

Anna Maria Mendieta

Harpist

Short Program Bio's & Review Quotes

Review Clip

“...an exceptional soloist, harpist Anna Maria Mendieta, was even more impressive. A charismatic player, she ranged through her instrument: exquisite, finger flicked dustings up and across the strings; or guitar-like strums, crisp and percussive; or rich-blooded low notes or brilliant high ones. The interwoven sound of Mendieta and the orchestra was luminous...”

- Richard Scheinin, San Jose Mercury News

Review Excerpt (59 words)

Review was selected for international publication by the League of American Orchestras

“Harp at its best! ... an extremely talented woman!”

- CD Review Magazine

Anna Maria Mendieta enjoys a busy career as a soloist, orchestral musician, recording artist and teacher. She is the principal harpist with the Sacramento Philharmonic and has performed as a soloist and as a member with many symphony orchestras and chamber music groups across the country. With many albums to her credit, Anna Maria has appeared in movies, on television, radio, the Emmy Awards, and has performed for Presidents Clinton, Gorbachev, and the King and Queen of Spain. She was honored to play for the Catholic World Youth Day events in Madrid, and at the Vatican for a special concert for Pope Benedict XVI. www.AnnamariaMendieta.com

(104 Words - Sacred Music Concert Bio)

“What AnnaMaria is doing with the harp and tango is fantastic... and the audience loves it!”

- Pablo Ziegler, 2018 & 2006 Grammy Award Winner Best Tango Album

Anna Maria Mendieta, harpist and creator of Tango del Cielo (Tango of Heaven), enjoys a busy career as a soloist, orchestral musician, and recording artist. She is the principle harpist with the Sacramento Philharmonic and has played with orchestras and chamber music groups across the country. Ms. Mendieta is recognized internationally as a pioneer in performing Argentine Tango music on the harp with praises by the League of American Orchestras as an “exceptional and charismatic soloist”. She has performed with many celebrities including Barry Manilow who calls her his “favorite harpist”. Her national touring concert-show “Tango del Cielo” is the subject of a documentary film. The multimedia show features music, art, film, tango & flamenco dance, and a tribute to the Silent Films. When she's not pulling strings, she's out on the dance floor as a part of the show! www.AnnamariaMendieta.com

(140 Words - Harp/Tango short bio)

“Artistic excellence... exudes style, presence, and an astonishing instrumental mastery performance.” - Latina Style Magazine

Anna Maria Mendieta, principal harpist with the Sacramento Philharmonic & Opera, has performed with orchestras and chamber music groups across the country and beyond including the San Francisco Symphony, San Francisco Opera, San Francisco Ballet, Russian National Orchestra, and the Russian State Ballet. She has performed for Pope Benedict XVI, President Clinton, President Gorbachev, the King and Queen of Spain; for National Hispanic Week in Washington D.C., the World Youth Day events in Madrid, and at the Vatican. Ms. Mendieta has been honored with concertos specially composed for her including a commission award from the American Harp Society.

With many albums to her credit, Anna Maria has appeared in movies, on television, radio, and the Emmy Awards. She has performed with Frederica von Stade, Andrea Bocelli, Josh Groban, Frank Sinatra Jr, Olivia Newton John, and Barry Manilow, who calls her his “favorite harpist”.

Ms. Mendieta performs all styles of music from classical to contemporary and is recognized internationally as a pioneer in performing Argentine Tango music on the harp with praises by The League of American Orchestras as an “exceptional and charismatic” soloist. Her creation of “Tango del Cielo”, a national touring concert-show, is the focus of a documentary film. When she's not pulling strings, Anna Maria is out on the dance floor as a part of the show. www.AnnamariaMendieta.com

Medium Length Classical Bio (1st paragraph – 98 words) or General Bio (All 3 paragraphs - 220 Words)

Anna Maria Mendieta

Harpist

Biography

“Artistic excellence... exudes style, presence, and an astonishing instrumental mastery performance.” - *Latina Style Magazine*



**“an exceptional soloist, harpist Anna Maria Mendieta, was even more impressive. A charismatic player...”
- *Featured Review in the League of American Orchestras***

**“Harp at its best! ... outstanding!”
- *CD Review Magazine***

Anna Maria Mendieta enjoys a busy career as a soloist, orchestral musician, recording artist and teacher. She is the principle harpist with the Sacramento Philharmonic & Opera and has performed with many symphony orchestras and chamber music groups in the U.S. and abroad including the San Francisco Symphony, San Francisco Opera & Ballet, Russian National Orchestra, and Russian State Ballet. Ms. Mendieta is often featured performing the harp concerti of Joaquin Rodrigo as well as special tango arrangements created for her for harp & orchestra. She has received international recognition as a pioneer and "exceptional soloist" by the *League of American Orchestras* for her premiere of the tango music of Astor Piazzolla marking history with the unique programming and use of harp in this musical style. As an advocate of contemporary music, Ms. Mendieta previously served a long tenure as the principal harpist with the nationally acclaimed *Women's Philharmonic*. She was also the featured instrumentalist for several seasons with *Theater Flamenco of San Francisco*. Her outreach ensemble *Del Cielo* has been twice winners of the San Francisco Symphony's *Adventures in Music* program. Ms. Mendieta has performed for motion pictures, television, radio, and Emmy Awards. Her *HarpTango* project and national touring concert-show "Tango del Cielo" (Tango of Heaven) is the focus of a documentary film.

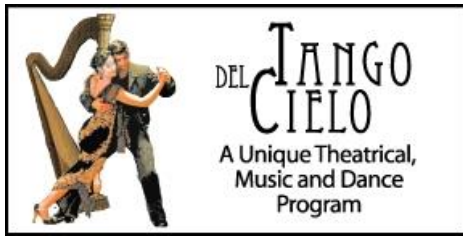
Collaboration. Multi Grammy Award winners Jorge Calandrelli, Pablo Ziegler and Daniel Binelli, experts of the tango music of Astor Piazzolla, have composed music and arrangements for Anna Maria. This music will be featured in an album produced at Skywalker Ranch as the first of its kind of Argentine Tango music for harp & orchestra. She has also collaborated with Latin American pianist Polly Ferman, performing concerts with her and an international music and dance ensemble called, "Leading Ladies of Tango".

Education. Ms. Mendieta began studying the harp at the age of seven at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music with Israeli harpist Efrat Zaklad. She continued her studies with Marjorie Chauvel and received her degree in music with honors from Notre Dame de Namur University, where she later served on the faculty. Extensive private study followed with San Francisco Symphony harpist Doug Rioth and renowned harp teacher Alice Chalifoux at the Salzedo Harp Colony in Camden, Maine.

Discography. In 2001, in response to the tragedy of September 11th, the National Geographic Society invited Ms. Mendieta to be a featured soloist representing the music of Spain on their album "Serenity – Songs of Peace and Enlightenment". Prior to that, *Sugo Records* signed her to a long-term contract with the successful release of several albums. Anna Maria has also participated on many other recording projects, most notably "The Women's Philharmonic" and "Florence Price", *Koch International Classics* label, "The Music of Chen Yi", *New Albion* label, and with the San Francisco Girls Chorus, Grammy Award winning Pacific Boy Choir, and for movie sound tracks at Lucasfilm/Disney's Skywalker Ranch. Her upcoming album is being recorded and produced at Skywalker Ranch with all-star list of performers.

Awards and Honors. In recognition of her Spanish heritage, Anna Maria was invited by the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) to perform solo concerts for National Hispanic Week in Washington D.C. She has been honored to perform for Pope Benedict XVI at the Vatican, the King and Queen of Spain, President Bill Clinton, President Gorbachev, Secretaries of State Colin Powell and George Schultz. Ms. Mendieta has been honored by the American Harp Society to perform for their 2006 National Conference and in 2013 was awarded a special grant commission for a concerto to be composed for her. Ms. Mendieta is the only harpist to have twice received the "Matz Memorial Award" from by Lyon & Healy Harp Co. for "Outstanding Achievement".

Celebrity Spotlight. Anna Maria enjoys performing concerts and shows with celebrity entertainers and is often given the spotlight. She has shared the stage with opera singer Frederica von Stade, performed with Andrea Bocelli, Josh Groban, Frank Sinatra Jr., Johnny Mathis, Olivia Newton John, Fernando de la Mora, The Moody Blues, and song-writer/entertainer Barry Manilow who calls her his "favorite harpist".



Harpist Anna Maria Mendieta & “Tango del Cielo”

**“What Anna Maria is doing with the harp and tango is fantastic...
and the audience loves it!”**
– Pablo Ziegler, 2006 & 2018 Grammy Award Winner Best Tango Album

“... an exceptional soloist, was even more impressive. A charismatic player...”
(Tango Suite for Harp & Orchestra)
– *League of American Orchestras*

**“After listening to her solo, I decided that harp is one of
the best suited instruments for tango.”**
– Igor Polk, *Tango Noticias Magazine, Chicago*

Anna Maria Mendieta has been recognized internationally as an innovator in the world of harp music and performance. Since the 1990's, Anna Maria had been fascinated with the music of Astor Piazzolla, however, discovered there was no existing music for harp in this genre. After many years of collecting tango music written for other instruments, she began creating her own arrangements and developed a new technique of playing the harp to execute the stylistic nature, difficult chromatic passages, and percussive effects so distinctive of true tango music. She was introduced to members of Piazzolla's own performing group who have become today's tango masters and has collaborated with them in creating new arrangements and compositions for the harp. In order to have a deeper understanding of the music, Anna Maria began to study the dance and at once, realized her affinity for the art form. She has since studied with some of the most prominent tango maestros, musicians, and dancers in the world.

In 2006, Anna Maria was invited to premiere her arrangements of Argentine Tango music at the American Harp Society's National Conference. This caught the attention of film makers and agents and led to the formation of her national touring company, "Tango del Cielo" (Tango of Heaven), which has become the focus of a documentary film. Her *Tango del Cielo* concert-shows feature Argentine Tango, Flamenco, Spanish Classical, and Latin Jazz in a multi-media presentation. When she's not pulling strings, Anna Maria is out on the dance-floor as a part of the show. For her performances, she has been joined by winners of the *International Tango Music Competition*, award-winning Tango & Flamenco dancers from the US and abroad. She has spent time studying music & dance in Buenos Aires and with members of *Forever Tango*.

In 2007, Anna Maria received national attention, as she performed the music of Astor Piazzolla as guest soloist with the San Jose Chamber Orchestra with arrangements for her by Grammy award winners Pablo Ziegler and Daniel Binelli, experts of Piazzolla's music and members of his touring group. This unique programming marked history for its use of harp as the featured instrument in this genre. The outstanding review was selected by the *League of American Orchestras* for international publication. Her tango music with music videos filmed on location in Buenos Aires feature special arrangements by Multi Grammy Award winners Jorge Calandrelli, Pablo Ziegler, Daniel Binelli, and Jeremy Cohen. This CD/DVD is currently in production to be released on an album, the first of its kind for solo harp and orchestra.

Anna Maria comes from an artistic family. Her ancestors danced the tango in the Roaring 1920's. Her grandmother was a flapper who proudly talked of another relative, silent screen star Nita Naldi. In researching her movies, to her surprise, Anna Maria discovered that Nita not only co-starred and danced with tango legend Rudolf Valentino in many movies, but also played the harp in a famous scene in "Blood & Sand". Their images are featured in a tribute to the Silent Films in the *Tango del Cielo* show.

Biography: Ms. Mendieta is the principle harpist with the Sacramento Philharmonic and Opera. She enjoys a busy career as a soloist, orchestral musician, recording artist and teacher, and has played with orchestras and chamber music groups across the country. Ms. Mendieta has performed for dignitaries including the King and Queen of Spain, for National Hispanic Week in Washington D.C., and was invited by an orchestra in Spain to perform concerts for Pope Benedict XVI at the Vatican and in Madrid. She has recorded several albums for the *Sugo Music* record label and has appeared in movies, TV, radio, and the Emmy Awards. Other performance credits include *Theater Flamenco* and *Leading Ladies of Tango*.