

## CD Release

**Odaline de la Martínez's Lorelt Label releases  
Maestra on 25 March featuring pianist Samantha  
Ege performing **premiere recording** of Julia Perry's  
Piano Concerto**



**Samantha Ege** Piano  
**Odaline de la Martinez** Conductor  
**Lontano Orchestra**

***"Dr Samantha Ege is that rare phenomenon of which I wish there were many more, a performer-scholar who marries fine pianistic ability to informed research resulting in finely-honed performances born of deep study and analysis."***

-Seen and Heard International

***"Energy crackles around the Cuban-born conductor and composer like an electric field."***

-Sunday Times Magazine

On **25 March**, **Odaline de la Martínez's** label **Lorelt** releases an album **Maestra** with pianist and academic **Samantha Ege** featuring the premiere recording of **Julia Perry's Concerto for Piano and Orchestra in Two Uninterrupted Speeds** on **Perry's birthday** (1924-1979). The album with Lontano conducted by **Odaline de la Martinez** also includes Ege performing **Concerto for Piano and Strings** by

**Doreen Carwithen** (1922-2003), the pioneering film composer in the male-dominated movie industry and an English contemporary of Perry.

*Maestra* follows Ege's previous recordings on the Lorelt label included *Homage* (2022), *Black Renaissance Woman* (2022), and *Fantasie Nègre* (2021).



Since her death at 55, Julia Perry's name has fallen into near obscurity. Perry was born in 1924 into a prominent family in segregated Lexington, Kentucky, but began her formal music training after relocating to Akron, Ohio. She went on to study at the Westminster Choir College, later winning two Guggenheim Fellowships and studying in Italy with Luigi Dallapiccola and at the American Conservatory at Fontainebleau, where she won the Prix Fontainebleau under the tutelage of Nadia Boulanger. She toured Europe, conducted and gave lectures in Europe for the US Information Service.

Later in life while adjusting to a substantial disability following a stroke which left one side paralysed, Perry continued to compose, absorbing the experience of the civil rights movement and always echoing the musical influences of her childhood. Perry fervently composed until the end of her life despite being confined to a wheelchair for the final nine years of her life. Determined to continue her work, she taught herself to use her left hand and did not stop working even after she was hospitalised.

Ege commented on Perry's piano concerto:

*"Note how her concerto is not in two movements, but in two speeds, as if she is playing with spacetime. The first speed, "Slow," is, as Maestra Martinez calls it, "celestial." Emerging out of a haze of strings and winds, the piano's opening solo unfolds. The irregular time signatures evoke a suspended temporality. But the second speed, "Fast," brings us back down to earth. Energetic rhythms seasoned with Afrodiasporic syncopations dance around the pulse. Here, the piano cadenzas are more virtuosic, as you might expect to hear in a more conventional concerto (like Doreen Carwithen's). But Perry is experimenting more with colour than technique; the pianist must paint rather than play."*

Carwithen established herself as a highly-regarded film composer, writing scores for over 30 films. She gained a reputation in the film industry for her professionalism and speed under pressure: her score for *Elizabeth Is Queen*, the official film of the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, had to be completed in just three days.



Doreen Carwithen was born in Buckinghamshire in 1922. At the age of 16, Doreen Carwithen began composing by setting Wordsworth's "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud" for voice and piano. In 1941 she entered the Royal Academy of Music as a cellist and joined a harmony class led by William Alwyn, who began to teach her composition. Her first orchestral work, the overture *One Damn Thing After Another*, was premiered in Covent Garden by the London Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Adrian Boult in 1947.

Carwithen became William Alwyn's devoted secretary and after they were married in 1975, she adopted a married name of Mary Alwyn (using her middle name), allowing her husband's career to take precedence over hers. Carwithen later worked as a Sub Professor of Composition at the RAM. After her husband's death in 1985, she founded the William Alwyn Archive and William Alwyn Foundation to promote his music and facilitate related research projects. She then also resumed interest in her own music. In 1999, a stroke also left her paralysed on one side.

## Dr Samantha Ege



Dr Ege is a concert pianist who specializes in the music of 20th and 21st century composers. Her performances bring her research to life, sounding new narratives that are so often unheard in the modern-day concert hall. Dr Ege seeks to communicate the diversity of classical music's past, present, and future through her performances, and foster a sense of belonging for everyone. As a result, her performances take on different formats, sometimes entwining narration and conversation alongside more conventional programming.

Dr Ege released her debut album in 2018 called *Four Women* (Wave Theory Records). She released her critically acclaimed second album in 2021 called *Fantasie Nègre* with Lorelt (Lontano Records Ltd.). Her third and fourth albums (both with Lorelt) came out in 2022: *Black Renaissance Woman* and

*Homage with the Castle of our Skins* string quartet. She is currently working on two new album projects: *Maestra: Julia Perry and Doreen Carwithen Piano Concertos* (Lontano Orchestra/Lorelt) and the orchestral music of *Avril Coleridge-Taylor* (BBC Philharmonic/Resonus Classics).

As a concert pianist, Dr Ege made her Barbican debut in 2021 with a "vivid, revelatory recital" (Michael Church, iNews) in which she gave the UK premiere of Vítězslava Kaprálová's Sonata Appassionata. In her London debut at the 2021 London Festival of American Music she gave the world premiere of Florence Price's complete *Fantasie Nègre* set. In 2018, she made her international lecture-recitalist debut at the Chicago Symphony Center with her event *A Celebration of Women in Music: Composing the Black Chicago Renaissance*. She has performed across the UK, Europe, North America, and Southeast Asia. She has also played with the Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra, Oakland Symphony Orchestra, Arkansas Symphony Orchestra, and Yale Philharmonia.

## **Odaline de la Martinez**



The award-winning Cuban American composer- conductor Odaline de la Martinez is one of Britain's most dynamic and gifted musicians. Through the years she has established an international reputation as one of the most exciting and versatile pioneers of 20th and 21st century music. In 1984, Martinez conducted a BBC Promenade Concert at the Royal Albert Hall at aged 34 and 1987 she was awarded the Villa Lobos medal from the Brazilian government in recognition of her outstanding work promoting and conducting his music. Martinez was made a fellow of the Royal Academy of Music in 1990, and to this day she is in demand throughout the world both as an orchestra and opera conductor, and with her ensemble Lontano.

Martinez founded Lontano, her chamber ensemble, in 1976 whilst studying composition at the Royal Academy of Music, and the ensemble's impact on the perception of new music has been profound and enduring.

Her conducting repertoire ranges from Mozart symphonies to the latest contemporary music. Since the late 1990s, Martinez has focused more on her composing work, with much success in writing opera. *'Imoinda': A Story of Love and Slavery* is her second opera, after her first opera *Sister Aimée*, which she wrote after winning a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1980. In 2014 she was composer in residence at Tulane University, New Orleans, and composer/artist in residence at the University of Arizona in Tucson.

Martínez is also much in demand as a guest conductor, appearing frequently with leading orchestras worldwide and throughout Great Britain, including all the BBC orchestras and ensembles (BBC Symphony, BBC Philharmonic, BBC NOW, BBC Scottish, BBC Belfast, BBC Concert Orchestra, and the BBC Singers). She has also conducted, amongst many others: the San Diego Symphony Orchestra, and New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, the Australian Youth Orchestra, the Natal Philharmonic (South Africa), the Aarhus Symphony (Denmark), the Orquesta Filarmónica de Cali (Colombia), the Canberra Symphony Orchestra, Radio-Television Orchestra of Brazil, the Kansas City Symphony, the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, the City of London Sinfonia, the Kitchner-Waterloo Symphony (Canada), the Manitoba Chamber Orchestra, Orquesta Filarmónica de la UNAM, Mexico City, and the Vancouver Chamber Orchestra.

**[odalinedelamartinez.com](http://odalinedelamartinez.com)**

## LORELT

**LORELT** (Lontano Records Ltd) is the first independent classical record label in the UK to offer its own MP3 downloads. It was formed in **1992** by the composer and conductor **Odaline de la Martínez**, to promote recordings of important repertoire neglected by major record labels. The three main areas covered were 20th and 21st Century Composers, Latin American Classical music and Women Composers of all periods. Although originally the principal recording artist was to be the music ensemble Lontano, as the label grew other excellent performers were acquired.

<https://www.lorelt.co.uk/>

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