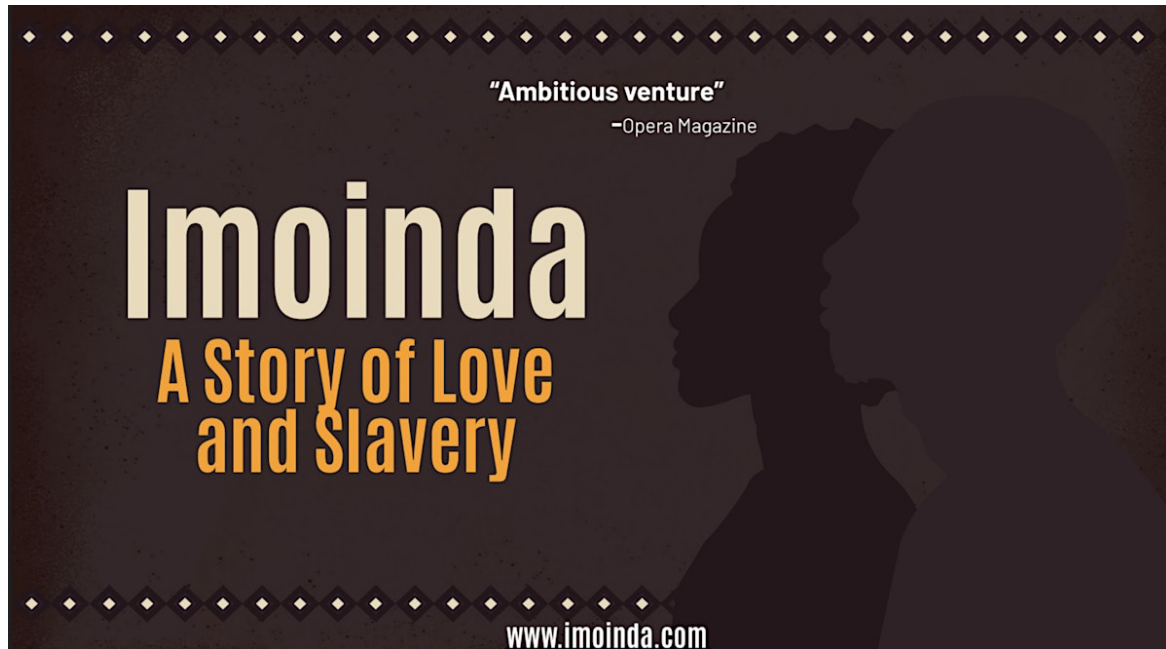


**The International League of Composers showcasing
extracts from Odaline de la Martínez's Opera
Imoinda on **13 October****



Opera America
Marc Scorca Hall
330 7th Ave 7th Floor, New York
13 October

Odaline de la Martínez *Imoinda: Stories of Love and Slavery* (Arias and Duets from the opera)

Barbara Jazwinski *Incantations* for Solo Violin

Barbara Jazwinski String Trio

Barbara Jazwinski *Wind Shadows*

Marina Kifferstein violin

Leah Asher viola

Meaghan Burke cello

Marta Troicki bassoon

Steven Beck piano

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

Sunday Times Magazine

The League **of Composers/ISCM** present a series of works featuring **Cuban-born pioneering conductor and composer Odaline de la Martinez** on **13 October**.

Set in the 16th Century in the African Kingdom of Guinea, *Imoinda* looks at slavery through the eyes of two lovers: Oko and *Imoinda*. At the Palace, Imoinda and Prince Oko have confirmed their love for each other. Meanwhile, the king entertains his neighbouring chief in honour of their new peace treaty and promises him a princess of his choice for his new wife. The chief having spied Imoinda and Prince Oko together, schemes against them. In Prince Oko's absence, the chief chooses Imoinda for his bride. Since the king is disobeyed only on pain of death, when Prince Oko, on returning to the palace finds that Imoinda has been promised by the king to another, he is forced into immediate action to protect his own interest and risks all to claim his love.

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. 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 overlooking female composers. 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.

The Crossing, part two of her Trilogy, was **commissioned by Tulane University** and **premiered in New Orleans** in April 2013, by the Tulane and Xavier University choirs, with soloists and the Louisiana Philharmonic, while at Tulane as composer in residence. The work was premiered in the UK on November 2014 at The Fifth London Festival of American Music. In 2016 Martinez received composition awards from the **USA Cintas Foundation** and the **British PRS Foundation** for Music allowing her to complete *Plantation*, the final part of her *Imoinda* Opera Trilogy. The complete trilogy received its World Premiere on February/March 2019 at the 7th London Festival of American Music.

Listings

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

Samantha Ege piano

Monday 11 - Saturday 16 November

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

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/Narrator

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* **PREMIERE**

Mamlok *Breezes* **UK PREMIERE**

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

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

Mamlok *Fünf Fantasiestücke* **UK PREMIERE**

Odaline de la Martinez Conductor

Samantha Ege Presenter

Wednesday 13 November

Trios and More

Elena Ruehr Piano Trio 4

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

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 Work to be confirmed

Charles Shadle Chahta Aiasha

Arlene Sierra Butterflies Remember a Mountain

Friday 15 November

Eclectic Voices

Charles Ives Songs

Steve Reich Proverb

Odaline de la Martinez Three Afro Cuban Poems

Scott Stroman Jazz Psalms

Scott Stroman Conductor

Sunday 1 December

Milton Court Concert Hall, The Barbican

Florence Price Piano Sonata

Camila Cortina Bello Bravura

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

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 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 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 other excellent performers were acquired.

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

For more information on any of the above, please contact

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