

María Dueñas, Biography

María Dueñas has emerged as a luminous talent in classical music, captivating audiences with her extraordinary range of tonal colours, impeccable technical prowess, and interpretations that blend artistic maturity with bold expressiveness. *The New York Times* praised her ability to breathe "new life into well-known pieces" and described her as a "22-year-old violinist who has something to say, and the skill to say it brilliantly".

Her meteoric rise led to an exclusive contract with Deutsche Grammophon, a significant milestone in her burgeoning career. María Dueñas' debut album, *Beethoven and Beyond*, released in 2023, showcased her remarkable interpretation of Beethoven's violin concerto, featuring cadenzas composed by herself. This recording, made with the Vienna Symphony Orchestra under Manfred Honeck, earned her the prestigious *Opus Klassik* award as Young Artist of the Year in 2024, adding to an extraordinary array of grand and first prizes at international competitions, including the Senior Division of the Menuhin Competition, the Viktor Tretyakov and the Vladimir Spivakov International Violin Competitions or the Zhuhai International Mozart Competition. Her unique interpretative approach has also been recognized by the Rheingau Music Festival, BBC Radio 3 and the Princess of Girona Arts and Letters Award.

February 2025 marked the release of her second Deutsche Grammophon album, an ambitious project centered around Paganini's legendary 24 Caprices and works inspired by Paganini from composers spanning from Berlioz to contemporary artists.

Establishing herself as a globally recognized soloist, she has already collaborated with the world's leading orchestras such as the Philadelphia Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony, Pittsburgh Symphony, Cleveland Orchestra, Staatskapelle Berlin, Oslo Philharmonic, NHK Symphony Orchestra, Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen, Munich Philharmonic, NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchester, Bamberger Symphoniker, Wiener Symphoniker, Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra, Philharmonia Orchestra, Accademia di Santa Cecilia, Chamber Orchestra of Europe, Danish National Symphony Orchestra, Dresdner Philharmonie and the Orchestre de Paris, alongside a constellation of esteemed conductors including Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Herbert Blomstedt, Christian Thielemann, Marin Alsop, Christoph Eschenbach, Manfred Honeck, Kent Nagano, Marek Janowski, Daniel Harding, Alain Altinoglu, Alan Gilbert, Cristian Măcelaru, Paavo Järvi, Vasily Petrenko, Andrés Orozco-Estrada, Santtu-Matias Rouvali, Vladimir Spivakov, Gustavo Gimeno and Jukka-Pekka Saraste, among others.

Her strong artistic partnership with Los Angeles Philharmonic and Gustavo Dudamel has yielded several notable achievements, such as performances at the Hollywood Bowl's 100th Anniversary celebration, the world premiere of Gabriela Ortiz's violin concerto *Altar de Cuerda* with concerts at Walt Disney Concert Hall, on tour in Barcelona, Paris and London, and sold-out premieres at Carnegie Hall and in Boston. The recording of this work is part of the album *Revolución diamantina* which won three GRAMMY Awards in 2025.

A versatile artist with a remarkable passion for composition, the creative endeavors of María Dueñas include *Homage 1770*, a piece for solo violin inspired by her debut album and Beethoven's legacy, *Farewell*, a solo piano piece, and cadenzas for most of the violin concerto repertoire. In August 2024, she released Julian Lawrence Gargiulo's Sonata No. 4 *From the Window* for Deutsche Grammophon, showcasing her commitment to contemporary music. As a dedicated chamber musician, María Dueñas has forged meaningful artistic partnerships with some of the most respected names in the field, such as the baritone Matthias Goerne, the pianist Itamar Golan and violinist Renaud Capuçon.

Her remarkable fusion of classical tradition and contemporary innovation led her to play the reincarnation of Kathleen Parlow in the film *Measures for a Funeral* by Sofia Bohdanowicz, rediscovering Johan Halvorsen's long-lost violin concerto op. 28. This masterpiece was brought to life in a stunning performance with the Orchestre Métropolitain under the baton of Yannick Nézet-Séguin, which premiered at the 2024 Toronto Film Festival.

In the 2024-25 season, Dueñas' schedule brims with high-profile engagements, including a tour of Japan with Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen and Paavo Järvi, performances with the Cleveland Orchestra, a return to the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra under Manfred Honeck, her debuts with Staatskapelle Dresden under Andrés Orozco-Estrada and Staatskapelle Berlin under Christian Thielemann, a reencounter with Marek Janowski and Helsinki Philharmonic, Tanglewood Festival with Andris Nelsons, and recitals with pianist Alexander Malofeev, featuring concerts at Carnegie Hall, Pierre Boulez Saal Berlin, and the Salzburg and Edinburgh Festivals.

In celebration of the 90th birthday of the renowned conductor Zubin Mehta, tribute concerts will be held in Spain, featuring María Dueñas alongside the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra and the Maestro on the podium.

María Dueñas performs on a Nicolò Gagliano violin from 1774, on loan from *Deutsche Stiftung Musikleben*, and has also been entrusted with the Stradivarius *Camposelice* from 1710 by the Nippon Music Foundation.