

Born in 1996, Julia Cruz has an enthusiastic, dynamic, and communicative personality that allows her to connect with orchestras and audiences in a spontaneous manner. Her repertoire ranges from Haydn to newly created music, with a special interest in opera and contemporary music. Awarded in the Blue Danube/Béla Bartók Opera Conducting Competition 2021, she is also a Britten Pears Young Artist for 23-24 and, since 2022, one of the recipients of the Taki Alsop Conducting Fellowship.

Her most recent engagements include her debuts with the National Orchestra of Spain, the National Opera Company of Mexico - conducting the national premiere of *Beatrix Cenci* by Alberto Ginastera - and the world premiere of *Ciudad Delirio*, a ballet commissioned by the National Dance Company of Mexico - with whom she had previously collaborated on the winter production of *The Nutcracker* 2023.

In the upcoming months, she will make her debuts with the Extremadura Orchestra and the Bellas Artes Chamber Orchestra, and she has been invited back to conduct the UNAM Philharmonic Orchestra and the Mexico City Philharmonic Orchestra, among others. In the operatic field, she will direct a production of *L'Elisir d'Amore* with Ópera Terrassa and assist Jordi Francés in the world premiere of *Tejas Verdes* by Jesús Torres and the new production of *La Vida Breve* at the Teatro Real.

In previous seasons, Julia has also conducted the Bilbao Orkestra Sinfonikoa, La Jolla Symphony and Chorus, and the closing night of the International Chamber Music Festival, among others. In the realm of opera, she has led productions of *La Traviata* at the Kolozsvári Magyar Opera and *L'Elisir d'Amore* at the Stara Zagora State Opera.

As an assistant, Julia has worked with Pablo Rus at the Jove Orquestra de la Generalitat Valenciana and has collaborated for three seasons with the National Orchestral Institute Festival in the United States and Ópera Colombia.

Her interest in contemporary and newly created music has led her to collaborate closely with various composers in Europe and Latin America on musical and music-theatrical projects that will come to light in the coming months.

A trained trombonist, Julia graduated in conducting from the Conservatorio Superior de Música de Aragón and Zuyd University of Applied Arts, both with Cum Laude honors. She has also studied with Federico Santi, whom Julia considers her mentor, and has received guidance in several masterclasses and workshops from Johannes Schlaefli, Marin Alsop, Gregory Vajda, Daniel Oren, Colin Metters, Vladimir Ponkin, and Bruno Aprea, among others.

Please write to juliacruzconductor@gmail.com if you would like to edit this biography. (October 2024)