Tell us a little bit about the history of Windham Hill?
Barbra: Historically, I was the first female instrumentalist signed to Windham Hill when we were both in our infancy (I was 22). Will Ackerman was the Steve Jobs of music; Steve was a big fan of Windham Hill.

What inspires you about the Winter Solstice?
Barbra: From ancient times, the Winter Solstice has been the most sacred time of year. I grew up in both small mid-western towns and in West Africa. In both places, I felt true magic during the holiday season. It seems to be universal. For me, music of the season makes it possible to reconnect with the best things in life: goodwill, peace, joy, and renewal.

Todd: The Winter Solstice tour is inspiring to play with a brilliant ensemble of musicians for great audiences.

What can our audience look forward to at the Winter Solstice concert?
Barbra: We are lucky to have so many fine performers on one show. We keep it moving between solo and group, traditional and original, intimate, and lively music. We honor all traditions and play gorgeous new arrangements of classic holiday tunes. It's a lot of fun and deeply moving as well. We honor all traditions and seem to appeal to all age groups. Celldg, Mike Finley, is the newest addition to the show. She is a classical cellist from Austin, Texas and a joyful, beautiful presence on stage.

Todd: Boston is one of the most celebrated of the new generation of acoustic guitarists. Full of surprises, William Ackerman and Alex De Grassi are the two guitarists who originated the genre and are truly inspiring to listen to. I'm glad to be a multi-instrumentalist and singer, who loves to let rip on the fiddle. We have a lot of fun playing together.

Why is this such a special performance in Marin County?
Barbra: We are so honored to bring this concert to the Marin Center because Marin County was a major player in the creation of this entire genre of music. Many of the titles of our original tunes come from experiences in Marin, such as "Morning Star," "Hawk Circle," "Above the Fog," "Tidelines," the list goes on and on. People who live in Marin understand the awe that nature inspires. That awe is the main inspiration for the musicians of Windham Hill. The type of nature one experiences in Marin is like nowhere else in the world.

Todd: For me personally, it's a special performance because I live in Marin County and have many friends and family that will attend.

Many of you are locally-based. Can you tell us about your Bay Area experiences?
Barbra: I came here to go to Mills College and found home. I live across the Richmond Bridge in Albany and come to Marin a lot. Our 16-year-old daughter plays volleyball for Absolute, my first friend lives in San Anselmo, we rehearse at Todd's house in Larkspur, there are so many great clubs and restaurants and, of course, the hiking!

As someone who has traveled nearly everywhere the last 40 years (I recently played in Antarctica, even), I am convinced beyond a shadow of a doubt that the Bay Area is the best place in the world. Other places are wonderful, but we have an especially lucky combination: it's the mix of cultures, geography, open minds, food, nature, beauty. We are so lucky to live here. Windham Hill music exploded out of Palo Alto at the exact same moment as the tech revolution. To me, this music expresses the same creativity, innovation, and high quality. It is unique to the Bay Area. It all happened here, and we are so happy to be able to celebrate it together! I'm so excited to play at the Marin Center with this exceptional group of artists.

Todd: It is always the best to play for a hometown crowd, to feed off that energy and get to go home and sleep in my own bed!