

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)

Portions of the full review were 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 Anna Maria 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, recording artist and teacher. She is the principle harpist with the Sacramento Philharmonic & Opera 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” was the featured show at the 2019 World Tango Festival in Victoria, Canada and her Harp-Tango project is the subject of a documentary film. The multimedia show features music, art, film, tango & flamenco dance, with 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

(160 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)

Tango Del Cielo - Bio

With standing ovations, Anna Maria Mendieta's "**Tango Del Cielo**" (Tango of Heaven) multimedia concert-show has entertained audiences nationwide. Award-winning performers of Harp, Strings, Percussion, Tango & Flamenco Dance perform the music of Latin America & Spain. Their shows feature a tribute to the Silent Films to when tango was introduced to the United States with the films of Rudolph Valentino & Nita Naldi (Anna Maria's aunt) among others. Musical selections are well known favorites of Argentine Tango, Flamenco, Spanish Classical, and Latin Jazz as well as unique treasures of music newly composed for them by Grammy Award-winning composers. The *Tango Del Cielo* show has been a featured showcase for national conferences, festivals, television and radio. The group was founded by Ms. Mendieta in 2006. Main performers are Anna Maria Mendieta (harp), Matthew Szemela (violin), Joseph Hebert (cello), Antonio Gomez (percussion), Tiano Vas (guest singer), Suzanne Mendieta (flamenco), Fanny Ara (flamenco), Marcelo Molina (tango), Sandor & Parissa (tango), and Maxi Copello & Raquel Makow (tango). All musicians are principal players in symphony orchestras, have recorded for movie sound tracks at Skywalker Ranch, and are often performing in celebrity shows. Dancers are international champions of their genre and many can be seen as performers, finalists, or choreographers on television's most popular shows like Dancing With The Stars and NBC's World of Dance. Guests performers have included winners of the World Argentine Tango Competition in music and dance. All performers share a common love of performing and giving to the community the beauty and joy of their art. *Tango Del Cielo* was a featured show at the 2019 World Tango Festival in Victoria, Canada. The outreach program "Del Cielo" was the two-time winner of the San Francisco Symphony's "Adventure in Music" program for the 2016 & 2017 seasons. The *Tango Del Cielo* concert-shows are full of surprises and appropriate for all ages. "We love what we do and we want to share our creativity to inspire imagination!" www.TangoDelCielo.com

(324 words)

Promotional Bio & Show Description for Agents & Presenters

ANNA MARIA MENDIETA

"Artistic excellence," "charismatic," "exciting," and "brilliant" are words that critics have described concert artist Anna Maria Mendieta. Ms. Mendieta performs all over the world and enjoys a busy career as a concert soloist, symphony soloist, recording artist and teacher. She is the principal harpist with the Sacramento Philharmonic and Opera and has performed with many symphony orchestras and chamber music groups across the U.S. and abroad. She performs all styles of music from Classical to Contemporary as a soloist and with her many ensembles. Specializing in Spanish Classical and Argentine Tango, Ms. Mendieta is often featured performing the concerti of Joaquín Rodrigo as well as special tango arrangements created for her for the harp and orchestra by Grammy Award-winning composers and arrangers. She has received international recognition and standing ovations as a pioneer and "an exceptional soloist" by the League of American Orchestras for the tango music of Astor Piazzolla making history with the unique programming and use of harp in this musical style. Her national touring concert-show of award-winning performers, "Tango del Cielo" (Tango of Heaven) is the focus of a documentary film. Her educational outreach ensemble "Del Cielo" was the two-time winner of the San Francisco Symphony's *Adventures in Music* program and she has since continued to create and perform many outreach productions for the Symphony. Ms. Mendieta has appeared as a soloist for motion pictures, television, National Public Radio, and the Emmy Awards. She has performed for Pope Benedict XVI, for President Clinton, President Gorbachev and the King and Queen of Spain.

www.AnnaMariaMendieta.com

TANGO DEL CIELO (Tango of Heaven) – Solo, Ensemble, Concerto

Anna Maria Mendieta's unique specialties include the Argentine Tango and fiery Spanish classics in concert-shows that are especially entertaining incorporating music and dance - tango and flamenco - and multimedia use of art, film, backdrops, vignettes, and lighting effects. Her "Tango Del Cielo" concert-show also includes a special tribute to the Silver Screen, since it was through the silent movies that tango was first popularized in the U.S. Anna Maria's ancestor Nita Naldi (also a harpist) was Rudolf Valentino's co-star for several movies, these scenes and others come to life on the stage. Programs can be performed with her ensembles and with orchestras, with or without dance, and are appropriate for all ages. Ms. Mendieta provides all scores and parts with multimedia, beautiful backdrops, and a tech person to manage it all.

www.HarpTango.com

Anna Maria's programs connect tradition with innovation, history with the present, the auditory with the visual, and the serious with the playful. When Anna Maria is not pulling strings, she's out on the dance-floor as a part of the show!

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, *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 principal 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 AnnaMaria 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 principal 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*.