

Artistic Bio

Julia Villarroel is an international soloist whose career began at an early age in her native Ecuador. She has performed hundreds of concerts as a soloist, chamber musician, and guitar duo partner in Ecuador, and has appeared at festivals in Venezuela and Spain, performing in renowned venues such as Teatro Sánchez Aguilar and Teatro Teresa Carreño. In 2013 and 2015 she released two CDs: *Albazo* with the Guayaquil Guitar Club Ensemble and *Tempo de Guitarra*.

In recognition of her extensive musical achievements at a young age, she was named a Member of the Casa de la Cultura Ecuatoriana in 2016.

She began her higher education in Spain with Margarita Escarpa and graduated in 2021 with highest honors (Matrícula de Honor). This distinction enabled her to compete among the top graduates of her autonomous community, earning a prize placement. Her final thesis on the "History of the Classical Guitar in Ecuador" received the same highest distinction.

In 2021, she commenced her Master's degree at the University of Music Franz Liszt Weimar in Germany under Professor Thomas Müller-Pering, graduating with top marks. Throughout her studies, she was awarded the Deutschlandstipendium and the Charlotte-Krupp Scholarship annually.

Her project *Salgado en seis cuerdas* features 40 minutes of music by Ecuadorian composer Luis Humberto Salgado. Originally written for piano, the works were transcribed for guitar by Villarroel and released in December 2023 (JSM Records), in collaboration with Lucija Štivilčević and supported by the Neue Liszt Stiftung. The sheet music will soon be published by JSM Editions. The CD was presented on tour in May 2024 and is available in stores in Madrid and Castellón de la Plana.

As an orchestral soloist, she has performed Joaquín Rodrigo's *Concierto de Aranjuez* and Manuel M. Ponce's *Concierto del Sur* in Spain, Germany, Italy, and Ecuador. Her repertoire also includes Salgado's *Concierto Ecuatoriano*.

Julia is Artistic Director of the Regional Guitar Ensemble of Hamburg and teaches at the Music School of Meerbusch. She performs on a Fernando Mazza guitar and is a Knobloch Strings Artist.