

Žibuoklė Martinaitytė

The works of New York-based Lithuanian composer Žibuoklė Martinaitytė (b. 1973), winner of the 2022 Lithuanian National Prize in Arts and Culture and the 2020 Guggenheim Fellowship, have been lauded as as “breathtaking... profoundly moving” by the San Francisco Classical Voice, while *The Wire* praises her for “complex structures of perception and rich textures of experience”. Her stimulating music bristles with energy and tension and revolves often around the subject of beauty, which she calls both a guiding principle and an aesthetic measure for sonic quality.

Described as a textural magician, Martinaitytė has a growing reputation for her chamber and orchestral music. In 2021, Ondine Records released the CD “Saudade” which includes three works for symphony orchestra: *Saudade*, *Millefleur* and *Horizons*. The disc has gained wide critical acclaim with reviews in the *New York Times*, *Gramophone Magazine*, *BBC Music Magazine* and *Limelight Magazine*. “Saudade” was one of the NPR Top 10 Classical Albums of 2021: “Martinaitytė’s orchestral language is rich, colorful and textured with fine detail. This album makes the case for Martinaitytė as a one of today’s most distinctive orchestral composers”. In February 2022, the New York Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Santtu-Matias Rouvali gave the US premiere of the title piece *Saudade* from this album.

Martinaitytė's choral album "ALETHEIA" released in 2024 on Ondine Records, was acknowledged by the *New York Times* and became one of the NPR Best 10 Classical Albums of 2024.

Martinaitytė’s solo CD *In Search of Lost Beauty*, released on the Starkland label in 2019, received two gold medals at the Global Music Awards for Best Composer and Best Album. In 2020 she was granted the prestigious Lithuanian Government Award for her creative achievements and in 2022 a medal of honor from the President of Lithuania. In 2024 Martinaitytė was a recipient of the Goddard Lieberson Fellowship by the American Academy of Arts and Letters.