

**Odaline de la Martínez conducts *Female Émigrées*,
featuring 7 premieres, at the 9th London Festival of
American Music on **12 November** at The Warehouse**



Tuesday 12 November
Female Émigrées

Video of Ursula Mamlok

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

***"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 Odaline de la Martinez conducts ***Female Émigrées*** concert at the **9th London Festival of American Music** on **12 November** at **The Warehouse**. The **concert features 7 UK premieres** by fellow Émigrées **Ursula Mamlok, Ruth Schonthal** and Latin American Émigrées **Tania Leon** and **Alba Potes**.

The Festival reflects new music in America today, celebrating diversity of gender, generation, ethnicity and geography. Over half the composers featured are women, with many hailing from ethnic minority backgrounds. The festival aims to promote the work of outstanding composers who are well established in America but are less well known to UK audiences.

This concert places a central focus on **Jewish female émigrées** works, by Ursula Mamlok and Ruth Schonthal. Mamlok and Schontal escaped from Nazi Germany via Latin America and eventually settled in the United States. The concert also includes Mamlok's former students, Tania Leon and Alba Potes, emigrees from Latin America. These composers are bound by the commonality of being female émigrées who all resided in South America.

Composer **Ursula Mamlok** (1923 – 2016) was born in Berlin in 1923, but had to emigrate to New York via Ecuador in 1939 due to her Jewish ancestry. Whilst in the United States she studied at the **Mannes School of Music** and the **Manhattan School of Music**. In 2006 she returned to her hometown, where she has been heralded as a master composer. German musicians and concert organizations have taken up her scores, performing numerous concerts and making recordings of compositions from throughout her long career, but in **November** three of her works will receive their **UK premiere**.

Her works ***When Summer Sang*** and ***Breezes*** were composed in 1980 and 2015 respectively. Mamlok's ***The Five Fantasy Pieces*** - composed in 2012/13 for a small mixed ensemble of oboe, violin, viola and cello - develop their appeal from the range of feelings and states that they describe musically in a very short space of time: Restless - Floating - Cheerful - As in a Dream - Playful are the titles of the individual parts. She comments of her music, *"I live in the 20th/21st century, I cannot compose like Brahms, regardless of my appreciation of his music."*

"I was a composer of tonal music with extended harmonies. But later on, not much later than that, I got interested in twelve-tone music. I felt that you have to do these things. . . . I came to know music of a different style. But it is probably the same music I wrote before, only with a different technique and I still do that. . . . My music is basically lyrical, but also maybe dramatic."

The composer mandated the creation of a charitable trust – the **Dwight und Ursula Mamlok-Stiftung** (The Dwight and Ursula Mamlok Foundation) during her own

lifetime and likewise designated the Foundation's Charter. The Foundation's aims center on the promotion of music and literature. Pianist and musicologist **Samantha Ege** will join **Bettina Brand** to present the performance. Brand is part of the Ursula Mamlok Foundation team and was the person that encouraged Ursula to move back to Berlin after her husband died.

Ruth Schonthal (1924 -2006) was also a Nazi refugee that ended up in Latin America and eventually studied and settled in the States. ***Love Letters***, composed in 1979, comprises nine short movements, each one representing a mood or emotional experience associated with a romantic relationship. One close student of hers between 2003 and 2005, the unknown Stephanie Germanotta, went on to great fame in the pop music world as **Lady Gaga**.

The concert also includes two of Mamlok's students – Cuban émigrée **Tania Leon**, who is celebrating her 80th birthday this year, and Columbian born **Alba Potes**. ***Leon's del Caribe, Soy! (I'm Caribbean!)*** for flute and piano is a work influenced by gestures in the music of the Caribbean cultures. South Florida Classical Review commented "*A well-traveled symphonic conductor, teacher and founding music director of the Dance Theater of Harlem, composer Tania Leon has fashioned a riveting vignette that mixes bird calls and whistles, fragments of Latin melodies, atonal piano effects and high, off-balance flute writing of the 1960s avant garde variety. Leon's misty portrait of the Caribbean sky, breeze and ocean is a terrific addition to the flute repertoire.*" Leon is Composer-in-Residence with the **London Philharmonic Orchestra** and her orchestral work *Stride*, commissioned by the New York Philharmonic, was awarded the **2021 Pulitzer Prize in Music**.



Listings

Saturday 28 September

Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama

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

Thursday 31 October

University of Surrey PATS Studio 1

Odaline de la Martínez'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

Tuesday 12 November
Female Emigrees

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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**
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