

# INMACULADA ELENA GUIL

Artist

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People frequently ask me, "What does music mean to you?" At age six, I fell in love with music when I started my violin studies, a small city in North Africa where the Atlantic Ocean meets the Mediterranean sea, where Hindu, Christian, Muslim and Jewish cultures meet, and their music combines in an inspiring aura.

Later I moved to the Western Sahara. There I had the chance to continue developing my music in the Berber bedouin culture by participating in cultural exchange activities which include Lebanese and Flamenco music styles. I found my voice, interpreting the *maqam* amidst the silence of the dunes and the magic starry nights of the desert. I then continued my studies in Sedbergh School in Cumbria. A whole different musical door opened, leading me to singing, playing, dancing, acting and show performances on medieval English stages and sets in places like Cambridge, Kendal, York and Sedbergh. Classical music inspired me again in the Sedbergh Chamber Choir tour around Italy, where we watched Opera in the Arena di Verona, and performed in the Basilica dei Frari and the Basilica San Zeno. I had the magnificent opportunity to sing as a soloist in the San Marco Basilica in Venice and in the Sanctuary of Madonna della Corona in Verona, settings with powerful acoustics in an engaging renaissance ambience.

This year I have moved to London from the Holy Land, where I found my most recent musical love. Here the mixture of Western, Jewish and Arab cultures leads to an exotic and syncretic music that stirs emotion. I was awarded a scholarship to join the Ankor Choir, which accompanies the Israeli Philharmonic Orchestra. It has been inspiring, making me feel full of vitality and encouraging my imagination to dream, when singing in impressive historical sites impregnated with divinity like Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Nazareth.

My music techniques, skills and cultural awareness improved with my teachers from all different backgrounds. My mentors from Eastern, Israeli, Palestinian, Mediterranean and Armenian backgrounds have introduced me to new worlds full of all kinds of tonalities, mindsets, and interpretations.

At present, I am a student in Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance, continuing my music career as a student of Teresa Cahill and creating my own music which someday I hope to deliver to the world.

I have been extremely lucky to have had the opportunity to live in so many remarkable places, this has allowed me to learn all cultures as well as loads of different skills.

Furthermore, I believe in the meaning of the real music industry as well as in its essence. Music is produce for people, for connection; I want to be part of real music, I want to be part of the pure music industry!