

## ***Maria Conrad - violin***



Born in Saarbrücken, Germany, Maria began her piano and violin studies in Malta at an early age, obtaining Associate and Licentiate Diplomas from London College of Music, Trinity College of Music and the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music in both instruments. She graduated from the University of Malta in Music and German Studies, and furthered her violin studies at London's prestigious Guildhall School of Music and Drama, under the guidance of Prof. Krzysztof Smietana.

She was a member of the National Orchestra of Malta and Orquesta Sinfonica de Extremadura for several years, and a regular collaborator with leading Spanish orchestras such as Gran Canaria Philharmonic Orchestra, Galicia Symphony Orchestra,

Bilbao Symphony Orchestra, Navarra Symphony Orchestra, Tenerife Symphony Orchestra and Region de Murcia Symphony Orchestra.

During the last twenty years she has worked with conductors such as Pierre Boulez, Sir Colin Davis and Kurt Masur, and has performed with orchestras, international soloists and chamber ensembles in many of the world's leading concert halls in over 30 countries.

During the last ten years she has focused more on chamber music, working with various ensembles on music ranging from baroque to contemporary. She has performed alongside members of the Vienna Philharmonic, Ensemble Telemaque and European Union Chamber Orchestra amongst others. She has repeatedly performed for the International Spring Festival at the Manoel Theatre, the Three Palaces Festival and the Victoria International Arts Festival in Gozo.

For several years she has been a member of the chamber orchestra of Festival Lyrique International in Belle-Île-en-Mer, France, under the musical direction of British conductor Philip Walsh. Maria has recorded several works including some by Maltese composers together with her husband, Spanish horn player Jose Garcia Gutierrez, and with Argotti Ensemble, with whom she has performed in Malta, Berlin, France and the U.K.

For the last twenty years she has been Malta's Representative for the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music and since 2016 she has also been National Associate Partner for the European Union Youth Orchestra.

Maria is currently associate concertmaster with the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra as well as string coordinator and violin tutor at the Malta Youth Orchestra.

## **Alexandre Razera – viola**



Brazilian violist Alexandre Razera began his musical studies at the age of 8 in the Piracicaba School of Music, Brazil. Among his tutors were Celisa Amaral Frias, Marcelo Jaffé and Elisa Fukuda, with whom he studied until 1998, when he was awarded a Vitae Foundation scholarship to join the Karajan Academy of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra.

For two years Alexandre studied under the guidance of Wilfried Strehle and toured, performed and recorded under conductors such as Claudio Abbado, Simon Rattle, Daniel Barenboim and Lorin Maazel. Subsequently, he joined the University of Arts in Berlin

for a Bachelor degree course with Professor Ulrich Knoerzer.

Alexandre has worked as principal viola of numerous orchestras in and outside of Brazil, among them the Ljubljana Slovenian Radio and Television Orchestra, OSESP (São Paulo Symphony Orchestra) and OSB (Brazilian Symphony Orchestra).

He worked for several years with the Lucerne Festival Orchestra, Berlin Philharmonic, Mahler Chamber Orchestra and various chamber music groups across Europe. He has also been regular guest principal viola with the Barcelona Symphony Orchestra.

Alexandre is regularly invited to be part of the faculty of festivals throughout the country, including Campos do Jordão Festival, Curitiba Music Workshop, CIVEBRA (Brasília), and FEIMEP (Piracicaba), among others.

He was the founder and president of the judging panel of the II National Viola Competition, and organizer and artistic director of the III National Viola Meeting, both held in the city of Curitiba, Paraná.

Currently, in addition to collaborating regularly with the Mahler Chamber Orchestra for Europe and Asia, and in parallel with his career as a soloist, chamber musician and teacher, he holds the position of sub-principle viola with the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra.

## ***Marvic Monreal - Mezzo Soprano***



Maltese mezzo-soprano is currently at the Opera Studio at Frankfurt Opera. She was a young artist at the National Opera Studio in London 2018-2019, previously graduating from the Royal Academy of Music.

Marvic has performed alongside renowned international stars such as Diana Damrau, Joseph Calleja, Sondra Radvanovsky and Christian Van Horn.

Marvic covered Charlotte in Werther and Mercedes in Carmen at the Royal Opera House in London. She made her Salzburg festival debut in 2017 with the role of Pisana in “I due Foscari”.

She had her debut at the Royal Festival Hall performing the alto solo in Mahler’s Symphony No. 2 “Resurrection” conducted by Semyon Bychkov. She has also performed Beethoven Symphony No.9 in Europe Day in Malta. Marvic was the guest solo artist in the annual President’s concert accompanied by the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra and made her debut at the Valletta Baroque Festival.

For Royal Academy Opera Marvic performed the leading role of Carmen in La tragédie de Carmen, Older woman in Flight, Frau Peachum in Die Dreigroschenoper, Venus in Orphée aux enfer and Bradamante in Alcina. She has performed Alisa in Lucia di Lammermoor at Teatru Astra in Gozo and Dido in Dido and Aeneas at Teatru Manoel in Malta. Marvic will be singing Tisbe and covering Angelina in La Cenerentola with the New Generation Festival next summer.

With the National Opera Studio Marvic performed at Codogan Hall, Welsh National Opera, Opera North, Scottish Opera and worked with international directors such as Keith Warner and Tim Albery. Marvic was one of the finalists in the prestigious competition Neue Stimmen. During her time at the Royal Opera House she was supported by the Kiri Te Kanawa Foundation. Marvic is also a Georg Solti Accademia scholar, was a Jerwood Young Artist at Glyndebourne Festival and was part of the Young Singers Project at Salzburg Festival. In 2018, she was a recipient of Independent Opera Fellowship and has been generously supported by the BOV Joseph Calleja Foundation.