), Warrington Guardian (UK), Ashbourne News Telegraph (UK), Soundboard Magazine (USA), Nice-Matin (FR), Classical Guitar Magazine (UK), Dronfield Eye (UK) and Gendai Magazine (Japan).

She has performed in over 30 festivals, including the Middle Tennessee State University Festival, the East Carolina University Competition and Festival in Greenville, NC, the ChamberArt Music Festival in Madrid, Spain, the Pennsylvania Academy of Music Festival sharing the stage with Eliot Fisk, Guitaromania in Agen, France, the Menil Community Arts Festival at the Rothko Chapel in Houston, Texas, was the first *and only* classical musician selected to perform on the BBC Introducing Stage at the 2017 Latitude Festival, and at the 2019 Taipei American School Arts Festival in Taiwan.

In the UK, Valérie has been featured as a guest soloist for the Oxford Guitar Society, the Manchester Acoustic Guitar Society, the Liverpool Guitar Society, the Ealing Guitar Society of London, the North Wales Guitar Circle, Music on the Quantocks, The Mayfield Music Society, and in the U.S., she has performed for the New York City Classical Guitar Society, the Grand Canyon Guitar Society, the Performing Arts Society of Kenai, Alaska, the Troubadour Series at Wofford College, Triangle Guitar Society, at Arizona State University, Appalachian State University, Auburn University in Alabama, University of Texas at Dallas, University of Alaska at Anchorage, and Peck School of the Arts (Wisconsin).

In England, she has performed in prestigious venues such as Warrington Parish Church of St. Elphin in Warrington, St Mary Magdalen in Geddington, the Holywell Room at Oxford University, Clare Hall at Cambridge University, and the 1901 Arts Club in London.

In Texas, Valérie has also performed with studio members of the Houston Grand Opera at the Rienzi Recital Series, *Fantasia para un gentilhombre* by Joaquin Rodrigo with the Kingwood Pops Orchestra, and *Carols of the Southwest* by Conrad Susa with the Houston Chamber Choir.

Additionally, she is an international prizewinner in 8 international competitions including 1st prizes at the 10th International Guitar Competition "Simone Salmaso" in Italy and at the Concours de Guitare Classique Heitor Villa-Lobos in France.

At the Peabody Conservatory, Valérie studied with Manuel Barrueco on scholarship earning her Bachelor of Music in 1997. She was awarded a Graduate Teaching Fellowship at Radford University and was placed as Adjunct Faculty while studying for her Master Degree in Arts, receiving it in May of 1999.

As a private instructor, her students have received scholarships to prominent universities, such as San Francisco Conservatory, University of Texas, Arizona State University, Texas State University, and University of Louisville. Many of her students have won national competitions in the U.S. or placed in international competitions such as the prestigious Guitar Foundation of America.

She has two recordings; *Ex Tenebris Lux*, a solo project released through Soundset Recordings, and *Presti*, an ensemble project, which were both recorded at the National Public Radio studios in Houston.

Currently, Valérie lives in Somerset, England where she teaches piano & classical guitar at Leweston School, composes and maintains an active concert career both as a soloist and as a chamber musician. She is the Artistic Director to the "Classical Minds" Guitar Festival held in England. Her compositions are published through Bergmann Editions (bergmann-edition.com).

"Terrific! Flames licking at the guitar!" -BBC Radio 3