

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 *Belinda* in Dido & Aeneas de Purcell for Overture Opéra, Switzerland, *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 Lliteres' *Los Elementos* with Forma Antiqua, *Ninfa* in Gagliano's *La Dafne* with Concerto Soave, *Glauco* in Antonio Lliteres' *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, Lavaux Classic, Le Mont Musical, Lied & Mélodie of Geneva, Vevey Spring Classic Festival, Festival du Lied de Fribourg (Switzerland) and the International Festival Santa Lucía 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. In 2024, the duo also won the second prize of the *Osez* competition in Geneva and the Tremplin prize of the Leenards foundation in Switzerland with their new interdisciplinary project *The glowing ashes*, together with dancer Taro Troupe.

Throughout her musical career Pilar has worked with conductors such as Philippe Herreweghe, Michel Corboz, Carlos Mena, Leonardo García Alarcón 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. Throughout her vocal studies Pilar has received the invaluable guidance of countertenor and conductor Carlos Mena, especially regarding the interpretation of baroque repertoire.

In 2024-2025 Pilar will sing *Belinda* in Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* for Ouverture Opéra in Switzerland, Handel's *Messiah* with the Orchestra of Principado de Asturias (Oviedo-Spain), the role of *Fuego* in Literes' *Los Elementos* with Forma Antiqua and she will make her debut at Teatro de la Zarzuela in Madrid in the production, *CÓMICAS*.

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