# 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!"

#### 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.

instrumentation. 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.

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

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

#### 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.



#### **Contact & Booking**



Contact: Björn Meyer c/o Atelier 363 / PROGR Waisenhausplatz 30 CH-3011 Bern music@bazaarpool.com www.bazaarpool.com

Booking: Yassine Rezk <u>yassine@wlm.contact</u> www.welovemanagement.com

Ciprian Moga ciprian@jazzmine.world www.jazzmine.world



#### Videos

#### **GARDEN OF SILENCE**

a bazaarpool production

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
- Pre-Premiere, Bee-Flat, Bern (CH) 2011
- Planned premiere, preparations, rehearsals first documentation. December the passing of Asita 2012
- Tribute concert to Asita featuring Andreas Vollenweider, Don Li & Ahmad el Sawy Kiental Open Air (CH) 2013
- **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



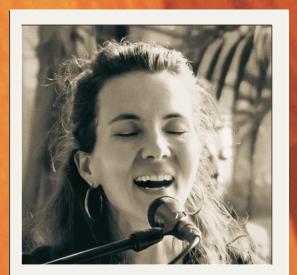
Björn Meyer - SE / CH Artistic Director Bass / Bass Mandola



Emilia Amper - SE Nyckelharpa



Carlo Niederhauser - CH Cello



Karin Streule - CH Voice



Mohammed Sami - EG Violin



Kaspar Rast - CH Drums / Percussion



Klaus Gesing - DE Bass Clarinet / Soprano Saxophon

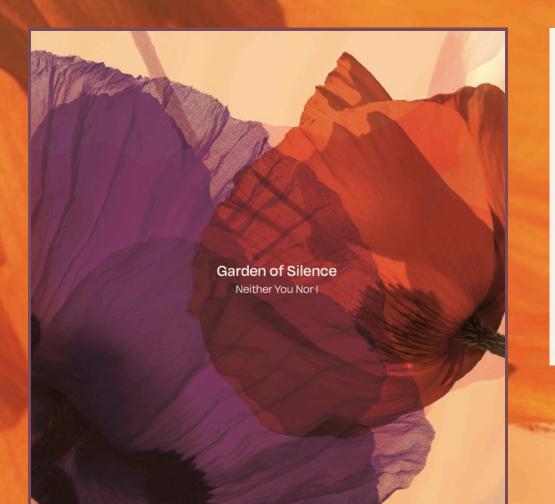


Reza Asgarzadeh - IR Duduk



Veronika Stalder - CH Voice

#### **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



listen on Bandcamp

*"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

Created by - Asita Hamidi / Björn Meyer

Produced by Björn Meyer | ©&P 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



#### **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

### Impressions







#### 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