

CECILIA GASDIA



Cecilia Gasdia was born in Verona in 1960; she is an Italian operatic soprano.

Gasdia studied music and piano at the Conservatorio di Verona, graduating in 1980. That same year she won the first prize in the "New Voices for Opera" competition dedicated to Maria Callas. In 1981 she made her operatic debut in Florence as Giulietta in Bellini's *I Capuleti e i Montecchi* and rose to prominence following her successful debut at La Scala in 1982 when at very short notice she replaced Montserrat Caballé in the title role of Donizetti's *Anna Bolena*. Following her debut at the Rossini Opera Festival in Pesaro in 1983 she became a well-known singer in Rossini's operas during the 1980s, with 14 different Rossinian roles in her repertoire.

She made her American debut on 5 October 1985 as Gilda in a concert performance of *Rigoletto* in Philadelphia conducted by Riccardo Muti (repeated on 8 October at Carnegie Hall)

In the same year she made her Lyric Opera of Chicago debut as Giulietta in *I Capuleti e i Montecchi*. John Von Rhein of the Chicago Tribune wrote of her performance:

"With her pale features and petite, high-waisted figure, Gasdia looked as if she had stepped out of a painting by Raphael. She sang with a sweetness, purity and fluency of tone that was rich in soft shadings and consistent in quality from the top to bottom of her range."

Von Rhein (2 March 2008)

Her Metropolitan Opera debut in 1986 as another 'Juliette', this time in Gounod's *Roméo et Juliette*. By the late 1990s Gasdia increasingly devoted herself to recitals and concerts, including a 2001 US concert tour with Andrea Bocelli. Throughout the course of her career, she has worked with Claudio Scimone and I Solisti Veneti both on the concert stage and in the recording studio.

In 2018 she became General Manager and Artistic Director of the opera at the Arena di Verona Festival.