

Biography | February 2024

Nuria Rial studied singing and piano in her native Catalonia. She moved to Basel to Kurt Widmer's class, was graduated in 2003 and won the "Preis der Helvetia Patria Jeunesse Stiftung" in Lucerne for her outstanding abilities as a singer.

Her fine, clear voice, softly resonating timbre, musicality and expressiveness quickly opened doors for her on an international level. She has performed at all the leading music festivals in Europe and as a concert singer she collaborates with conductors such as Ivan Fischer, Sir John Eliot Gardiner, Paul Goodwin, Trevor Pinnock, Howard Griffiths, Gustav Leonhardt, Teodor Currentzis, René Jacobs, Neville Marriner, Thomas Hengelbrock or Laurence Cummings. She is accompanied by top ensembles such as Concerto Köln, The English Concert, Kammerorchester Basel, Collegium 1704, Il Giardino Armonico, Les Musiciens du Louvre, Elbipolis Barockorchester, Le Cetra Basel, L'Arpeggiata or Festival Lucerne Strings.

She has appeared in opera productions of renowned houses in Europe, sang Eritea in Cavalli's "Eliogabalo" at the Théâtre de la Monnaie Brussels under René Jacobs, at the Berlin Staatsoper Unter den Linden, also under René Jacobs, as well as Euridice in Monteverdi's "L'Orfeo" at the Grand Théâtre in Geneva under Giovanni Antonini or the role of Pamina in Mozart's "Die Zauberflöte" at the Theatre Carlo Felice in Genoa.

Nuria Rial has worked a lot with baroque music and historical performance practice and has made a name for herself in this field. In addition, she is also interested in other musical genres. In 2012, for example, she was convincing in the role of Nuria in the contemporary opera "Ainadamar" by Golijov at the Teatro Real Madrid, directed by Peter Sellars. In 2015/16 she sang Pamina with the Budapest Festival Orchestra under the baton of Ivan Fischer on a worldwide tour.

As a chamber musician, Nuria Rial maintains partnerships with ensembles such as "Il Pomo d'Oro", "Café Zimmermann", "Les Cornets Noirs Basel" or the "Artemandoline" (CD on Sony). In her recital programmes she sings French and Spanish repertoire, but increasingly also German song.

Nuria Rial has recorded numerous CDs for various labels. These include the award-winning Figaro recording with René Jacobs. Since January 2009 she has been an exclusive artist for Sony Classical/ BMG Masterworks. Her CD "Ave Maria" won the Dutch Edison Award. Nuria Rial received the Echo-Klassik as Young Singer of the Year 2009 for the album "Haydn-Arie per un amante" (L'Orfeo Barockorchester), for the CD "Teatro d'Amore" with Philipp Jaroussky (L'Arpeggiata) as well as for the CD "Via Crucis" with Christina Pluhar ("L'Arpeggiata") and another in the category "Best Opera Arias CD" for her CD "Telemann" with the Chamber Orchestra Basel. Her recordings "Muera Cupido" with the gambist Fahmi Alqhai and "Mother" with Dima Orsho and Musica Alta Ripa (both DHM) are dedicated to selected 18th century stage works in Spain as well as baroque arias and Arabic songs dealing with the facets of the mother role. For her CD "Muera Cupido" with the Accademia del Piacere, Nuria Rial received an Opus Klassik in 2020. In 2023, Sony Music released "Sinfonias & Cantatas" with works by Benedetto Marcello and in July, the Glossa label released "The Spanish Album".