

**Odaline de la Martínez celebrates her 75th birthday
in a series of events and recordings, including
18 Premieres at her
9th London Festival of American Music**



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

Sunday Times

Monday 11 - Friday 15 November
London Festival of American Music



Cuban-born pioneering conductor and composer Odaline de la Martínez celebrates her 75th birthday this autumn with a series of commissions, recordings and the return of the **London Festival of American Music** from **11 – 15 November** at **The Warehouse**. The **9th edition** of the **American festival** will include **18 premieres** by fellow Émigrés **Ursula Mamlok, Ruth Schonthal** and Latin American Émigrés **Tania Leon** and **Alba Potes**, alongside American composers **William Dougherty, Daniel Asia,**

Aaron Einbond, Elizabeth Ogonek, Daniel Thomas Davis, and Louis Karchin. Martinez has been commissioned to write two new works: ***Three Afro-Cuban Poems*** commissioned by the the Ora Singers, with funds from the Vaughan Williams Trust, to be premiered on **28 September** at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama - and ***Studies in Rhythm*** - for Samantha Ege to be premiered at the **Barbican** on **1 December**. Furthermore, the University of Surrey will mount a celebration on her actual birthday **31st October**. **Other highlights include** a shared concert with **Barbara Jazwinski** on **13 October** in **New York City Marc Scorca Hall, Opera America**, and the release of the CD '***Maestra***', an album of piano concertos by **Doreen Carwithen** and **Julia Perry** with Samantha Ege and Lontano, conducted by Martinez to be released in **October**.

Martinez was born in Cuba in a cane-sugar manufacturing town. After the Bay of Pigs, her parents sent her to the US to complete her education. Following studies of music and mathematics at Tulane University, New Orleans, she became a **Marshall Scholar** which enabled her to study in the UK at the Royal Academy of Music and University of Surrey with awards from the Danforth & Watson fellowships. Noticing a gap in the market, she trail-blazed into the music industry as a female conductor (the first at the Proms) and then creating her own label **Lorelt** to record the music of overlooked Female composers, Contemporary Composers and Latin American Music. She has subsequently returned to composing inspired by the sounds of her Cuban childhood. For over 40 years, Martínez has championed music by female and ethnically diverse composers and is known as one of Britain's most dynamic and gifted musicians.

This year, **the 9th London Festival of American Music** launches on **Monday 11 November** with a programme promoted by **The Association of Marshall Scholars**. It includes the **UK premiere** of American composer and current Fellow at Harvard University's Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study **William Dougherty's** piece, *A Stillness of Zero Sensation*, and a specially written work by the award-winning composer Daniel Thomas Davis. **Elizabeth Ogonek's** *Falling Up* also features. Elizabeth Ogonek, whose music has been described as "*shimmering*," "*dramatic*" and "*painstakingly crafted*" by the Chicago Tribune, has worked with the London Symphony Orchestra, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. The concert also



Elizabeth Ogonek

includes Odaline de la Martinez's *Canciones* with American mezzo-soprano Amber Fasquelle.

The second concert, entitled ***Female Émigrées***, will feature **world premieres** from composers **Ursula Mamlok** and **Ruth Schonthal**, who fled the Nazis during World War Two, and **Tania Leon**, a Cuban emigree celebrating her 80th birthday this year and the Colombian born Alba Potes. Throughout the week there are numerous UK premieres including Elena Ruehr's *Piano Trio 4* and Jennifer Higdon's *Piano Trio* on **Wednesday 13 November**, and Dan Asia's *Sonata for violin and piano*, Barbara Jazwinski's *Dream of Vagabond Winds*, and Joshua Nicholls' *Adagio for clarinet cello and piano* on **Thursday 14 November**. This concert will also feature a new work by American composer **Louis Karchin**, who has been described as a composer of "*fearless eloquence*" by The New Yorker.



Scott Stroman

The final concert of the festival on **Friday 15 November** will feature **Scott Stroman** conducting the **London premiere** of **Martinez' *Three Afro Cuban Poems*** alongside his own **Jazz Psalms**. US-born Stroman is a composer, conductor, singer, trombonist and educator, and was made a Fellow of Guildhall School in 1988. He recently premiered his second opera, *The Weekend*, based the book by Michael Palin, and received a BASCA Gold Badge Award for services to music from the Ivors Academy in 2018.

Listings

Sunday 2 June

Premiere Recording Julia Perry Piano Concerto No.2

Maestra will be released in Autumn

Julia Perry Piano Concerto No.2

Doreen Carwithen Piano Concerto

Samatha Ege piano

Thursday 13 June

Guildford Cathedral

Odaline de la Martínez *Home I want to go home*

University of Surrey Chamber Choir

Saturday 28 September

Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama

Odaline de la Martínez *Three Afro Cuban Poems* **WORLD PREMIERE**

ORA Singers

Sunday 13 October

Opera America, Marc Scorca Hall

Barbara Jazwinski A selection of chamber works

Odaline de la Martínez A selection of arias and duets from the opera *Imoinda – A story of Love and Slavery*

Thursday 31 October

University of Surrey PATS Studio 1

Odaline de la Martinez's 75th anniversary concert

Programme tbc

University of Surrey Chamber Choir

Caroline Balding violin

Clare O'Connell cello

Samanthe Ege piano

Monday 11 - Friday 15 November

9th Lontano and Odaline de la Martinez's London Festival of American Music

The Warehouse

Monday 11 November Marshalls in the Arts

William Dougherty *A Stillness of Zero Sensation* **UK PREMIERE**

Sruthi Rajasekar *I saw you and I Danced*

Sruthi Rajasekar *Dagian a Deux*

Odaline de la Martinez *Canciones*

Aaron Einbond *String Trio* **UK PREMIERE**

Elizabeth Ogonek *Falling Up* **UK PREMIERE**

Daniel Thomas Davis *New Commissioned Work* **WORLD PREMIERE**

Odaline de la Martinez Conductor

Amber Fasquelle Mezzo Soprano

Michael Poll Guitar

Tuesday 12 November Female Emmigrees

Ursula Mamlok *When Summer Sang* **UK PREMIERE**

Tania Leon *Del Caribe Soy!* **UK PREMIERE**

Alba Potes *Aprisa* **UK PREMIERE**

Mamlok *Breezes* **UK PREMIERE**

Tania Leon *Elegia a Paul Robeson* **UK PREMIERE**

Ruth Schontal *Love letters for clarinet and cello* **UK PREMIERE**

Mamlok *Fünf Phantasiestücke* **UK PREMIERE**

Odaline de la Martinez Conductor

Samantha Ege Presenter

Bettina Brand Presenter

Wednesday 13 November

Trios and More

Elena Ruehr Piano Trio 4 **UK PREMIERE**

Caroline Shaw Manus Tuas

Linda Catlin Smith Music for John Cage, solo piano

William Grant Still Suite

Jesse Montgomery Duo

George Walker Violin sonata no 1

Jennifer Higdon Piano Trio **UK PREMIERE**

Caroline Balding violin

Clare O'Connell cello

Lana Bode piano

Thursday 14 November

Dan Asia Sonata for violin and piano **UK PREMIERE**

Barbara Jazwinski Dream of Vagabond Winds **UK PREMIERE**

Joshua Nicholls Adagio for clarinet cello and piano **UK PREMIERE**

Louis Karchin New Work **WORLD PREMIERE**

Fred Lerdhal Give and Take

Charles Shadle Limestone Gap

Arlene Sierra Butterflies Remember a Mountain

Friday 15 November

Charles Ives Songs

Steve Reich Proverb

Odaline de la Martinez *Three Afro Cuban Poems* **LONDON PREMIERE**

Scott Stroman Jazz Psalms

Eclectic Voices

Scott Stroman Conductor

Sunday 1 December

Milton Court Concert Hall, The Barbican

Florence Price Piano Sonata

Camila Cortina Bello Bravura **LONDON PREMIERE**

Odaline de la Martinez *Studies in Rhythm* for solo piano **WORLD PREMIERE**

Chen Yi Variations on Awariguli

Gabriela Ortiz Preludio e Estudio No 3

Samanthe Ege piano

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 1980, she was awarded the Guggenheim Fellow (Big) and in 1984, Martinez was the first woman to conduct a BBC Promenade Concert at the Royal Albert Hall at age 34 and in 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. She also holds an honorary Doctorate from the University of Surrey.

Martinez and Ingrid Culliford founded Lontano, the chamber ensemble, in 1976 whilst studying composition and piano at the Royal Academy of Music. 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*, premiered in 2019, 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 MIT, SUNY Binghamton and 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 Filarmonica 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

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 orchestras, singers, string quartets and other excellent performers were acquired.

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

For more information on any of the above, please contact
Nicky Thomas Media

Unit 12 The Stableyard, Broomgrove Road, London SW9 9TL
+44 (0)20 3714 7594 | +44 (0)7768 566 530

info@nickythomasmedia.com
www.nickythomasmedia.com