



Sarah Cullins, soprano, Daniel Gaviria, guitar

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The 8 Cuerdas Duo is comprised of American soprano Sarah Cullins and Colombian guitarist Daniel Gaviria and is named for the eight “strings” that make up their two instruments and the artistic unity that this husband and wife team bring to their performances.

The Burlington, Vermont-based duo recently moved to the Northern Hemisphere from Bogota, Colombia, where both Sarah and Daniel had busy careers as soloists and chamber musicians as well as educators. Sarah performed regularly with the country’s major orchestras in symphonic and oratorio repertoire and developed a nationally-renowned voice and opera undergraduate program. Daniel was a winner and finalist in several solo guitar and chamber competitions and presented numerous outreach concert as member of Quarteto +1 and Vitart Trio.

As 8 Cuerdas, Sarah and Daniel combine their classical training and experience with their love of traditional Latin American and Spanish rhythms and folklore, exploring the multiple musical identities of Latin America and the origin of many of its influences, the Iberian Peninsula. Whether recreating a soulful Argentinian milonga, bringing out the percussiveness of the Latin American Chacarera, or drawing on the intense passion of flamenco, the duo leads much of their classical repertoire into the world music realm, creating a wide variety of sounds and atmospheres.

Already a favorite with Vermont audiences, 8 Cuerdas is now known for lively performances that juxtapose impossibly soft lullabies with high-powered zarzuela arias. Their concerts combine such well-known favorites as Villa-Lobos’ *Bachianas Brasileiras* and Rodrigo’s *Aranjuez*, *Ma Pensé* with works by up-and-coming composers from Latin America and centuries-old melodies from Spain, all guided by short dynamic explanations of the repertoire to bring audiences even closer.

Soprano **Sarah Cullins** has recently returned to the United States after having enjoyed an exciting 10-year career in Bogotá, Colombia, as one of the country’s most sought-after soloists and teachers.

After winning Colombia’s National Voice Competition in 2004, Sarah became a frequent soloist with the National Symphonic Orchestra of Colombia and the Philharmonic Orchestras of Bogotá and Medellín, among others, appearing in the country’s most important festivals and theaters and even performing for the current President. Her repertoire has included symphonic works such as Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony, Mahler’s Fourth Symphony and Gorecki’s Third Symphony, oratorios such as Pergolesi’s *Stabat Mater*, Mozart’s *Coronation Mass*, Brahms’ *German Requiem* and Orff’s *Carmina Burana*, chamber works such as Mozart’s *Exsultate jubilate* and Villa-Lobos’ *Bachianas Brasileiras #5* and premieres of 20th century works such as Catalan composer Moises Beltran’s *Suite de Parlava*.

On the operatic stage she has had international success as Musetta (*La Bohème*) at the National Theater of Guatemala City, Gilda (*Rigoletto*), Rosina (*Il Barbiere di Siviglia*) and Adèle (*Die Fledermaus*) at Medellín’s Metropolitan Theater, and Susanna (*Le Nozze di Figaro*) and Pamina (*Die Zauberflöte*), as well as numerous Gilbert & Sullivan heroines, with the Vermont Mozart Festival.

Her interest in Latin American song repertoire has led her to work extensively with Colombian composer Jaime Leon, performing with him, recording his *Misa* and giving masterclasses in Colombia and the U.S. on his prolific song repertoire. With her husband, Colombian guitarist Daniel Gaviria, she has also formed the 8 Cuerdas Duo, presenting repertoire from all over South and North America as well as the Iberian Peninsula.



Currently an Affiliate Artist in the University of Vermont Music Department, Sarah was the founder of the Universidad Central voice program in Bogotá, now recognized as the country's best operatic training program. During her six year tenure, the Opera Workshop presented ten national premieres and was invited to perform with the National Symphonic Orchestra and the Symphonic Orchestra of Bogotá in prestigious festivals. Her students were frequent winners of the National Voice Competition as well as important chamber music competitions and full-scholarships to U.S. Master's Degree programs.

Sarah's upcoming U.S. performances include recitals with the 8 Cuerdas Duo and the Mozart *Requiem* with the Oriana Singers. She will also return to Colombia to sing Gorecki's Third Symphony in the ColegiodelCuerpo production of INXILIO in Bogotá and Cartagena.

Colombian guitarist, arranger and educator, **Daniel Gaviria**, recently left the Andes Mountains for the Green Mountains of Vermont, and is excited to be sharing his love and knowledge of Latin-American music with fellow musicians, audiences and guitar students.

While studying classical guitar at the Central University in Bogota, his musicality and virtuosic playing brought him national acclaim as the winner of several important competitions, such as the Luis Angel Arango Young Interpreters' Competition and the Fernando Sor Guitar Festival Competition. His prizes included concerts in several different national cities as well as an invitation to participate in the Mannes College of Music Guitar Seminar in 2008.

An avid chamber musician, Daniel performed more than 40 concerts in the Philharmonic Orchestra of Bogota's outreach concert series as a member of the Quarteto + 1, a guitar and clarinet quintet. A founding member of the Vitart Trio, a combination of acoustic and electric guitars and pedals, he arranged many of the trio's multi-effect compilations of film scores with which they won the Bogota Has Talent Competition. Now part of the 8 Cuerdas Duo with his wife, soprano Sarah Cullins, Daniel is focused on one of his favorite repertoires, 20th-century Latin-American works.

After making an unusually successful recovery from focal dystonia, a neurological syndrome that affects many musicians after rigorous years of study, Daniel now coaches other musicians on healthy practice techniques and how to avoid and/or recover from this and other similar syndromes.

In addition to classical and Latin-American repertoire, Daniel is an avid heavy metal fan and a sought-after electric guitarist. He is also a trained Suzuki-method guitar teacher of all ages and holds an Arts Administration post-graduate degree from the Universidad del Rosario in Bogota.

Follow 8 Cuerdas on YouTube, Soundcloud and in their websites www.danielgaviria.net and www.sarahcullins.com.