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Spreading the gospel of classical guitar: Sharon Isbin, subject of a new documentary on VAI DVD and blu-ray, pictured here with Steve Vai

## Sharon Isbin: Troubadour DVD

A film by Susan Dangel

Including music by Albéniz, Jobim, Mangoré,  
Lauro and Mark O'Connor

Sharon Isbin guitar

VAI ® DVD DVDVAI 4580

(86'•NTSC•16:9•Dolby stereo•0)



Sharon Isbin has been an acclaimed figure in the world of classical guitar for three decades but there's much more to her artistry than six strings. She has commissioned numerous works for the instrument and guided a generation of students as head of the guitar departments at the Juilliard School and Aspen Music Festival.

And that's only the start, as the winning documentary *Sharon Isbin: Troubadour* makes clear. Peripatetic and seemingly tireless, Isbin spreads the gospel of the classical guitar in a field dominated by men as she engages in as

many kinds of musical activities as her energy and gifts will allow. Produced by Susan Dangel and imaginatively (sometimes giddily) photographed by Rob Fortunato, the documentary follows Isbin as she performs, teaches, collaborates, consults and jams with colleagues in the classical, rock and jazz worlds. The cast of characters ranges from such composers as John Corigliano, Joan Tower, Christopher Rouse, Tan Dun, conductor Leonard Slatkin and actor David Hyde Pierce (hilarious on the subject of Isbin as apartment neighbour) to eminent figures in popular music, including Joan Baez, Steve Vai and Stanley Jordan.

There are scenes of Isbin playing at the White House, taking a trip back to Italy (where her love of the guitar was kindled as a child), tripping the light fantastic with a dance instructor and discussing her sexuality (she came out as gay in 1995). Along with the documentary, the DVD includes Isbin performing a range of music, a testament to her curiosity, imagination and mesmerizing command of those six strings.

**Donald Rosenberg**