

Mariana Valdés

Soprano

Born in Mexico City, Mariana began her studies in 2008 at the Vancouver Academy of Music (VAM) where she received a full scholarship to complete a Bachelor of Music Degree in Vocal Performance, under the guidance of Canadian tenor and voice teacher David Meek. Later on, she enjoyed being a member of the Opera Studio at the Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia in Rome, where she worked with Renata Scottò. She has also studied under the tutelage of soprano Maria Katzarava.

In May 2016 Mariana received the “Gaviota” Award, a special recognition given to personalities with a continuous effort in the artistic, cultural, social, sports or business fields.

In September 2015 Mariana was a finalist of the Tenerife International Opera Competition, and later that year, in November, she won the first prize of the “XVIII Concurso Internacional de Canto Lírico de Trujillo”, Peru. As part of this prize, Mariana will have her London debut at a concert organized by the Iberian and Latin American Music Society and London LyricArts.

Mariana was a recipient of the Vancouver Opera Guild Grant (2011) and is a winner of the up-and-coming Young Singer Prize in both the Carlo Morelli National Voice Competition (2009) and the Sinaloa International Voice Competition (2010) in Mexico. The National Fine Arts Institute (INBA) also awarded her a grant in her hometown in 2009.

Throughout her career, she has performed primarily in Mexico, Canada and Italy. In 2016 she performed the role of Susanna in *Il Segreto di Susanna* by Wolf-Ferrari in Guanajuato, Mexico. After winning the Kay Meek Scholarship Competition, Mariana was the featured soloist at a concert with the Academy Symphony Orchestra at the Orpheum Theatre in Vancouver. In the same town, she sang the roles of Susanna in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Musetta in *La Bohème* and Papagena in *Die Zauberflöte*. Also, she performed as Adina at the Vocal Arts Festival production of *L'Elisir d'Amore* in Edmonton, Canada. She has sung under the baton of Canadian Maestros Leslie Dala, Rosemary Thomson, Jin Zhang, Frank Klassen and Robert Rozek. She has been able to work with esteemed stage directors such as Brian Deedrick and David Walsh.

In Mexico, Mariana was a fellow of the “Sociedad Internacional de Valores de Arte Mexicano.” Furthermore, and as a recipient of the Pro Opera Scholarship in July 2016, Mariana travelled to Bologna, Italy, to work with Maestro Leone Magiera, pianist and conductor, as well as mentor of Mirella Freni and Luciano Pavarotti. During her stay in Italy she participated as a soloist in several concerts of the second Roncole Festival in Parma. Mariana is a current student of renowned voice teacher Gabriel Mijares and splits her time between Mexico and Italy.

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Gob. Protasio Tagle 47, San Miguel Chapultepec, Ciudad de México
www.askonzepte.com – anna@askonzepte.com

