

Almeh Luz



CARLA MAFFIOLETTI - SOPRANO/GUITAR - JUTTA MARIA BÖHNERT - SOPRANO

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Almeh Luz was created in 2018 after a wish of both classical singers, Carla Maffioletti and Jutta Maria Böhner to bring a variety of Lied, Opera and art songs to the very intimate settings such as voices and guitar .

Their repertoire portrays the finest of Brazilian classical melodies, as well the typical humor and temperament of Spanish songs, not forgetting the theatrical character personified in Kurt Weill's songs, like the classic *Surabaya Johnny*. The repertoire has in its essence all original arrangements made by Carla Maffioletti, incorporating several soprano duets accompanied by guitar.

The name Almeh Luz was inspired by the word *Almeh* derived from ancient Egypt that describes female artists, poets and dancers, and *Luz*, the portuguese word for Light, as a pure and positive form of this meeting of souls.

After a serie of chamber concerts in The Netherlands, Germany and Portugal, for the season 2019/2020 Almeh Luz intent to expand its borders .The audience will experience Franz Schubert, Kurt Weill, Fauré, Poulenc and Purcell, Manuel de Falla, Obradors, Chapi, Piazzolla, Jayme Ovalle, reinventing and expanding the traditional repertoire for voice and guitar, with a special flavour for the Brazilian works, such as of Heitor Villa-Lobos and his *Floresta do Amazonas* and the beautiful *Azulão* from Jayme Ovalle.

In a world so noisy and hectic, there are few times when we allow ourselves the peace of the most tender and delicate artistic sensations, and that is exactly what this duo aims to achieve.



Almeh Luz - Arcos de Valdevez, during a concert tour in Portugal.

THE FIRST ALBUM

To be released in 2020 by their own *Almeh Music* label, the first album of the duo illustrates the various facets of love and the woman in love. They are beautiful melodies sung in five languages traveling through different musical styles.

The arrangements were made exclusively for the formation of the duo by Carla Maffioletti, with Latin American songs, including Heitor Villa-Lobos, classics such as 'Alfoncina y el Mar' by Ariel Ramires, 'Les Chemins de L'Amour' by Francis Poulenc, Dido's Aria Lament of the opera Dido and Henry Aeneas Purcell, among so many beautiful works.

To complete this repertoire could not miss the songs of Kurt Weill as 'Je ne t'aime' pas and 'Surabaya Johnny, in an impactful interpretation of Jutta Maria Böhnert.

All the pain of longing, hope, joy and feminine sensitivity are revisited in melodies never before heard in this tiny constellation of voice and guitar.

“Unsatisfied or disappointed love. happy, explosive, tragic and visibly persuasive, Böhnert was able to convey it in an impactful way. In particular, the joy of playing Carla Maffioletti, who radiantly designed wonderful melodies with her guitar, could also be seen. “

- J. GIESE - BADISCHES TAGBLATT NEWSPAPER

“The worlds needs perls such as Almeh Luz”

- LAURENS BAOUVRIE - THUIS MAASTRICHT MAGAZINE

JUTTA MARIA BÖHNERT



Jutta Maria Böhnert was born in Baden-Baden, Germany. She studied with Prof. Sylvia Geszty at the Musikhochschule in Stuttgart.

In her Opera and Concert career, she has collaborated with the Staatsoper and the Komische Oper in Berlin, the Deutsche Oper am Rhein in Düsseldorf, the Opernhaus Köln, under the direction of prestigious conductors such as Pierre Boulez, Christian Thielemann, Helmuth Rilling, Adam Fischer, Sir Neville Marriner, Philippe Jordan and Daniele Gatti.

Jutta Maria Böhnert performed several Mozart roles, such as Susanna, Pamina, as well as the Contessa di Almaviva from *Le Nozze di Figaro* at the Castle Theater in Potsdam in the highly acclaimed staging of Andreas Dresen and at the Badisches

Staatstheater Karlsruhe, furthermore at the Bolshoi Theater in Moscow, St. Petersburg Philharmonie, directed by Vassily Sinaisky, and finally at the Deutsche Oper am Rhein in Düsseldorf directed by Axel Kober.

Under the guidance of Sir Neville Marriner, she performed the *Messe in C* of Mozart at the Tonhalle in Düsseldorf.

During her engagement at the Lucerner Theater Jutta Maria Böhnert sang the roles of Anna Glawari in Franz Lehar's *Merry Widow*, Mimi in Puccini's *La Bohème*, Beatrice in *Beatrice et Benedict* of Berlioz and the title role of Bellini's *Norma*.

For nine years she was a cast member of Richard Wagner's Bayreuther Festspiele. Chamber music recitals brought her to Wigmore Hall in London, to the Brandenburger Musik Festival and to the Kammermusik festival in Nürnberg.

Jutta Maria Böhnert recorded several CDs, such as the recently released recording by Sony Classical on which she sings the soprano part in cantatas IV-VI from Bach's *Weihnachtsoratorium* together with the Windsbacher Knabenchor and Deutsche Kammervirtuoson Berlin.

CARLA MAFFIOLETTI



Carla Maffioletti is a Brazilian and Italian soprano and classical guitarist. She studied Opera and Lied Brazil at the the Maastricht Conservatory in the Netherlands.

For twelve years, Carla Maffioletti was the main soloist soprano with the acclaimed violinist *André Rieu* and his Johann Strauss Orchestra. Her virtuoso voice and guitar sound can be found among the greatest international treasures of the music world, recorded in several CDs and DVDs that are often broadcasted worldwide.

In the 2013/16 season she was part of the soloist cast of the Luzern Theater in Switzerland, where she sang with great success *Musetta*, *Zerbinetta*, *Contessa de Folleville*, *Ms. Wordsworth*, *Scintilla* in Bruno Maderna's opera *Satyricon*, one of the highest ever written for a soprano and became the premiere of *Cantos de Sirena*, the co-production with the famous Catalan Theater Group *La Fura dels Baus*.

In 2017 she produced her own Concert Tour named *A Dream* to be seen in various theaters in the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany with a unique repertoire and original arrangements from *Opera To Samba*.

In 2012 she released her first solo Album *Blue Bird*, which she produced and arranged, as well as sung and played classic guitar, and in 2018 Carla Maffioletti released her second solo album *Sentimental* featuring special guests as *Jutta Maria Böhnert*, *Enzo Kok*, *Alex Geller*, *Jan Knooren* and *Suurs van Petegem*, as a special duet with her mother *Leda Maffioletti*.

In Brazil he collaborates lately with the series of concerts and activities under the coordination of *Cláudio Carrara* and *Vagner Cunha*, among the projects carried out are in 2018 the World premiere of *Vagner Cunha's Opera O Quatrilho*, in 2013, the recording of the DVD and CD of the *Symphonic Methaphysics* of *Antonio Meneghetti* with the *Orquestra do Teatro São Pedro* conducted by of *Antônio Carlos Borges Cunha* and two CDs with the *Camerata Ontoarte*, with this ensemble, she performed the successful Brazilian tours in 2014 and 2016 and in June 2015 in *St. Petersburg, Russia*.