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)

The 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, and recording artist. She has performed as a concerto soloist with orchestras and as a member of chamber music groups around the world. With many albums to her credit, Ms. Mendieta has appeared in movies, on television and national radio including the Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN) Television and Radio. She has the honor of being the only harpist to play in Lourdes, France during which she was a soloist for the International Mass of 25,000 people. Ms. Mendieta has performed for international presidents, royalty and was especially honored to play for Pope Benedict XVI for the Papal events at World Youth Day in Madrid and for a special concert at the Vatican. www.AnnaMariaMendieta.com

(125 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, is the creator of *Tango del Cielo* (Tango of Heaven), a multi-award-winning album and touring show. She has received international recognition as a pioneer and "exceptional soloist" by the *League of American Orchestras* for her concerti of the tango music of Astor Piazzolla making history and creating a new genre for harp in this musical style. Her *Tango del Cielo* show was the featured show at the 2019 World Tango Festival in Victoria, Canada and is the subject of a new PBS Special. Her *Tango Del Cielo* album received eleven international awards including 5 Global Music Awards and reached #2 on Billboard's Classical Crossover Charts. The multimedia show of musicians and dancers features Argentine Tango, Flamenco, Spanish Classical and Latin Jazz with the addition of film art 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.TangoDelCielo.com www.AnnaMariaMendieta.com

(155 Words - Harp/Tango short bio)

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

Anna Maria Mendieta is an internationally acclaimed harpist, soloist, touring and recording artist known for pioneering Argentine tango and flamenco on the harp. She has performed with prestigious orchestras such as the San Francisco Symphony, Russian National Orchestra, and Los Angeles Philharmonic. As a concerto soloist she has performed internationally, winning competitions and appearing with orchestras from Carnegie Hall to Cairo, Egypt.

Her *Tango Del Cielo* project has received international recognition. The *Tango del Cielo* album earned eleven international awards including five Global Music Awards, reached #2 on the Billboard Classical Crossover Charts, and is heard on classical radio stations worldwide. The touring production has been featured as a PBS special and at the World Tango Festival in Victoria, Canada.

She has served as principal harpist for the Sacramento Philharmonic & Opera and the Women's Philharmonic, collaborated with Grammy-winning composers, and recorded for major film studios including Lucasfilm's Skywalker Sound. Anna Maria has also performed for dignitaries including Pope Benedict XVI, the King and Queen of Spain, international presidents, and has shared the stage with stars such as Andrea Bocelli, Josh Groban and Barry Manilow, who calls her his "favorite harpist."

(191 Words - Medium Length General Bio) **www.AnnaMariaMendieta.com**

ANNA MARIA MENDIETA Harp-Tango Story and Biography

Virtuoso harpist Anna Maria Mendieta brings tango's fire, elegance, and rhythm to the concert stage.

Short Tango Bio:

"A sensational journey of rhythm and sound…sheer genius…explosive."
Alison Young, Harp Column Magazine

The world said it couldn't be done, but American harpist Anna Maria Mendieta has made history in offering her harp as a new voice for Argentine Tango. A concerto soloist and touring artist, Ms. Mendieta is the creator of *Tango Del Cielo* (Tango of Heaven), an international touring show and an award-winning album. With her groundbreaking vision, her touring show has been featured as a PBS Special and was a headliner show at the 2019 World Tango Festival in Victoria, Canada; her album "Tango Del Cielo" won eleven international awards including five Global Music Awards and reached #2 on Billboard's Classical Crossover Charts.

Medium/Long – Tango Bio:

"…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

It was a historic event in 2007, when the *League of American Orchestras* selected the review to internationally announce the success of a world premiere of a concerto no one thought possible. Making history, American harpist Anna Maria Mendieta proved the impossible and performed Astor Piazzolla's intensely chromatic and percussive Argentine Tango; music for which she is now known for. With innovative programming, Ms. Mendieta continues to be recognized internationally as a pioneer with her award-winning album *Tango Del Cielo* for Harp & Orchestra. The album features the music of Piazzolla while collaborating with Piazzolla's closest colleagues and Grammy award-winning composers, the album has won eleven international awards, including five Global Music Awards, reached #2 on Billboard's Classical Crossover Charts, and is played on classical music stations around the world.

What began years ago as a new vision for harp, Anna Maria Mendieta's "Harp-Tango" project has blossomed into a multimedia touring concert-show of award-winning musicians and dancers called "Tango Del Cielo" (Tango of Heaven). The show presents a fusion of tango and flamenco with a tribute to the silent films. Ms. Mendieta's *Tango Del Cielo* show was the featured show at the 2019 World Tango and Accordion Festival in Victoria, Canada and is the focus of a documentary film. When she's not pulling strings, she is out on the dance floor as a part of the show.

Ms. Mendieta enjoys a busy career as a soloist, orchestral musician, and recording artist. She is the principal harpist with the Sacramento Philharmonic & Opera and has performed with orchestras and chamber music groups across the country and beyond including the San Francisco Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, and Russian National Orchestra. Ms. Mendieta has been honored with concertos specially composed for her including a commission award from the American Harp Society. She has performed for Pope Benedict XVI, President Clinton, President Gorbachev, and the King and Queen of Spain as well as other dignitaries. Ms. Mendieta performs all styles of music from classical to contemporary and has enjoyed performing with celebrities such as opera singer Frederica von Stade, Andrea Bocelli, Josh Groban, Frank Sinatra Jr, and Barry Manilow, who calls her his "favorite harpist".

Featured in the International Musician Magazine
Cover Story: Inspired Success Magazine

Anna Maria Mendieta
Harpist

"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 educator. She has performed with symphony orchestras and chamber music groups across the U.S. and abroad, including the San Francisco Symphony, San Francisco Opera & Ballet, Russian National Orchestra, Russian State Ballet, Los Angeles Philharmonic, and others.

Ms. Mendieta is often featured performing the harp concerti of Joaquin Rodrigo, as well as special tango arrangements created for her harp-and-orchestra projects. She has received international recognition as a pioneer and "exceptional soloist" by the League of American Orchestras for her premiere performances of the Argentine tango music of Astor Piazzolla—music previously thought impossible for harp—and for creating a new genre of harp performance.

Her *Harp-Tango* project has evolved into the international touring concert-show *Tango Del Cielo* ("Tango of Heaven"), an award-winning album and the focus of a documentary film. The program presents a fusion of tango and flamenco, with a tribute to silent-film tangos—a nod to her family connection: her great aunt, silent film star Nita Naldi, co-starred with tango icon Rudolph Valentino. *Tango Del Cielo* debuted at the American Harp Society's National Conference in 2006 and has since toured nearly 30 U.S. states and was featured as a PBS Special. The album has won eleven international awards, including five Global Music Awards, and reached #2 on Billboard's Classical Crossover Charts. Mendieta has also created two award-winning music videos with the album.

Ms. Mendieta serves as principal harpist with the Sacramento Philharmonic & Opera and previously held the principal harpist position with the nationally acclaimed Women's Philharmonic. She has been a featured instrumentalist with Theater Flamenco of San Francisco and frequently participates in innovative outreach programs, including the San Francisco Symphony's *Adventures in Music* program. She has performed for motion pictures, television, radio, and the Emmy Awards.

Collaborations with multi-Grammy-winning artists—including Jorge Calandrelli, Pablo Ziegler, and Daniel Binelli—have resulted in compositions and arrangements for harp and orchestra featured on her *Tango Del Cielo* album, the first of its kind dedicated to Argentine tango. She has also recorded for Lucasfilm/Disney's Skywalker Sound and contributed to projects with Sugo Records, Koch International Classics, New Albion, the San Francisco Girls Chorus, and the Grammy Award-winning Pacific Boy Choir. Ms. Mendieta is also featured on the National Geographic Society album *Serenity – Songs of Peace and Enlightenment*.

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

Among her awards and honors, Ms. Mendieta was a featured concerto soloist at Carnegie Hall in 2024 and at the Cairo Opera House in Egypt, performing her signature repertoire. She has performed for Pope Benedict XVI, the King and Queen of Spain, President Bill Clinton, and President Gorbachev, as well as for the CIA Director who arranged for her to perform for National Hispanic Week in Washington, D.C. She was honored to perform at the American Harp Society National Conference in 2006 and received a commissioned concerto grant in 2013. She is the only harpist to have twice received the "Matz Memorial Award" from Lyon & Healy Harp Company for Outstanding Achievement.

Ms. Mendieta has shared the stage with renowned artists including Frederica von Stade, Andrea Bocelli, Josh Groban, Frank Sinatra Jr., Johnny Mathis, Olivia Newton-John, Fernando de la Mora, The Moody Blues, and Barry Manilow, who calls her his "favorite harpist."