

MARÍA BAYO soprano



MAGNETISM. PERFECTION. EXCELLENCE.

These are some of the concepts most often repeated by the specialist press when it comes to appraising María Bayo's work.

The soprano who hails from Navarra won the 2009 National Music Prize awarded by the Spanish Government, who thus recognised the career of one of the most admired and respected performers in the world of opera, especially of baroque, Spanish, Italian and French repertoire. Acclaimed for the luminosity and clarity of her voice, for her technical virtuosity and her gifts for acting and expressiveness, for two decades María Bayo has been the most internationally renowned Spanish soprano.

Chameleon-like and leaving no stone unturned with regard to music as well as acting, María Bayo has an extremely wide repertoire which spans from Händel and Cavalli to Puccini, Debussy, Poulenc and Stravinsky. She is currently considered to be the best performer of many emblematic roles from Rossini and Mozart operas (she is the only Spanish singer to have been engaged by the Salzburg Festival to perform the Da Ponte trilogy for four years running). Her interest in Spanish repertoire has also led her to record a large number of zarzuelas from all ages and revive many others that had been lost in obscurity, as well as operas and chamber music, collaborating with the most outstanding and respected conductors and directors of her generation. Her work to find the truth of a character and its psychological rough edges to then take it through her own voice to the stage or recording studio has earned her the highest acclaim in the world of music and culture.

With a repertoire which includes nearly 80 characters from opera and zarzuela, her name is now synonymous with musicality, rigour and seriousness, a privileged situation which she has carved for herself since her debut in Pisa, Saint Gallen and Lucerne with *Lucia di Lammermoor* (Donizetti), *Les pêcheurs de perles* (Bizet) and *La Sonnambula* (Bellini), while then going on to consolidate her reputation in Madrid and Paris as the best Susanna in decades (*Le nozze di Figaro*, Mozart). Her work with baroque music (*La Calisto*, Cavalli; *Giulio Cesare*, Händel) has met with just as much approval as her Mimì (*La Bohème*, Puccini), her Manon (Massenet), her Rosina (*Il Barbiere di Siviglia*), her Mélisande (*Pelléas et Melisande*, Debussy) and her Micaëla (*Carmen*, Bizet).

Throughout her long career she has worked with conductors of the stature of Sinopoli, Chailly, Gavazzeni, Pappano, Zedda, Armin Jordan, Rizzi, Colin Davis, Maazel, Scimone, Bychkov, Plasson, Latham-Koenig, Nagano, Viotti, Gelmetti, V. P. Pérez, Ros Marbá, Gómez Martínez, García Navarro, López Cobos, Frühbeck de Burgos, Luisi, Alessandrini, Jacobs, Rousset, Hogwood, Bolton, De Marchi and Herreweghe, as well as directors such as Wernicke, Pizzi, Ronconi, Sagi, Lavelli, Miller, Del Monaco, Carsen, Lepage, Grüber, Wilson, Pasqual, Espert, Gas, Azorín, Joel, Neuenfels, Hytner, Toffolutti, Caurier, Leiser and Serreau. With them she has performed on some of the most important stages in the world, from La Scala in Milan and the Berlin Staatsoper to the Opera Houses of Hamburg, Munich, Bilbao, Dresden, Brussels, and in Madrid the Teatro Real and the Teatro de La Zarzuela, the Vienna Opera House, the Opéra Bastille, Palais Garnier and Théâtre du Chatelet in Paris, theatres in Rome, Florence, Tokyo, Pamplona, San Francisco, Seville, La Coruña, Bologna, Los Angeles, Houston, São Paulo, Buenos Aires, Bogotá, Lyon, Geneva, Marseilles, Montpellier, Montecarlo and Tel-Aviv, as well as the Royal Opera House in London, the Metropolitan Opera House in New York and the Gran Teatre del Liceu in Barcelona. She has also performed in the Festivals of Salzburg, Aix-en-Provence, Granada, Peralada, Beaune, Ruhr Triennale, Quincena Donostiarra, Torroella de Montgrí, and the Proms in London, the Rossini Opera Festival in Pesaro and also the Mozart Festivals in Madrid and La Coruña.

As regards chamber and symphonic music

Her participation in concert seasons dedicated to *Lied* stands out, as well as concerts with the most prestigious orchestras, with which she has performed in auditoriums such as the Lincoln Center in New York, Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, the Wigmore Hall and the Barbican Centre in London, the Musikverein in Vienna, the Théâtre des Champs Elysées and the Salle Gaveau in Paris, the Kioi Hall and the Bunkamura in Tokyo, the Palau de la Música Catalana in Barcelona, the Palau in Valencia, the National Auditorium in Madrid, the Beaux-Arts in Brussels and many others in cities such as Berlin, Hamburg, Cologne and Dresden.



With respect to her recordings

María Bayo has accumulated an impressive back-catalogue, having recorded a significant chunk of Spanish repertoire including the first complete recording of the cantata / opera *Atlàntida* by Manuel de Falla and zarzuelas from the 18th Century as well as various volumes of contemporary Spanish songs. She has also made many other records of arias by Händel, Mozart, Rossini and De Nebra. In Spanish opera and zarzuela her versions of *Bohemios*, *Doña Francisquita*, *La verbena de la Paloma*, *El Barberillo de Lavapiés*, *Marina*, *Goyescas*, *La Tabernera del Puerto*, *La Gran Vía*, *El bateo*, *Agua, azucarillos y aguardiente* and *La Tempranica* take pride of place in record stores. Other outstanding titles in her discography and DVDs include *La Calisto*, *L'occasione fa il ladro*, *Un ballo in maschera* (Oscar), *Antigona*, by Traetta; *L'Innocenza giustificata*, by Gluck; and *Rodrigo*, by Händel, as well as *Bachianas Brasileiras* and gems such as the *Chants d'Auvergne* and the *Chants Basques* by Canteloube. She has recorded practically all the vocal music by the Spanish composer Lorenzo Palomo: *Canciones españolas*, *Sinfonía a Granada* and *Cantos del alma* and, with the guitarist Pepe Romero, the song cycles *Madrigal*, *Cinco canciones sefardíes* and *Mi jardín solitario*. Operas recorded on DVD in which María Bayo sings the lead role include *Tancredi*, *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, *Bianca e Falliero*, *Il viaggio a Reims*, *Don Giovanni*, *Les contes d'Hoffmann*, *Pagliacci* and *L'elisir d'amore*.

Awards and contests

María Bayo has won the International Hans Gabor Belvedere Singing Competition in Vienna stands out, as do the 2009 National Music Prize of Spain, the Príncipe de Viana Prize awarded by the Autonomous Community of Navarra (2002) and the Eusko Ikaskuntza Prize bestowed by the Caja Laboral Building Society (2011). Since 2012, María Bayo has been President of the Bilbao-Bizkaia *Pedro María de Unanue* International Singing Competition. In 2018, she was awarded the *Cadenas de Navarra Award* for carrying out the image of Navarra at the highest level.

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