

MARIA LUZ ALVAREZ, Soprano



Born in Madrid (Spain), Maria Luz Alvarez started her musical education at the Royal Superior School of Singing of Madrid with Milagros del Pozo. In 1992, she went to Holland to study with Max van Egmond and Paul Hameleers, graduating in Early Music Performance in 1994 at the Sweelinck Conservatorium of Amsterdam, under the direction of Peter Kooy.

Since then, Ms. Alvarez has been regularly invited as a soloist by top European ensembles such as Accentus, Musica Alta Ripa, Al Ayre Español, Clarincanto, El Concierto Español, Los Músicos del Buen Retiro, Compagnia Vocale, Gabinete Armonico, etc. She also performed regularly with the Egidius Kwartet with whom she has recorded several CDs of Renaissance polyphonic music: *Leal Amour* and *Tota Vita* (Music for the courts of Phillip II and Charles V), *Fortune Helas* (Chansons of T. Crecquillon), *Ronsard et les Neerlandais* and *Gheerkin de Hondt, a portrait*.

Ms. Alvarez' repertoire as a soloist embraces a wide range from the Middle Ages to the present time, with special focus on Baroque oratorios and cantatas. She has also performed in Baroque operas such as *Dido and Eneas*, *Dioclesian* and *The Fairy Queen* by Purcell, *Acis and Galatea* by Haendel and *Azis y Galatea* by Lliteres; this latter was also recorded on CD for Harmonia Mundi. Since 1995 she has been invited regularly by the Telemann Institute of Japan where she performed the Japanese premieres of several Haendel oratorios (*Solomon*, *Deborah*, *Hercules*, *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato*, etc) besides Bach's Passions, Cantatas and the B Minor Mass.

Other released recordings are: *Spanish Songbook* with the Dutch guitarist Lex Eisenhardt, *Misteris de Dolor*, *Cantadas de Pasion and Romances Sefarades* with Accentus Austria, *Songs of Love and War* with Clarincanto, several CDs of *Cantigas de Santa Maria* for Pneuma, *La Musica en tiempos del Motin de Aranjuez* with Axivil Goyesco, *Cantadas Profanas de J. Torres* with Gabinete Armonico, *Aires Buenos* with The Holland Wind Players and music composed by Pablo Escande and *Las Amazonas de España* de Facco with Los Músicos del Buen Retiro.