

MERCEDES GÓMEZ, Mexico City.

Ms. Gómez studied at the National Conservatory of Music with Judith Flores Alatorre, and later with Urszula Mazurek, Marjorie Tyre, Marian Shaffer, Mimi Allen and Nicanor Zabaleta.

She has been the harpist of the Symphony Orchestra of the State of Mexico, the Symphony Orchestra of the *Palacio de Minería* and OFUNAM Orchestra.

Ms. Gómez has premiered and recorded several Latin American harp concertos and other harp works dedicated to her by composers such as Eugenio Toussaint, Samuel Zyman, Javier Álvarez, Gerardo Tamez, Jorge Torres, Marcela Rodríguez, Gerhart Muench, Armando Luna, Pablo Ortiz, Alonso Toro, Gerardo Dirié and Manuel Sosa, among others.

She compiled a handbook of Mexican folk music with harp from Veracruz *HARP CHILPACHOLE*, with Marian Shaffer and Octavio Vega.

Besides collaborating with Javier Álvarez in his CD production *PROGRESIÓN* with his two pieces for harp and electro-acoustic sounds *ACCORDING TO DIFFERENCES* and *SONOROSON*, Ms. Gómez has recorded ten CD albums alone and with her colleagues: *ZARPA AL AZAR*, *GAUGUIN*, *ALMÍBAR*, *RAMAS*, *CARNAVAL*, *IDA y VUELTA*, *ARPEO*, *FOLÍA Y SON*, *DOS DALIAS*, and 3 *CONCERTOS BY SAMUEL ZYMAN*.

She was Artist-In-Residence at UC Davis, California (1999) and at Banff Center for the Arts (2005). Since 1999, she is part of *SONDOS*, *harp duo* with Janet Paulus, and since 2006 she is part of *ENSAMBLE TIERRA MESTIZA* directed by composer and guitarist Gerardo Tamez.

One of her plays, *DE LA OREJA AL CORAZÓN*, play for puppets, musicians and actors, which was premiered in 2006 at the *Festival Música y Escena*, and performed at different Mexican theaters and at the Goodman Theater in Chicago, USA.

In 2011 she received her Master Degree in Music at the Royal College of Music in Stockholm, Sweden.

The National Institute of Fine Arts (INBA) has awarded her prizes designated to art teachers for academic achievements and pedagogical work in 2012, 2014 and 2018.

In 2017 and 2018 she performed in Morocco and in Tasmania, where she also gave master classes. In 2018 she was part of the jury at the Fifth Iberian Chamber Music Competition in Madrid.

Since 2012 Ms. Gómez, together with Venezuelan Marisela González and Brazilian Cristina Braga has organized *Talleres itinerantes para arpa de pedales* for Latin American harp students. The workshop series is sponsored by Camac Harps, and as an integrated part of them, special soloist guest Isabelle Moretti has so far given master classes in Mexico and Brazil. Janet Paulus, Artemisa Reyes, Larisa Fedorova and Lucrecia Janca have been other collaborating harpists.

Ms. Gómez has written two educational plays for harp students: "VANIA AND THE OPEN WINDOWS", presented in Mexico, Venezuela, France and USA, and "FRANCIS THE CURIOUS BOY", performed in Mexico, France, USA and Spain. The project presents a fictional semi-documentary about the legendary composer and harpist J. F. Naderman's childhood.

Since 2016 she is Vice president for the Americas for the World Harp Congress.

In 2021 she presented her play *PANTEÓN DE FIESTA* under Emmanuel Marquez theater production with music from Gerardo Tamez and the *Tierra Mestiza*

Ensemble, thanks to a grant from *Efimúscas* program in Mexico City, Quintana Roo and Zacatecas.

The theater version of her book *ODONIR Y LOS RATONES* (Odonir and the mice) was premiered at Urtext Festival in December 2021 with music from Kevin Martin.

She was invited to perform *DOS DALIAS*, concerto for two harps, guitar and string orchestra at the 14th World Harp Congress in Cardiff, Wales, together with Argentinian harpist Lucrecia Jancsa (July 2022).

In 2022 she received her Doctoral Degree from the *Complutense* University in Madrid, while since 1988 she is the harp teacher at the National Conservatory of Music in Mexico City.