

María Dueñas, Violinist

Spanish violinist María Dueñas has established herself as a luminous talent in classical music, captivating audiences with her extraordinary range of tonal colours, impeccable technical prowess, and interpretations that combine artistic maturity with bold expressiveness.

Her meteoric rise led to an exclusive contract with Deutsche Grammophon. María Dueñas' third album, *Homage to Heifetz*, will be released in August 2026. Recorded with Gustavo Dudamel and the Simón Bolívar Symphony Orchestra of Venezuela, it pays tribute to the legendary Jascha Heifetz, combining Lalo's *Symphonie espagnole* and Korngold's Violin Concerto - two works closely associated with the great violinist's legacy. Following the success of her debut recording, *Beethoven and Beyond*, which earned her the Opus Klassik Award for Young Talent of the Year, she received equal international acclaim for her second album, an ambitious exploration of Paganini's iconic 24 Caprices. For this recording, she was distinguished as Young Artist and Instrumentalist of the Year at the 2025 Gramophone Classical Music Awards.

María Dueñas has also claimed first prizes at some of the world's leading violin competitions, including the Menuhin Competition, the Vladimir Spivakov International Violin Competition, and the Zhuhai International Mozart Competition. Her artistry has been recognised with numerous further distinctions, among them her selection as a BBC New Generation Artist, Focus Artist at Rheingau Musik Festival, and the Princess of Girona Arts and Letters Award.

As globally recognized soloist, María Dueñas performs with the leading orchestras of Europe, North America and Asia, such as the Vienna Philharmonic, Staatskapelle Berlin, Munich Philharmonic, Bamberger Symphoniker, Wiener Symphoniker, Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen, San Francisco Symphony, Philadelphia Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, Pittsburgh Symphony, Cleveland Orchestra, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Oslo Philharmonic, NHK Symphony Orchestra, Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra, Philharmonia Orchestra, Accademia di Santa Cecilia and Orchestre de Paris. She regularly collaborates with outstanding conductors such as Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Christian Thielemann, Herbert Blomstedt, Alan Gilbert, Paavo Järvi, Vasily Petrenko, Marin Alsop, Andrés Orozco-Estrada, Santtu-Matias Rouvali, Karina Canellakis, Elim Chan, Gustavo Gimeno, Antonio Pappano, Manfred Honeck, Lahav Shani, Andris Nelsons, Daniel Harding, Kent Nagano und Zubin Mehta.

María Dueñas enjoys a longstanding artistic partnership with Gustavo Dudamel and the Los Angeles Philharmonic, marked by a series of significant collaborations, including a concert at the Hollywood Bowl's centennial celebrations, and the world premiere of Gabriela Ortiz's violin concerto *Altar de Cuerda*, with subsequent performances across North America and Europe. The recording of the concerto forms part of *Revolución diamantina*, which received three GRAMMY Awards in 2025.

A versatile artist also dedicated to composing, her works include *Homage 1770* for solo violin, published by Ricordi, *Farewell*, a solo piano piece, and cadenzas for numerous violin concertos. She is also committed to performing contemporary music, and is much in demand as chamber musician with partners such as Matthias Goerne, Itamar Golan, Renaud Capuçon, Yo-Yo Ma, Denis Kozhukin und Alexander Malofeev.

In 2024, María Dueñas portrayed the reincarnation of violinist Kathleen Parlow in the film *Measures for a Funeral* directed by Sofia Bohdanowicz. The movie featured Johan Halvorsen's long-lost Violin Concerto op. 28, introducing the rediscovered work to a wider audience through her compelling performance with the Orchestre Métropolitain under the direction of Yannick Nézet-Séguin. The concert recording and movie soundtrack are scheduled for release on Deutsche Grammophon.

Highlights of the 2026/27 season include performances with the Bamberg Symphony under Jakub Hrůša in Bamberg and Hamburg, Philharmonia Orchestra under Santtu-Matias Rouvali in London and Munich, and a return to Staatskapelle Berlin under Christian Thielemann. María Dueñas also continues her acclaimed artistic collaborations with Manfred Honeck and the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, as well as with Yannick Nézet-Séguin and the Orchestre Métropolitain. The season is further marked by several major international tours, beginning with performances in South Korea and Taiwan with the Orchestre Philharmonique du Luxembourg and Gustavo Gimeno. Together with the Camerata Salzburg, María Dueñas makes her South American debut, followed by concerts in Austria and the Canary Islands with the Wiener Symphoniker under Petr Popelka, and concluding with a tour alongside the National Youth Symphony Orchestra of Colombia under Andrés Orozco-Estrada - another longstanding artistic partner - taking her to Germany, Vienna, Zurich and Paris.

María Dueñas plays the Giambattista Guadagnini violin of 1779 from the Deutsche Stiftung Musikleben as well as the Antonio Stradivarius "Michelangelo" (1718), on generous loan from the Karolina Blaberg Foundation.