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GET TO KNOW THE OLGA IGLESIAS FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS 2022-2023

“It is with great pride and enthusiasm that we congratulate our winners of the 2022-2023 Olga Iglesias Fellowship Program. After an evaluation of all the fellowship applications, we have selected two talented young people who we are sure will continue to grow their careers and will carry the name of Puerto Rico up on high.” mentioned the Executive Director of OIP, Anthony Cheney Guzmán.

Shelzie Ramos is a young soprano who receives the OIP Fellowship for the second time. A graduate of the Conservatory of Music of Puerto Rico with a bachelor's degree in vocal performance, she has been a participant in a growing number of composer productions such as singing original art songs and collaborating with Christian musicians. As a student at the Conservatory of Music of Puerto Rico, she participated in the opera *Suor Angelica* under the direction of the late Prof. Antonio Barasorda and also in the opera *Hänsel und Gretel* under the direction of Prof. Ilca López. In addition, she was part of the cast of the opera *Carmen* at the Casals 2022 Festival. Her future projects are to continue her masters studies in singing, and at the same time begin a career as an opera singer representing Puerto Rico.

Lucila Zavala, a Puerto Rican soprano, entered the Conservatory of Music of Puerto Rico at the age of seventeen. While she was studying she was part of the cast of Puccini's opera *Sour Angelica*, under the direction of the late Prof. Antonio Barasorda. She has been part of various operatic productions such as *I Pagliacci*, *La Vida Breve*, *Carmen*, *La Bohème*, among others. In 2021 she won first place in the 2021-2022 Laffont Metropolitan Opera Competition for District of Puerto Rico, and the Favorite Audience Award by the Fundación Ópera de Puerto Rico. Her future projects are to continue her masters studies in singing, and at the same time begin a career as an opera singer representing Puerto Rico.

As OIP Fellows, both sopranos will be receiving individual voice lessons, one-on-one mentoring sessions, live performance opportunities, and financial sponsorship. “Our wish is that these and all OIP Fellows continue to grow and develop their careers until they become the professional they want to be, and OIP will be there to support them along the way.” Cheney Guzman said.

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