



FESTIVAL OF VOICES

**MEECHOT
MARRERO**

9 JULY 2026

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL

Accompanied by pianist Thomas Victor Johnson and supported by JESSA



MEECHOT MARRERO

7.30 PM | THURSDAY 9 JULY

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL

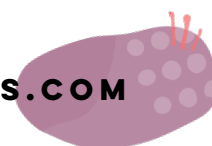
MEECHOT MARRERO | BIO



Sydney-based Puerto Rican soprano Meechot Marrero has forged an international career across opera, concert, and festival stages. During her years at Deutsche Oper Berlin, Meechot established herself in a variety of lyric and character roles, including Gretel (*Hänsel und Gretel*), Pamina (*Die Zauberflöte*), Musetta (*La bohème*), Adele (*Die Fledermaus*), Liù in *Turandot*, and the title role in *The Cunning Little Vixen*. She also portrayed Micaëla in *Carmen*, Zerlina in *Don Giovanni*, Oscar in *Un ballo in maschera*, Nannetta in *Falstaff*, and Marzelline in *Fidelio*, and appeared as Woglinde in *Das Rheingold* and *Götterdämmerung*, the latter released on DVD for Naxos.

Beyond Berlin, Meechot has performed throughout Europe, North America and the Middle East. She sang Gretel with Opera San Antonio, New Orleans Opera, the Royal Opera House Muscat in Oman, and in concert with the Orquesta Sinfónica del Principado de Asturias in Oviedo. Other highlights are Adina (*L'elisir d'amore*) for Plateia Protagonista in Portugal; Cunegonde (*Candide*) with Komische Oper Berlin and Hessisches Staatstheater Wiesbaden; Despina (*Così fan tutte*) for Teatro de la Opera; and Juliette (*Roméo et Juliette*) at the Savannah Voice Festival.

Meechot has also collaborated extensively with conductor Sir Donald Runnicles, appearing with him at both the Edinburgh International Festival and the Grand Teton Music Festival. Their projects together have ranged from Orff's *Carmina Burana* with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra to roles including the Young Shepherd (*Tannhäuser*), Maria (*West Side Story*), Musetta and Papagena.





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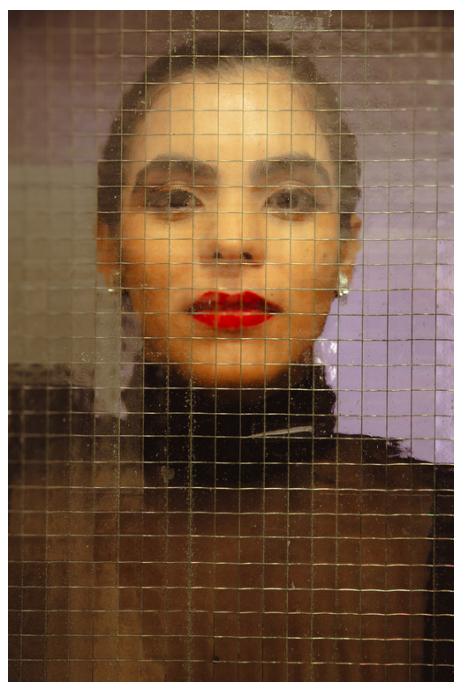
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In her native Puerto Rico, Meechot has appeared at the Casals Festival in both operatic and concert repertoire, performing roles such as Nuria in Golijov's *Ainadamar* and Trujamán in de Falla's *El retablo del Maese Pedro*, as well as Menotti's *Muero porque no muero*, de Falla's *Siete canciones populares españolas*, and Villa-Lobos' *Bachianas Brasileiras No. 5*.

Meechot's broader concert repertoire includes *Carmina Burana* with the Sun Valley Music Festival and the Oakland, Grand Rapids, and Nashville Symphony Orchestras. With CulturArte de Puerto Rico and the Puerto Rico Symphony Orchestra she sang Rosaura in Guerrero's *Los Gavilanes*, and with the Puerto Rico Symphony and the Rundfunk-Sinfonieorchester Berlin she appeared in Bernstein's Concert Suite No. 1 from *West Side Story*. She took the soprano solos in Mendelssohn's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with the Orquesta Sinfónica de Puerto Rico, Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater* with the Coro de Niños de San Juan, and Haydn's *The Creation* with the Orquesta Sinfónica de Bayamón, and performed Berg's *Seven Early Songs* with the Nashville Symphony.

In 2026, Meechot sings the title role in *The Coronation of Poppea* for Victorian Opera and appears in concert in Sydney, Newcastle and Hobart.





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JESSA | BIO

JESSA is a Hobart based vocal ensemble founded in 2022 by singer and educator Jane Edwards. Inspired by the many outstanding soprano and alto voices in Hobart, Jane saw an opportunity to create a serious classical choir. Their name, JESSA, plays on the initials of their conductor, and the SSA membership.



JESSA is a significant force in Tasmanian choral music, and performs a minimum of five concerts annually. Modern classical repertoire is very much their focus, with presentation of leading contemporary choral composers from around the world. Importantly, JESSA champions Australian composers, and has a commitment to Tasmanian works, having already performed numerous SSA compositions by expat Ben Van Tienen.

JESSA are currently involved in discussions with leading composers including Sally Whitwell, Joseph Twist and Andrew Ford, and look forward to presenting their works in future concerts.

JESSA is populated by many remarkable people – high level band musicians, choral directors, retired Heads of Music and current classroom music teachers, an award winning writer, an internationally regarded flute educator and an astrophysicist. Some of JESSA's members are also long time Gondwana Choristers, having toured with them both nationally, and overseas. This is the rich tapestry that makes up JESSA, a collection of warm hearted humans, who take singing very seriously, but also know how to have fun.

JESSA's concerts have included various prominent instrumental guests, including Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra's Lucy Carrig, Tracey Patten and Phoebe Masel. They are excited to welcome cellist William Hower shortly, who has returned to Tasmania after a significant European career. JESSA is accompanied by a variety of gifted pianists, including Michael Power, Meriel Owen and Sarah Chick.





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THOMAS VICTOR JOHNSON | BIO

Winner of the Richard Bonyngé Accompanists Award at the 2018 Sydney International Song Prize, Thomas Victor Johnson is a vocal coach and pianist living on the unceded lands of the Gadigal people. Thomas currently works as a répétiteur with Opera Australia, is a staff vocal coach at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, and is a regular guest teacher at Te Pae Kōkako, The Aotearoa New Zealand Opera Studio (TANZOS) at the University of Waikato.

Thomas has worked with and played for conductors including Daniel Barenboim, Zubin Mehta, Sir Simon Rattle, Sir Antonio Pappano, Simone Young AM, Daniel Harding, Philippe Auguin, Pietari Inkinen, Thomas Guggeis, Speranza Scappucci, Massimo Zanetti, Renato Palumbo, Carlo Montanaro, Guillaume Tourniaire, Patrick Lange, Andrea Battistoni, Anthony Legge, Tom Woods, Maxime Pascal, Stuart Stratford, Giuseppe Montesano, Brad Cohen, Jonathan Darlington, Antony Walker, Kristiina Poska, Pietro Rizzo, Benjamin Northey, Tahu Matheson, and Christian Badea.

Thomas was a music staff member at Staatsoper Unter den Linden from the 2018/2019 to 2022/2023 seasons, where he also served as stellvertretender Chordirektor during the 2021/2022 season. Prior to his time in Berlin, he worked as a solo répétiteur with Opera Australia after serving as the of Head of Music at West Australian Opera for a two-year term. During this time at WAO, Thomas managed the music and language staff, guided the Young Artist Program, auditioned and prepared the chorus, coached principal artists, and designed and implemented new community engagement projects. His career in opera began with his appointment to the role of Assistant Chorus Master and Children's Chorus Master at Opera Australia in 2012.

He has performed in recital with singers including Nicole Car, Étienne Dupuis, Anna Kissjudit, Noa Beinart, Margaret Plummer and Bruno de Sá, and has worked with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, the Orchestra dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, Northern Ireland Opera, Sydney Philharmonia, Australian Youth Orchestra, Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir, Sydney Children's Choir, The Choir of Christ Church St Laurence Sydney, Bel A Cappella, Sydney Chamber Choir, as well as a guest appearance with cabaret artist Meow Meow.

Thomas is a graduate of the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, where he studied piano performance and accompaniment with Natalia Sheludiakova. He studied in masterclasses with pianists Stephen Hough, Mikhail Voskressensky, Gerard Willems, Ruth Nye, Andrew Ball, Marco Rapetti, Cristina Ortiz, and Iain Burnside. In 2019, Thomas was the recipient of a study scholarship from the Wagner Society of NSW.

Together with his husband Paull-Anthony Keightley, Thomas established the artistic collective vioro.co and co-founded an artsong series at Lobe Block.





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REPERTOIRE

Canciones de cielo y agua - Héctor Campos Parsi self published by the composer in 1953

1. Los signos en el cielo
2. El aguacero
3. El arroyo

Cinco canciones populares argentinas, op. 10 - Alberto Ginastera

- I. Chacarera
- II. Triste
- III. Zamba
- IV. Arrorró
- V. Gato

Ain't it a pretty night - Carlisle Floyd's Susannah

A Julia de Burgos - Leonard Bernstein's Songfest

So Pretty - Leonard Bernstein

Ruhe, meine Seele! - R. Strauss' 4 Lieder, op. 27

Hear me - Ben van Tienen (Meechot & JESSA)

To Sit and Dream - Rosephayne Powell (JESSA)

Insomnia - Lee Hoiby's Three Ages of Woman, op. 51

Morgen! - R. Strauss' 4 Lieder, op. 27

Somewhere - Leonard Bernstein's West Side Story



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OTHER EVENTS YOU MIGHT LIKE!

Emma Pask: Two Out

Fri 10 July

• 6.00 pm •

Ian Potter Recital Hall

In Quires and Places

Sat 11 July

7.30 pm

St Mary's Cathedral

One Last Song: Festival Finale

Sun 12 July

1.00 pm

Federation Concert Hall

SCAN FOR MORE:

