

Artistic Bio

Julia Villarroel is an international soloist whose career began at a very young age in her home country, Ecuador, having performed more than 300 concerts as a soloist, ensembles, and guitar duo inside and outside the country. She was yearly involved in "Guitarrea", a cultural movement that organized over seven international festivals, where she performed in the most renowned theaters in Ecuador.

In 2010, she won the first of many awards at the "Ryuhei Kobayashi" competition, where she was the only woman and the youngest among all contestants. In 2014 and 2016, "Tempo de Guitarra", guitar duo formed by her and her former teacher, traveled to four international festivals in Spain and Venezuela, sponsored by the Ministry of Culture of Ecuador. In 2013 and 2015, she recorded two CDs: "Albazo" with the Guayaquil Guitar Club Ensemble and "Tempo de Guitarra" as part of the duo.

Due to her extensive musical career at such a young age, Julia was named a "Member of the Culture House of Ecuador" in 2016.

Julia began her higher education in Vigo, Spain, under the guidance of Professor Margarita Escarpa. She graduated in 2021 with the highest honors and received a "Matricula de Honor," an award that allowed her to compete among all instrumentalists in Galicia who graduated with the same distinction, where she was placed second. Her final thesis on the "History of Academic Guitar in Ecuador" received the same top marks.

She began her master's degree in 2021 at the Franz Liszt Academy of Music in Weimar with Professor Thomas Müller-Pering, graduating with the highest honors. Thanks to her long-standing career, she has received annual scholarships, including the "Deutschlandstipendium" and the "Charlotte-Krupp Stipendium."

"Salgado en seis cuerdas" ("Salgado in Six Strings") is a self-managed project consisting of 40 minutes of music by Ecuadorian composer Luis Humberto Salgado, in celebration of his 120th anniversary. The pieces, originally written for piano, were transcribed by Julia for guitar and published on the CD "Salgado en seis cuerdas" (JSM Records) in December 2023 with the collaboration of Lucija Štivilčević and the sponsorship of the Neue Liszt Stiftung. The music scores will be published with JSM Editions in the upcoming months. The CD was presented on tour in May 2024 and is available for sale in Spain, in Madrid and Castellón de la Plana.

As an orchestral soloist, Julia has performed the "Concierto de Aranjuez" in Spain and Germany with the Vigo Orchestra and the Ortenau Orchestra, respectively. Her orchestral repertoire also includes "Concierto del Sur" by Ponce and Salgado's "Ecuadorian Concerto", which is scheduled for performance in 2025.

Throughout her musical training, Julia has attended numerous European international festivals, participating in masterclasses with many professors who have shaped the current generation of guitarists.

In April 2025 Julia will begin the Konzertexamen (Concert Examination) under the guidance of Professor Ricardo Gallén.

Discography

"Albazo" – guitar ensemble "Guayaquil Guitar Club" (2013)

"Tempo de Guitarra" – guitar duo Villarroel – Betancourt (2015)

"Salgado en seis Cuerdas" – guitar duo Villarroel – Štivilčević (2023)

Prizes

2010 – IV National Competition “Ryuhei Kobayashi”, second place, Guayaquil Ecuador

2011 – IV International Competition “Jóvenes Talentos”, first place, Cuenca, Ecuador

2016 – V International Competition “Jóvenes Talentos”, first place, Cuenca Ecuador

2018 – IV Conservatory internal competition, fourth place, Vigo, Spain

2019 – International Competition, “Jóvenes Talentos”, third place, Badalona, Spain

2019 – V Conservatory internal competition, second place, Vigo, Spain

2019 – VII International Competition for Young artists “Alhambra” second place, Valencia, Spain

2020 – V Conservatory internal competition, first place, Vigo, Spain

2021 – XXXVI “Sociedad de Conciertos de Alicante Oftalvist” Competition, second place, Alicante, Spain

2021 –Mans Futuro Awards, Xunta de Galicia – Estudios Mans, second place, La Coruña, Spain