

Spanish soprano Pilar Alva Martín began her musical education as a violinist, later deciding to pursue a vocal career and moving to Switzerland to begin her studies at the Haute École de Musique of Lausanne with Stephan MacLeod. She obtained her *Master de Soliste* in June 2023 with a special mention from the jury.

She has already performed several operatic roles in her career, including *Amore* in Gluck's *Orfeo ed Euridice* with the City of Granada Orchestra, *1st Witch* in Henry Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* with the Cantatio ensemble of Geneva, *El Fuego* in Antonio Literes' *Los Elementos* with Forma Antiqua, *Ninfa* in Gagliano's *La Dafne* with Concerto Soave, *Glauco* in Antonio Literes' *Acis y Galatea* and *La Fama* in Sebastián Durón's *La Guerra de los Gigantes* with the Granada Baroque Orchestra and the Iliber Ensemble, with whom she recorded this Spanish baroque opera for the IBS Classical label.

In orchestral concerts, Pilar performs as a soloist with the Lausanne Chamber Orchestra, performing *First Elf* in Mendelssohn's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Handel's *Messiah* with the Ensemble Fratres, Beethoven's *Mass in C major* with the Ensemble Cantatio of Geneva, Gustav Mahler's *Symphony No. 4* with the Filarmonía Orchestra of Granada, Händel's *Brockes-Passion* with Capella Concertata and soprano solo in a selection of Monteverdi's *Madrigals* with Gli Angeli of Geneva.

As a recitalist, Pilar has been invited by various festivals such as the International Festival of Music and Dance of Granada 2021, Lavaux Classic 2022, Le Mont Musical 2022, Lied & Mélodie of Geneva 2023, Vevey Spring Classic Festival 2023 and the International Festival Santa Lucía 2023 in Monterrey, Mexico. She has also performed with the renowned tenor Rolando Villazón at the Gala of the *Crescendo con la Música* Foundation in the concert series of the Rosey Concert Hall in 2021.

Her love of the fusion between music and poetry was inspired by her great-uncle, the composer and organist Juan-Alfonso García. His undying affection for andalusian poetry led her to create *De lo mundano a lo sublime (From the mundane to the sublime)*, with the pianist Stefano Arena, a programme centered on 20th century spanish vocal repertoire. This project won them the first prize in the Lavaux Classic Competition 2021.

Their first album as a duo, *Paraíso Cerrado (Paradise locked)*, will soon be released. A homage to Juan-Alfonso García and his mentor, the composer Valentín Ruiz-Aznar, it is mainly comprised of their unpublished vocal works. It was produced in collaboration with the Haute École de Musique of Lausanne and the Claves label.

Throughout her musical career Pilar has worked with conductors such as Philippe Herreweghe, Michel Corboz, Carlos Mena, Daniel Reus, Andrea Marcon, Stephan MacLeod, Aarón Zapico, Joshua Weilerstein, François-Xavier Roth, John Duxbury,

Joseph Swensen, Jean-Marc Aymes, Giancarlo Andretta, Salvador Mass, Philip Pickett, Lluís Villamajó, Manuel Hernández Silva, Pablo González and John Axelrod.

In addition to her *Master de Soliste* at the Haute École de Musique of Lausanne, Pilar obtained a bachelor's degree in lyrical singing at the same institution in 2021 and she also graduated with a bachelor's in violin studies at the Real Conservatorio Victoria Eugenia of Granada in 2018 with the highest distinction. She is currently completing a Certificate of Advanced Studies programme at the Haute École de Musique of Geneva, to be completed in June 2024.

Throughout her vocal studies Pilar has received the invaluable guidance of countertenor and conductor Carlos Mena, especially regarding the interpretation of baroque repertoire.

In 2023-2024 Pilar will sing *Belinda* in Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* for producer Ouverture Opéra in Switzerland, the role of *Fuego* in Literes' *Los Elementos* with Forma Antiqua at the CNDM (National Centre for Music Diffusion, Spain). She will also perform a concert tour in Mexico with pianist Jorge Viladoms.

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