

Hilda Paredes **Biography**

Firmly established as one of the leading Mexican composers of her generation, Hilda Paredes has been based in London for almost 40 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 music 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, from the NRC newspaper, placed *Harriet* as the number one Best Classical Music of 2018. In 2019, Hilda was awarded a prestigious Ivors Composer Award, as well as Music Theater Now in 2021 in Germany for this work.

In addition to this award, Paredes has been honoured with a number of illustrious international accolades, including Music Theatre Now, 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.

A collaboration with choreographers led her to receive the Music for Dance Award from the Arts Council of Great Britain in 1988 for *El Prestidigitador*. Through her participation in the Garden Venture Opera Project in Dartington, she was awarded the Arts Council of Great Britain Composers Award to write her first chamber opera *The Seventh Seed*, released by Mode Records (60).

In 2001 she was awarded the J.S. Guggenheim fellowship for the creation of her opera *El Palacio Imaginado*, based on a story by Isabel Allende and with a selection of contemporary Mexican indigenous poetry. Commissioned by *Musik der Jahrhunderte*, English National Opera and the *Festival of Arts and Ideas* in New Haven, the production was premiered with much acclaim on both sides of the Atlantic: “*This oppressive opera isn’t sweetened at all from having been written by a woman... New Haven should be talking about Phantom Palace-in a number of languages- for years to come*”. **NEW HAVEN ADVOCATE**. USA (2003)

Hilda Paredes’ music has been commissioned, premiered and performed by many prestigious ensembles, orchestras and soloists including Trio Arbós, Arditti Quartet, Aventure, Alarm Will Sound, Collegium Novum Zurich, Contrechamps, Court Circuit, Ensemble Dal Niente, Ensemble Intercontemporain, L’Instant donné, Hilliard Ensemble, Ensemble Modern, Ensemble Recherche, Signal, Grup Instrumental de Valencia, ICE, London Sinfonietta, Lontano, The New Julliard Ensemble, Neue Vocalsolisten, Ensemble Sospeso, Plural Ensemble, Taller Sonoro, Psappha, Ensemble Phoenix Basle, MDi Ensemble, Riot Ensemble, Sigma Project, Orchestra di l’Arena de Verona, RTE, OFUNAM, Sinfónica Nacional and Filarmónica de la Ciudad de México, amongst many others.

Her works have been presented by such prominent international festivals and venues as Wigmore Hall, *Huddersfield Contemporary Music* and *Edinburgh Festivals* in the UK; *Bayerische Akademie der Schönen Künste, Eclat, WEIT! 2024, Witten* 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, Tanglewood* and *Yellow Barn* 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* and Foro de Música Nueva 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 regular guest lecturer at the University of Buffalo and has taught composition and lectured at Manchester University, the University of San Diego California, and at other distinguished Universities in the US, at Centre Acanthes in France. She was the Darius Milhaud Professor at Mills College and Visiting Professor at Dartmouth College in the USA and at the Escola Superior de Música de Catalunya in Barcelona and at the Cátedra Manuel de Falla in Andalucía, la Escuela Nacional de Música de la UNAM and Conservatorio las Rosas in México.

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.

Some of her lectures and articles have been published in both English and Spanish, most recently *Silenced Voices, Addressing Human Rights Violations Through Musical Drama*. Published at Cambridge University Press: <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/twentieth-century-music/article/silenced-voices-addressing-human-rights-violations-through-musical-drama/C661B71C1C8B3418C642AAAC82BC13BE>

Paredes' works have featured on the AEON, Mode Records NY, Bridge, Wergo and IBS labels, amongst others and are published by University of York Music Press: <https://www.uymp.co.uk/composers/hilda-paredes/works>