



Biography *Updated 2023*

Passionate and devoted to the Italian repertoire of the early Baroque and the art of diminution, baroque violinist Leonor de Lera has often been referred to as one of the “top specialists in the field of early seventeenth century music and one of the most important violinists on the national scene”.

She is soon to release her new solo album, which will undoubtedly be her more personal work to date. The project has been a labor of love, driven by an unwavering desire to delve deeper into the theory and praxis of diminutions, allowing her to deepen her understanding of this fascinating topic. More on that coming soon.

Of Spanish-French origin, Leonor’s upbringing was greatly influenced by the fusion of these two cultures. She began studying the violin at the Conservatorio de Ferraz in Madrid when she was six years old, and her passion for music only grew since then.

Later, she continued her education at the renowned Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London, where she had the privilege of studying under the late Mr. Yfrah Neaman. It was during this time that she developed a keen interest in early music, which led her to specialise in baroque violin, studying with Ms. Rachel Podger. After earning her Bachelor of Music diploma she was awarded a scholarship to continue her studies as a Postgraduate at the prestigious Royal Academy of Music, where she continued studying with Ms. Podger. She then continued her studies with the renowned violinist Enrico Onofri, further refining her skills and expanding her knowledge as a baroque player.

Throughout her career, she has had the opportunity to work with some of the most notable orchestras and ensembles in Europe such as Accademia Bizantina, Academia Montis Regalis, Orchestre de l’Opéra Royal de Versailles, I Gemelli, L’Arpeggiata, Cappella Mediterranea, Capriccio Stravagante, Ensemble Elyma, Orquesta Barroca de Sevilla, and Euskalbarrokensemble, to name but a few.

Driven by her love and deep connection with Italian instrumental early baroque music, Leonor founded her own ensemble, L’Estro d’Orfeo, in 2015, with whom she has achieved significant recognition. Her long-time commitment and dedication to this kind of repertoire has made L’Estro d’Orfeo a reference ensemble in the repertoire of this era. Their latest album “L’Arte di diminuire” has been awarded with French accolade “La Clef ResMusica” and nominated for the Preis der deutschen Schallplattenkritik 2020 in the Early Music category, as well as for Best Baroque Instrumental album in the International Classical Music Awards 2021.

Press excerpts:

“The virtuoso and inspired violin of Leonor de Lera (refined ornamentation and articulation)” - **Diapason** -

“De Lera is superb in her double position as solo violin and director” - **Scherzo** -

“[De Lera] shows such facility with the style of the period, as though she had digested all of the many exercises in Rognoni’s *Selva de Varii Passaggi* (1620) to produce them.” -**American Record Guide** -

“De Lera proved here her impeccable command of the colors of the instrument, in an expressive contribution with powerful effect, greatly emphasizing the middle register of her violin, with an almost transcendental gravity and warmth of sound” - **Codalarío** -

“Of impeccable tuning, Leonor de Lera’s sound combines strength and lyricism, it is both delicate and fiery, vibrant and silky, and is supported by the use of a wide range of ornamental resources.”
- **Diario de Sevilla** -

“De Lera’s sonorous, delicately-spun lines and beautifully integrated ornaments are on display everywhere”
- **Classics today** -

“The work on the diminutions was simply exemplary; there are currently few performers with the capacity that de Lera and her ensemble present in this field.” - **Codalario** -

“De Lera is not only elegant in sound, but also in gesture” - **Scherzo** -