

Dr. Carolina Estrada Bascuñana

PIANO PERFORMANCE, MUSIC EDUCATION AND ARTISTIC RESEARCH



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Date of birth: 27 March 1979 ; **Marital status:** Married

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Doctor of Musical Arts, Carolina Estrada has gained international recognition for her artistic research on twentieth-century music for piano. Recipient of many awards and prizes such as the George Henderson Award 2016, the SGAE Composer's Prize 2016, the Spanish Government Artistic Award 2015, PRSS Australian Research Grant 2015, the European Gold Cross 2014 and the Grand Cross of the Humanitarian Merit 2014, the Kathleen & Allison Short Faculty Merit Award (2013), winner of the XII International Music Competition in Barcelona 2007, Girona Internationaal Music Festival Prize awarded by Prof. Paul Badura-Skoda, Nuffic Grant Program Residency with Prof. Laszlo Simon at the Udk Berlin 2003 and the University of Barcelona Music Prize 2002 and 2003.

Estrada regularly appears as a recitalist in Europe, Asia and Australia. Classical music of the nineteenth and twentieth-century is her repertoire of choice and dedication. Her concerts are regularly broadcasted by Spanish and foreign radio and television networks. Estrada has made many recordings for ABC, SBS, Australian and Spanish National Radios. In recent seasons, she has performed in many of the world's major venues and festivals including Pau Casals Auditorium, Tokyo Yomiuri Otemachi Hall (Tokyo), Verbrugghen Hall (Sydney), AXA Concert Hall (Barcelona), the Tarragona Internacional Music Festival, the AIMS Summer Music Festival, the Barcelona Festival of Song, the FIMTE International Spanish Keyboard Music Festival and the International Festival of Spanish Music and Dance *Encuentros Españoles* in Sydney, among others. She opened the latest season of "The Art of Piano Performance" in Lysenko Concert Hall of the National Philharmonic of Ukraine (Kiev) and has been invited to perform in concert series in cities such as Sydney, New York, Tokyo and Berlin. She performed in Barcelona's Auditori Concert Hall after winning the 1st prize from the *XXII Arjau International Music Competition*. She made her official orchestral debut in Amsterdam under the baton of Paul Ghun Kim performing *Liszt's Piano Concerto No. 2*. In the years since, she has appeared as soloist with Symphonic Orchestras in two continents.

Many composers worldwide have dedicated piano compositions to Estrada for example, Serge Muhle, Freek the Graaf and Erik Jan Eradus. Estrada has worked directly with many composers on the interpretation of their piano works: with Stephen Yates, Keyna Wilkins, Miguel Galvez Taroncher, Lucio Bruno Videla, Natalie Matias, Abraham Tena, Elisenda Fabregas, and Alvaro Bertrand, among others.

She has given the first world performances of many works by living composers including the Dutch premieres of Galvez's *konzert fur Bassklarinette* at the Bachzaal in Amsterdam (2002), the

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world premiere of Muhle's piano works at the Pau Casals Auditorium (2008), the world premiere of Wilkins' arrangement of *El Amor Brujo* for three pianos at the Verbrugghen Hall in Australia (2013), the Australian premiere of Granados' *Song of the Stars* and *Escena Religiosa* at the Verbrugghen Hall in Sydney (2015), and the world premiere of Granados' *Vita Aeterna* on his own Pleyel grand at the Biblioteca de Catalunya (2016). Estrada regularly presents the world premieres of her own works. As a composer, her work “Cuadros Goyescos” was awarded by the Spanish General Society for Authors and Publishers (SGAE) and the Instituto Cervantes, launching a series of solo performance premieres in Australia.

Dr Estrada was born in Barcelona, after completing her studies in her hometown, she was awarded the Agusti Pere i Pons Scholarship (University of Barcelona) and the Catalan Government Scholarship to study piano, composition and conducting at the Conservatorium van Amsterdam and the Udk Berlin, where she received her Bachelor of Music and her Masters of Music with *cum laude*. She took masterclasses on improvisation with Karst de Jong and contemporary repertoire with Hakon Austbo, Harry Sparnay and Claude Helffer at the Conservatorium van Amsterdam. During her doctoral study, Estrada gained an excellent knowledge of modern recording techniques with Emmy nominated producer and composer, Hideki Isoda and Donna Hewitt. Estrada acted as recording engineer for recitals and festivals, ensuring high-quality audio recordings to be available as archival material for future generations. She has participated in masterclasses given by some of the world's most eminent pianists, including Alicia de Larrocha, Paul Badura-Skoda, Jan Wijn, Willem Brons, Malcom Bilson. Her most influential teachers have been Natalia Ricci, Matthijs Verschoor, Albert Attenelle and Claudio Arrau's former students, Laszlo Simon and Edit Fisher.

Estrada has taught in Europe, Asia and Australia. She has given courses and lectures at the Royal Academy of Music London, Sydney Conservatorium of Music, Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre, Hochschule der Kunste Bern, Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music, Kawai Salon Omotesando JSSPM, City, College of Arts and Social Sciences of the Sultan Qaboos University and Reus Conservatorium of Music, University of Strasbourg, University of New England, University of Melbourne and University of New York. Estrada's expertise working in tertiary institutions on three different continents has made her easily adaptable to new environments. Her students have achieved outstanding success and have been major prize-winners in local, national and international competitions. Dr Estrada is currently a guest researcher at the Hochschule der Kunste in Bern, Switzerland.