



Garden of Silence

Nine musicians from three continents taking you to another world



**"Music that will make you want to acoustically rediscover the world."
"... a sound born of centuries of tradition, but open to the future."**

**"... this ensemble is really something different and super strong.
Musicality, love, sorrow, connection, all turned ALL the way up!"**

Garden of Silence

About



It all started with a dream. In 2009 harpist, composer and singer Asita Hamidi woke up with an irresistible, yet indescribable sound in her ears. Together with Björn Meyer they set out to bring this sonic vision to life.

It soon became obvious that the sound was more about bringing kindred musical spirits together than the actual instrumentation.

For years, Asita and Björn traveled regularly to meet master musicians in Iran, Egypt, and Sweden, hand-picking a truly unique, unorthodox ensemble.

Nyckelharpa, violin, cello, duduk and bass clarinet / sax, electric bass, bass mandola and percussion – plus two vocalists – join in a living, breathing meeting of musical personalities.

They started recording in 2012, but everything was brought to a halt when Asita passed away. The project was put on hold for a decade, but now in new arrangements with the original cast joined by three new members, the nine-piece ensemble is reborn.

Garden of Silence is silent no longer and ready to present itself to an audience.

Garden of Silence

Mission

“Our mission is to bring beauty into this world, and show the immense power that unfolds when we work together and create something meaningful that is bigger than the sum of its parts.”

At the very core of this project lies the multicultural backgrounds of Asita — born to Iranian parents and grown up between Iran, Austria and Switzerland, and Björn — born in Sweden and based in Switzerland. Equally important is the creative exchange between all participants that reaches far beyond the music.

Music that radiates compassion, the joy of being, love and endless appreciation of the present moment in time and space.

Garden of Silence bridges traditions and is an artistic testament of togetherness.



Garden of Silence

Contact & Booking



Contact:

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Booking:

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Garden of Silence

Videos



Making of - Documentation
December 2022



Live Teaser
"Garden of Silence"
PROGR Bern (CH) Feb.2024



Live in Concert
"Neither You Nor I"
BeeFlat Bern (CH) Dec.2022



Live Teaser
"Wander Song"
PROGR Bern (CH) Feb. 2024

Making of - Timeline - Concerts

2009 the initial dream that set the project in motion. “There is this music .. “. Travels to Iran / Egypt / Sweden - Development in Switzerland

2011 Pre-Premiere, Bee-Flat, Bern (CH)

2012 Planned premiere, preparations, rehearsals - first documentation. December - the passing of Asita

2013 Tribute concert to Asita - featuring Andreas Vollenweider, Don Li & Ahmad el Sawy - Kiental Open Air (CH)

2014 Tribute concert to Asita - featuring Mostafa Mahmoudi, Ali Boustan, Peter Soleimanipur, Peyman Yazdanian, Shahram Golami, Don Li - Eyvan e Shams Hall, Teheran (IR)

2022 World-Premiere - Kammgarn, Schaffhausen (CH) | Bee-Flat, Bern (CH)

2024 Tour and recordings of “Neither You Nor I” - KfM, Glarus (CH) | MOODS, Zürich (CH) | Aula PROGR, Bern (CH)

2025 Release of the debut album “Neither You Nor I”

Artists



Björn Meyer - SE / CH
Artistic Director
Bass / Bass Mandola



Emilia Amper - SE
Nyckelharpa



Carlo Niederhauser - CH
Cello



Kaspar Rast - CH
Drums / Percussion



Klaus Gasing - DE
Bass Clarinet /
Soprano Saxophon



Karin Streule - CH
Voice



Mohammed Sami - EG
Violin



Reza Asgarzadeh - IR
Duduk



Veronika Stalder - CH
Voice

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Neither You Nor I - the Album



1 Indscha 08:30
2 Wandersong 05:04
3 Garden Of Silence* 10:26
4 Aziza 05:56
5 Waltz For Many 04:29
6 Merat** 06:14
7 For Asita 03:13
8 Helix 10:47
9 Neither You Nor I 06:32
10 By The Wind 05:44
11 Persian Waltz 06:53
Total time 73:52

Created by - Asita Hamidi / Björn Meyer

Produced by Björn Meyer | ©&® bazaarpool 2025 | SUISA
Funded by Kultur Stadt Bern, Swisslos – Kultur Kanton
Bern, Burgergemeinde Bern

Label - bazaarpool | Cat. Nr - bazaarpoolCD018
EAN Code - 198595413814 | Format - CD / Digital



[listen on Bandcamp](#)



[listen on Soundcloud](#)

“Throughout this disc, all the ingredients of this remarkable band come together to create a sound born of centuries of tradition, but open to the future.”

Recorded 27, 28 February and 13,14 August 2024.

Engineered, mixed and mastered at Atelier 363 – PROGR
Zentrum für Kulturproduktion, Bern, Switzerland by Björn
Meyer | Greencube

Graphic design by Andrej Marffy

Featuring archive live-recordings:

*) Asita Hamidi - harp introduction and first vocal, Bee-Flat
Bern December 2011

**) Bruno Amstad - vocal solo, Bee-Flat Bern December
2022

In grateful memory of Asita Hamidi and Bruno Amstad

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Press Release

Paradoxically, Garden of Silence is full of sounds. Multicultural sounds of today, but with spirits from the past. Led by electric bass player Björn Meyer, Garden of Silence is a meeting of musical personalities with a particular vision.

Their debut album *Neither You Nor I* is about to be released, 2025, but its genesis goes back more than a decade to 2011 when Garden of Silence grew out of Asita Hamidi's Bazaar, a multi-cultural quartet led by Iranian singer and harpist Asita Hamidi.

They started recording in 2012, but everything was brought to a halt when Hamidi - Björn Meyer's partner - died from cancer.

The project was put on hold for a decade, but now in new arrangements with the original cast joined by three new members, the hand-picked, nine-piece ensemble is reborn. Garden of Silence is silent no longer and ready to present itself to an audience.

"Our mission is to bring beauty into this world," says Meyer, "and show the immense power that unfolds when we work together and create something meaningful that is bigger than the sum of its parts."

The ensemble is unorthodox with nyckelharpa, violin, cello, duduk and bass clarinet / sax, electric bass and percussion - plus two vocalists.

Meyer sees it as various intersecting ensembles out of which soloists and smaller sections emerge from time to time. So it's essentially a living, breathing meeting of musical personalities based in Stockholm, four places in Switzerland, Dusseldorf, Cairo and Tehran.

Throughout this disc, all the ingredients of this remarkable band come together to create a sound born of centuries of tradition, but open to the future.

Simon Broughton

Garden of Silence

Impressions



Garden of Silence

Neither You Nor I - the Poem

Neither you nor I will know the secrets of eternity

Neither you nor I will read this letter of the riddle.

The dialogue between you and me is behind the veil,

When the veil falls, neither you remain nor I.

Omar Chayyām

اسرار ازل را نه تو دانی و نه من

وین حرف معما نه تو خوانی و نه من

هست از پس پرده گفت و گوی من و تو

چون پرده برافتد نه تو مانی و نه من

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