

Naiara De La Puente is a Spanish concert accordionist, chamber musician, educator and artistic researcher. She holds a Doctor of Music degree from the Sibelius Academy, University of the Arts Helsinki, where she also held doctoral research appointments at the DocMus Doctoral School. Her doctoral research focused on the artistry of the concert accordion in contemporary chamber music and on the development of the performer's artistic identity, combining artistic practice, collaborative work and performer-led reflection.

Her academic training includes a Master of Music in Accordion Performance from the Sibelius Academy, specialised higher education in Accordion Pedagogy at Musikene, the Higher School of Music of the Basque Country, and postgraduate soloist studies at the Royal Danish Academy of Music in Copenhagen. Throughout her training and professional career, she has worked with accordionists and pedagogues including Geir Draugsvoll, Stefan Hussong, Vojin Vasovic, Matti Rantanen, Helka Kymäläinen, Owen Murray and Iñaki Alberdi, as well as with musicians such as Garth Knox, David Quiggle, Marko Ylönen and Anssi Karttunen.

Her artistic activity brings together solo performance, chamber music, contemporary creation and interdisciplinary collaboration. She has performed in Austria, Denmark, Finland, South Africa and Spain, appearing at festivals and venues including the Isaac Albéniz International Festival, Música Viva in Salzburg, the Palau de la Música in Valencia, the Segovia International Festival and the Matinées of the Basque National Orchestra.

Contemporary music and the development of new repertoire for the concert accordion have played a central role in her career. She has premiered works by composers including Félix Ibarrondo, Ramón Lazkano, Aurélio Edler-Copês, Irene Galindo Quero and Mikel Chamizo, among others, and has worked closely with composers throughout the creative process. In 2023, she was invited as accordionist to the ISCM World New Music Days in South Africa, where she premiered works selected by the International Society for Contemporary Music. She has also performed under conductors including Marzena Diakun, George Henry Jackson, Iker Sánchez, Francesc Prat, Txaber Fernández, Diego Martín-Etxebarria and Arturo Alvarado.

Chamber music is another central strand of her artistic practice. She was a founding member of Krater Ensemble and Akartia Trio and a principal member of SMASH Ensemble and has collaborated with ensembles including Ensemble Sinkro and Vertixe Sonora. She is co-director of Stratos Project and Artistic Director of Akartia Lab, a chamber music project for voice, saxophone and accordion that brings historical repertoire, transcriptions and contemporary creation into dialogue through a distinctive instrumental combination.

Her work also extends into interdisciplinary practice. Her collaboration with Ecuadorian composer and visual artist Tania Cortés Becerra combines accordion, electronics and visual media, and was presented within the Klaustro Sounds series in Vitoria-Gasteiz in November 2024. Such projects form part of a broader artistic interest in expanding the concert accordion beyond conventional performance contexts through collaboration with other artistic disciplines.

De La Puente has received awards at several national and international competitions, including First Prize at the Arrasate National Accordion Competition, the V Sant Anastasi Instrumental Competition, the Grand Prix of Andorra and the Pedro Bote International Young Performers Competition. Her recording activity includes contemporary, chamber and interdisciplinary projects released by labels such as Odradek Records, Gaztelupeko Hotsak and Espacio Sinkro. Among them is *Chalk Laboratory I: Ramón Lazkano*, recorded with SMASH Ensemble and devoted to the music of the Basque composer. Her discography also includes collaborations with Carlos Cano, Hernán Milla, Guillermo Lauzurika and Joserra Senperena, as well as her participation in Rax Rinnekangas's film *Luis Barragán: Casa Estudio*. A recording in which she participated received a nomination at the 17th Latin Grammy Awards in 2016.

Alongside performance, De La Puente develops an active profile in artistic research. She has presented lectures, workshops and lecture-recitals at international institutions and conferences, and is the author and co-author of publications on artistic research, performance practice and the repertoire of the concert accordion. Her recent academic activity has included invited lectures at the Royal Danish Academy of Music in Copenhagen, at Women in Accordion symposium.

Teaching forms an integral part of her professional activity. She has taught accordion and chamber music in conservatoire contexts and has been invited to give masterclasses and specialised courses. Recent engagements include the Vitoria-Gasteiz International Music Festival and Course (FCIMV 2024), the 4th Inter-Centre Accordion Course in Madrid in 2025 and jury membership for the Basque Country Young Musicians Competition in 2022, 2024 and 2025.

Her artistic and research work has received support from institutions including the Provincial Council of Álava, the Spanish Ministry of Culture, Fundación Caja Madrid, the Paulo Foundation and the Sibelius Academy Foundation.

Among her recent projects are the 2026 world premiere of *JAIALDI*, Mikel Chamizo's concerto for accordion and symphonic wind orchestra, performed with the Municipal Band of Vitoria-Gasteiz, and the development of Akartia Lab under her artistic direction, including its appearance in the Vitoria-Gasteiz Chamber Music Series.