

## **Sandra Cepero Álvarez, Cuba**

Sandra Cepero Alvarez is originally from Cuba. She began her musical studies at age seventh in piano and choral conducting. Her bachelor's degree in orchestral conducting was received from the University of Arts in Havana. She then won a scholarship to pursue postgraduate studies at the Conservatory of Music in Zaragoza, Spain. Sandra has also participated in masterclasses with notable conductors and teachers, such as Benjamín Zander, Francesco Belli, Ronald Zollman, Valery Gergiev, Lior Shambadal. She also participated twice in the Retreat at Medomak by invitation of Kenneth Kiesler.

In 2018, Sandra was awarded the Alondra de la Parra - Montblanc Scholarship. In June 2020, she won the National Award in the Vienna World Music Competition for Conductors. Sandra was a finalist in the International Competition for Conductors in Paraguay with the National Symphony. She was the winner of the First Prize in the Musicalia Conducting Competition in Havana. In 2022-23, she served as a Conducting Fellow with the Georgia Symphony Orchestra.

In addition to extensive work in the United States, Mexico and her native Cuba, Sandra has also conducted in the Czech Republic, Spain, Germany, Uruguay, Argentina and Venezuela. Sandra is part of 2023 Carlos Miguel Prieto Orchestral Conducting Fellowship at OAcademy! Out of a number of highly qualified candidates from across the world. Sandra has been invited to assist the opera *la traviata* of Verdi in Slovenia having more than 10 performances around Slovenia and Croatia. Currently she is doing her DMA in Orchestral Conducting in the University of Cincinnati- College Conservatory of Music with professor Mark Gibson.