

## Hilda Paredes, Composer

*"whilst living in London and rooted in contemporary European music, echoes of pre-colonial Central American cultures surface in her music, as well as a very definite essential strength, channelled towards a refined and sensitive music always poetically framed".* Mundo Clásico 2016

Firmly established as one of the leading Mexican composers of her generation, Hilda Paredes has been based in London for 35 years. Musicians, singers and conductors frequently praise the perfect balance she achieves between brilliant compositional technique and a keen sensibility for the particular instruments and individuals for whom she writes.

While there is a testimony of constant collaboration with Mexican poets and artists in her works, she also draws inspiration from many different composers and cultures from around the world. Her music has been acclaimed by the critics for the refinement of her craft, marked by the intensity of the relationship between time, dramatic force and poetic approach.

The versatility of her work is manifest in a catalogue that includes a wide range of electroacoustic elements, creating works at IRCAM and SWR Experimentalstudio. Most recently at CIRM, she composed her widely celebrated chamber opera *Harriet. Scenes in the life of Harriet Tubman*, for the renowned African-American soprano Claron Mcfadden and co-produced by Muziek Theater Transparent. After the premiere at the Muziekgebouw Amsterdam, the Dutch critic, Joep Stapel, named *Harriet* the Best Classical Music Performance of 2018. In 2019, Hilda was awarded a prestigious Ivors Composer Award (previously British Composer Awards) for this work.

In addition to this award, Paredes has been honoured with a number of illustrious international accolades, including the PRS for Music Foundation, J.S. Guggenheim Fellowship, Rockefeller Fund for Culture Mexico/USA, and the Fellowship from Sistema Nacional de Creadores (FONCA) in Mexico.

Hilda Paredes' music has been commissioned, premiered and performed by many prestigious ensembles, orchestras and soloists including Trio Arbós, Arditti Quartet, Aventure, Collegium Novum Zurich, Contrechamps, Court Circuit, Ensemble Intercontemporain, L'Instant donné, Hilliard Ensemble, Ensemble Modern, Ensemble Recherche, Ensemble Signal, Ensemble Sospeso, Grup Instrumental de Valencia, ICE, London Sinfonietta, Lontano, The New Juilliard Ensemble, Neue Vocalsolisten, Ensemble Sospeso, Plural Ensemble, Psappa, Ensemble Phoenix Basle, MDi Ensemble, Orchestra di l'Arena de Verona, RTE, OFUNAM, Filarmónica de la Ciudad de México, amongst many others.

Her works have been presented by such prominent international festivals and venues as the Wigmore Hall, *Huddersfield Contemporary Music* and *Edinburgh Festivals* in the UK; *Eclat* and *Ultraschall* in Germany; *Festival D'Automne a Paris*, *Musica* and *Octobre en Normandie* in France; *Wien Modern* and *Klangspuren* in Austria; *Akiyoshidai* and *Takefu Music Festivals* in Japan; *Archipel* and *Music Monat* in Switzerland; *De Ijsbreker Chamber Music Festival* in Amsterdam; *Warsaw Autumn* in Poland; *Ultima* in Oslo; *Melbourne International Music Festival* in Australia; *June in Buffalo*, the *Composer Portraits Series* at Miller Theatre NY, and *Festival of Arts and Ideas* in the USA, *Ars Musica* in Bruxelles; *Festival de Alicante*, *Festival de Música Religiosa de Cuenca* and *ENSEMS Festival* in Spain; and *Festival Internacional Cervantino* in Mexico.

Paredes continues to be involved in the musical life of her native Mexico as a composer and teacher and was also an important radio producer of new music. Much in demand as composition tutor and lecturer, Hilda has been a guest lecturer at several universities in the UK, the USA, Spain and France, and was designated Artist in Residence for 2020's *June in Buffalo*.

After studying composition at the Conservatoire in Mexico City with Mario Lavista, she was an active participant in master classes at Dartington Summer School, studying with Peter Maxwell Davies, Harrison Birtwistle and Richard Rodney Bennett. She was also a student at Franco Donatoni's Masterclasses at the Academia Chighiana. Paredes graduated from the Guildhall School of Music and subsequently obtained her Master of Arts at City University in London, and later completed her PhD at Manchester University under Prof. John Casken.

Paredes' works have featured on the AEON, Mode Records NY, Bridge and IBS labels, amongst others and are published by [University of York Music Press](http://UniversityofYorkMusicPress).