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WINDHAM HILL WINTER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION COMES TO STANFORD’S BING CONCERT HALL ON DECEMBER 12

Performance marks the 40 anniversary of the Windham Hill record label, founded in Palo Alto

Stanford, CA, November 13, 2015—Back in 1975 a young carpenter and guitarist named Will Ackerman was launching a new record label called Windham Hill Records out of his Palo Alto garage. The label’s audiophile recordings became a runaway success with critics and audiences alike, and the name Windham Hill was synonymous with the best in acoustic music in the 1980s and 90s.

In a special “homecoming” performance presented by Stanford Live, the Grammy–winning Ackerman, multi-instrumentalist Barbara Higbie (the first female instrumentalist on the Windham Hill label) and Grammy–nominated steel-string guitar pioneer Alex de Grassi will reunite on December 12 at Bing Concert Hall. These masterly instrumentalists will toast the winter solstice with a concert of original and traditional acoustic music drawn from the multiplatinum–selling Winter Solstice, 40 years after Windham Hill was founded.

The birth of Windham Hill was arguably in an archway near the old student union, where I would play simply because of the reverberating sound,” remembers Ackerman who was a student at Stanford from 1967 to 1971. “My cousin Alex de Grassi and I grew up together in College Terrace...a neighborhood in Palo Alto. The original address for Windham Hill Records was Box 9388, Stanford.”

Over the years, Windham Hill became a phenomenon with its eclectic roster of musicians creating original music inspired by bluegrass, jazz, Celtic and folk. Artists such as Michael Hedges, George Winston, Liz Story, Mark Isham, and Tuck and Patty quickly became internationally
recognized. Windham Hill’s 10 Winter Solstice compilation recordings, selling in the many millions, “changed people’s conceptions of seasonal music” (John Diliberto/Echoes radio show host).

“It will be somewhat haunting to come back to play at Stanford,” says Ackerman. “I considered having everyone leave their seats and follow me to the old archway where I played for free on so many nights, but I suspect that might not be particularly feasible. I haven’t been onstage with Alex for years. I look forward to sharing the stage with him again...more homecomings.”

Joining Ackerman, de Grassi and Higbie for their Stanford Live concert will be two acclaimed instrumentalists: cellist Alex Kelly and guitarist Todd Boston. For tickets and information, visit live.stanford.edu.

**TICKET INFORMATION**

Tickets for a Windham Hill Winter Solstice, presented by Stanford Live on December 12 at 7:30 p.m., range from $38-$73 (subject to change; check website) and are $15 for all current Stanford students. Tickets are available at the Bing Concert Hall Ticket Office, by phone at 650-724-2464 (BING) or online at live.stanford.edu.

**VENUE INFORMATION**

Bing Concert Hall is located on the Stanford University campus at 327 Lasuen Street on the corner of Lasuen and Campus Dr. Parking on campus is free of charge after 4:00 PM and on weekends at all times, and may be found in the Galvez Lot across Campus Drive from Bing Concert Hall. Maps and directions are available at http://live.stanford.edu/Venues/parkingmapsdirections.php.

**ABOUT STANFORD LIVE**

Stanford Live presents a wide range of the finest performances from around the world fostering a vibrant learning community and providing distinctive experiences through the performing arts. With its home at Bing Concert Hall, Stanford Live is simultaneously a public square, a sanctuary and a lab, drawing on the breadth and depth of Stanford University to connect performance to the significant issues, ideas and discoveries of our time.
CALENDAR EDITORS NOTE:

What:  
*A Windham Hill Winter Solstice*

When:  
Saturday, December 12, 7:30 p.m.

Where:  
Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen Street, Stanford University

Tickets:  
$38-$73 (subject to change; visit live.stanford.edu)

Description:  
Grammy Award–nominated singer, fiddler, pianist and songwriter Barbara Higbie, Windham Hill founder and Grammy–winning guitarist Will Ackerman and the Grammy–nominated guitarist Alex de Grassi lead a holiday concert, celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Windham Hill record label.