

Odaline de la Martinez **Conductor and composer**



Cuban American composer and conductor Odaline de la Martinez pursues a demanding and successful career composing - particularly opera and conducting repertoire from Mozart symphonies to the latest contemporary music. Martinez has recorded over 40 CDs with Lorelt (Lontano Records) which she founded in 1992, Chandos, Summit, Albany, Metier, Conifer Classics, DaCapo and BMI.

Martinez was the first woman to conduct a BBC Prom at the Royal Albert Hall in 1984 and has made several return visits since. Martinez studied at Tulane University, and the Royal Academy of Music, where she founded her ensemble Lontano in 1976. She obtained her MMus in Composition at the University of Surrey, working under Reginald Smith Brindle.

Martinez has received numerous awards including a Marshall Scholarship from the British Government, a Guggenheim Fellowship, National Endowment for the Arts Award, and the Villa Lobos Medal from the Brazilian Government. Her first opera *Sister Aimee: An American Legend* (1984) was premiered at Tulane University in 1984, followed by two other productions at the Royal College of Music (1987) and in Marin County College, California (1995). In 2015 Martinez was awarded an Opera America grant to make the film *Selected Scenes from Imoinda* part I of her opera *Trilogy Imoinda - A Story of Love and Slavery*. The film opened the 6th London Festival of American Music in November 2016. *The Crossing* also from 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. In April 2017, Martinez received a Lifetime Achievement Award and in 2019 a Doctor Honoris Causa from the University of Surrey. She has recently been awarded a Gold Badge from the Ivors Academy (previously the British Academy of Composers and Songwriters) as well as a Lukas Lifetime Achievement Award for her achievement as a woman and a member of the Latin American Community.

Martinez is co-founder and Music Director of the contemporary ensemble Lontano with whom she has performed and broadcast all over the world, of the London Chamber Symphony and, in 1990, the European Women's Orchestra.

As well as frequent appearances as guest conductor with leading orchestras throughout Great Britain, including all the BBC orchestras, she has conducted amongst others, the San Diego and New Zealand Symphony Orchestras, the Australian Youth Orchestra, the Natal Philharmonic, the Aarhus Symphony, the Canberra Symphony Orchestra, Radio-Television Orchestra of Brazil, the Kansas City Symphony and the Vancouver Chamber Orchestra. She is also known as a broadcaster for BBC Radio and Television.

Odaline de la Martinez is in demand throughout the world both as an orchestra and opera conductor and with her ensemble Lontano. As a musician she has acquired a

remarkable reputation for her versatile and eclectic vision, and supreme ability to work with others to make the vision a reality.

Martinez is published by Composers Edition.

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