

SOFIA KIRWAN-BAEZ

Biography (413 words)

Described as a 'superb singer actress' (Opera Today), Anglo-Venezuelan soprano **Sofia Kirwan-Baez** is a Rising Star of the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment (2025-27), a recipient of both the Musicians' Company Award (2023) and the Sybil Tutton Award (2022), as well as the winner of the RCM Concerto Competition in 2021. She was a Young Artist on the National Opera Studio's (NOS) Global Talent Programme 2023/24.

Operatic roles include Musetta *La Bohème* (Welsh National Opera 2026, Longborough Festival Opera 2024), Rosina *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* (Opéra National de Bordeaux 2025), Susanna (Cumbria Opera Festival), Elle *La Voix Humaine* (Barricade Arts / Cumbria Opera Festival), Adina *L'Elisir d'amore* (Wild Arts), Papagena (Opéra National de Bordeaux), Eurydice *Orpheus in the Underworld* (RCM Opera Studio), Le Feu *L'Enfant et les Sortilèges* (RCM Opera Studio), Papagena *Die Zauberflöte* (RCM Opera Studio) and World premieres of works by Jasper Dommert (RWCMD Atmospheres Festival), Marco Galvani (Faded Ink Productions) and Toby Young (Oxford Music Faculty). She has covered Karolka in English National Opera's *Jenůfa*, Mélisande for Longborough Festival Opera, Pamina for Opéra National de Bordeaux and Donna Elvira for Opera North.

A seasoned recitalist, concert work includes Schoenberg's *Pierrot Lunaire* at Birmingham Cathedral (2022) – and a fully-staged performance at the Midlands Arts Centre (2023) – as well as Handel's *Messiah* with Nevill Holt (2022) / Wild Arts (2023), Bach's *John Passion* and Christmas Oratorio, Bach's *B minor mass* and *Trauerode* BWV 198 (City Music with Adrian Butterfield), Haydn's *Creation* (Mayfield Festival), Mahler's 4th Symphony, Monteverdi's *Vespers* (Cadogan Hall), Vivaldi's *Gloria*, Handel's *Dixit Dominus* (Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford with Schola Cantorum), Britten's *Rejoice in the Lamb*, among others. A passionate song recitalist, she made her Wigmore debut in September 2023 as part of their 2023 French Song Exchange, a programme supervised by Felicity Lott and François Le Roux. Sofia also performed in the 2023 Oxford International Song Festival as an Emerging Artist in a recital called *Tell me the truth about Love*. As of 2025, she is also a Samling artist.

Having begun her musical studies with the violin in El Sistema in Caracas (Venezuela), she later started playing the piano, continuing both instruments in the Périgueux Conservatoire. Sofia studied Music at Oxford University and Vocal Performance at the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama, where she was supported by Rotary International. Sofia was a Huffner Scholar supported by the Sir Gordon Palmer Scholarship in the Royal College of Music Opera School. She was also a member of Genesis 16 (2018-19).