

Born in 1996, Julia Cruz has an enthusiastic, dynamic, and communicative personality that allows her to connect with orchestras and audiences spontaneously. 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 winners of the Taki Alsop Conducting Fellowship.

Her most recent engagements include debuts with the National Orchestra of Spain, the National Opera Company of Mexico, and the National Dance Company of Mexico—having previously collaborated with them on the winter production of *The Nutcracker* 2023.

In the coming months, she will debut with the Extremadura Orchestra and the Chamber Orchestra of Fine Arts, and has been re-invited to the UNAM Philharmonic Orchestra and the Mexico City Philharmonic Orchestra, among others. In the operatic field, she will conduct a production of *L'Elisir d'Amore* with Opera 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 field 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.

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 trained with Federico Santi, whom Julia considers her mentor, and has received lessons and advice in various masterclasses and workshops from Johannes Schlaefli, Marin Alsop, Gregory Vajda, Daniel Oren, Colin Metters, Vladimir Ponkin, and Bruno Aprea, among others.

Write to juliacruzconductor@gmail.com if you wish to edit this biography.

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