

## **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 works created at IRCAM, at SWR Experimentalstudio and at CIRM, where the electronics of her widely celebrated opera *Harriet*, *Scenes in the life of Harriet Tubman*, were created. After the premiere at the Muziekgebouw Amsterdam, the Dutch critic, Joep Stapel, placed *Harriet* as the number one Best Classical Music of 2018. In 2019, Hilda was awarded a prestigious Ivors Composer Award for this work.

In addition to this award, Paredes has been honoured with a number of 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.

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, Birmingham Contemporary New Music Group, Collegium Novum Zurich, Contrechamps, Court Circuit, Ensemble Dal Niente, Gelbe Klang, 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, Takt Trio, Orchestra di l'Arena de Verona, RTE, Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, 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; *Suntory* and *Ishibashi Memorial Halls*, *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, *Library of Congress*, *Festival of Arts and Ideas*, *Tanglewood*, *Mizzou International Composers Festival* 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 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.

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](#).