



Concert for Community  
October 1, 2023, UUSF

**Christian Artmann**

**Laszlo Gardony**

**Elena McEntire**

**Concert for Community**  
**First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco**  
**Sunday October 1, 1:00 pm, 2023**

Livestreamed at <https://bit.ly/uusfconcert10-1-23>

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<i>July</i>	Christian Artmann
<i>Snow River</i>	Christian Artmann
<i>New Song</i>	Laszlo Gardony
<i>Lament for Ukraine</i>	Christian Artmann
<i>Nine Years of Love</i>	Christian Artmann
<i>Paisagem da Janela</i>	Lo Borges and Feranndo Brant
<i>The Middle of Life</i>	Christian Artmann
<i>Amazing Grace</i>	traditional, arranged by Christian Artmann

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**MUSICIANS**

Christian Artmann - flute, alto flute, tambin  
Laszlo Gardony - piano  
Elena McEntire - vocals

# ABOUT

## Christian Artmann

Called a “composer with great vision” (All About Jazz) and praised for his “stunning virtuosity” (JazzTimes), flutist / composer and Sunnyside recording artist Christian Artmann is passionate about bridging musical boundaries and creating space for dialogue and understanding. Artmann grew up immersed in classical music in Germany and Austria, played for the Aspen Music Festival orchestra as a teenager, became increasingly fascinated with composition and improvisation, and realized jazz as his true calling. Following studies at Berklee College of Music, Artmann moved to New York where he released three recordings as a leader to critical acclaim: *Uneasy Dreams* (self-released 2011), hailed as a “vision of confidence” (JazzTimes); *Fields of Pannonia* (Sunnyside 2015), applauded as “a mythical journey in sound” (The National Flute Association Quarterly), and *Our Story* (Sunnyside 2018), praised for “perspective without boundaries” (All About Jazz). Artmann’s approach to the flute is “a model of what is possible with jazz flute” (The Flutist Quarterly), featuring a “fluid technique” and “crystalline tone” (Jazziz). His newest album, *The Middle of Life*, was released this summer on Sunnyside Records and reflects life in its joys and challenges – one fleeting moment in time, and yet so very valuable. For more information, visit [www.artmannjazz.com](http://www.artmannjazz.com).

## Laszlo Gardony

Winner of the Great American Jazz Piano Competition, pianist / composer Laszlo Gardony has been noted for his “fluid pianism” by The New York Times and two of his albums made DownBeat Magazine’s “Best of the Year” list. “A formidable improviser who lives in the moment” (JazzTimes), Laszlo has performed in 27 countries and released 14 albums on the Sunnyside, Antilles and Avenue labels. He is a professor of piano at Berklee College of Music in Boston and on the faculty at Harvard University’s “Jazz Combo Initiative” program. Laszlo has performed and/or recorded with Dave Holland, Miroslav Vitous, David “Fathead” Newman, Bill Pierce, Don Braden, Randy Brecker, Eddie Gomez, Bob Moses, Victor Lewis, Yoron Israel, Christian Artmann, Avery Sharpe, The Wayfaring Strangers, and Mick Goodrick among others. For more information, visit [www.LGJazz.com](http://www.LGJazz.com).

## Elena McEntire

Elena McEntire has been praised for an “appealing dusky sound, smooth from the bottom to its powerful top” (Houston Chronicle) that is “perfect for conveying emotional power” (AllAboutJazz), and for “vocals that raise the music to a rarified realm” (Jazzdagama). Elena studied at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and the Austrian National Music University in Vienna. With strong roots in classical singing, Elena is a multi-faceted musician with a deep interest in chamber music, folk and jazz. She performed with the New York City Opera and Aspen Music Festival; with Romero Lubambo, Cyro Baptista and Fredricka von Stade at Herbst Theater; with Charles Neidich and Imani Winds at Jazz at Lincoln Center; and with Baz Luhrmann’s Ovation Award-winning *La Boheme* on Broadway. Elena performed and recorded several premieres including Arturo Rodriguez’ *Pablo Neruda Songs*, Stanley Grill’s *Vignettes/Trees* and *In Their Flight*, Zachary Wadsworth’s *Spire and Shadow*, and most recently, original music with the Christian Artmann Quartet on three critically acclaimed albums: *Uneasy Dreams* (2011), *Our Story* (Sunnyside 2018) and *Middle of Life* (Sunnyside 2022).





Christian Artmann



Laszlo Gardony



Elena McEntire

# CONCERT FOR COMMUNITY

In a special offering for our community, Flutist / composer **Christian Artmann**, pianist / composer **Laszlo Gardony** and **Elena McEntire** (daughter of Bruce and Ruth Cowan) will be celebrating the joy of coming together in music and the release of Christian's new album *The Middle of Life* (Sunnyside, 2023) <https://bit.ly/artmann2023>. Deeply centered in contemporary jazz but also reflecting European roots, the music transcends stylistic boundaries and “conveys a perspective beyond boundaries—a singular story capable of including us all” (All About Jazz). The trio will choose pieces from the new album and improvise for you in the moment, emphasizing the spiritual and intimate. As an example, the Lament for Ukraine performed on a rare African flute may follow the life-affirming ripples of the title track “The Middle of Life”, and joy and hope may shine through the fog in a “haunting rendition of Amazing Grace” (Jazz Times).

According to Artmann, “the collection of music is about deeper awareness - of ourselves, the connections among us, the state of the world – and hopefully, a call to action to make the world a better place.” The experience of the pandemic inspired deep reflection, and the music takes stock of what matters most, responding to the joys and challenges of recent years, and creating music brimming with emotion. The music is described by Bandcamp as “beautifully balanced composition and improvisation... with the kind of intuitive interplay that flows from rarefied chemistry. Even at the music’s most introspective, there’s an emotional buoyancy... Along the way, beauty flashes into view, again and again, moments of bliss seized from the onrushing torrent of time.” As Gardony, the band’s pianist, explains, “the music provides solace, joy, and a friendship to the listener – to comfort them, bring them joy, to be their friend.”