

Full Bio Liamna Pestana Roche: Born in Ciego de Avila, Cuba. She started studying classical guitar very young at the School of Arts Nola Sahig in Ciego de Avila with Maria del Carmen Reyes; the Conservatory Jose White at Camaguey with Felix Puig and Pedro Lazaro Suarez, the guitar, and the Cuban tres (a 3-course string pear-shape small lute, traditional in Cuba to play Son and Campesina (Country) Music) with Efrain Amador and Elizabeth Miranda Ramos; and classical guitar at Institute of Arts in Havana with Alejandro Gonzalez, but other professors there involved in her formation were also Martin Pedreira, Eduardo Martin, Efrain Amador, etc. She has participated in guitar masterclasses with Jason Vieaux, Adam Levi, Joao Luiz, Aldo Rodriguez, Jesus Ortega, Isaac Nicola, Leo Brouwer, Wilfrido Dominguez, Felix Puig, Iliana Matos, Victor Pellegrini, Julio Cesar Oliva, among others. And the lutes, baroque guitar and vihuela with Manuel Mejia, Monica Pustilnik, Konrad Junghänel, Eloy Cruz, Manuel Minguillon, etc. As part of her formation in early music she has also studied early music notation at the Seminaries at Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) between 2009 to 2011, and 2014. She obtained 1st Prize award in the State Competition Amadeo Roldan in guitar at 1991 and 1994. 3rd Prize in the National Competition Amadeo Roldan in 1995 in La Habana. 2nd Prize in Guitar Competition Miguel Aguilo in Memoriam, Camaguey 1996. 3rd Prize playing Cuban tres in the State Music Competition Luis Casas Romero, Camaguey, 1998, among others. She has made arrangements and compositions for diverse musical groups and formats such as Traditional Cuban Music Group Identidad, Coral Negro, Theater Group Polichinela and Teatro Primero, and choirs like Coravila, Cuban Radio and TV Choir in which she was also a performer. She started playing early music in Havana with group El Gremio conducted by Soprano Raquel Rubi, Gertrudis Vargas, and Alain Alfonso. While in Cuba, she performed in the most prestigious venues and festivals in the country such as "Iglesia de Paula", National Theater Federico Garcia Lorca, Basilica del Convento de San Francisco de Asis, Museum of Contemporary Arts, Casa de las Americas, "Mella" Theater, National Theater, "Amadeo Roldan" Theater, "Nicolas Guillen" house, Jose Marti's house, La Caridad Theater in Santa Clara and Teatro Principal from Camaguey, and Ciego de Avila, among others. In 2004 she moved to Mexico and participated in different festivals such as I International Guitar Festival at Saltillo, Sonora in 2004; Guitar Festival at Queretaro, 2012. Between 2009 to 2014 she participated in different Early Music Festivals in different Mexican states such as Morelia, Zacatecas, Queretaro, Ciudad de Mexico, Veracruz, Monterrey, Saltillo, Hidalgo, San Luis Potosi, among others. Sometimes as a soloist, or with Segrel Group, or Cantiga Armonica Mexico, a group she founded and lead. Cantiga Armonica also opened other opportunities for her to tour to other countries and participate in prestigious early music festivals, such as Sacred Music in Colombia, 2014; Baroque Festival in Gotemburg, Sweden 2012; and Argentina with the help of International Program Ibermusica, 2014. As a soprano was invited regularly to sing as soloist with the Simphonietta Orchestra of San Luis Potosi, Mexico from 2010 to 2014 under the conduction of Maestro Gilberto Nunez. Also, as lute soloist performed the Vivaldi's concerts for lute in D Major and lute and Viola di Amore in 2010 with the mentioned orchestra. In Mexico, she toured the entire country and has played in the best concert halls and venues like Guelaguetza Auditorium, Bellas Artes Palace, Sala Nezahualcoyotl, Museo Nacional del Virreinato, etc. Also, she recorded the CDs *Fantasia*, and *Toquen los Rabeles* with Cantiga Armonica Mexico and Children Choir of Tilaco respectively. Also, the CDs *La lirica medieval hispánica* (Medieval hispanic liry), and *Un Sarao en Chalco* (A Party in Chalco), with Segrel Ensemble. Ending the year 2014 to 2016 she lived in Argentina, mostly playing baroque guitar and archlute for the Camerata Eleutheria conducted by Manuel Marina and for the Santa Fe's Polyphonic Choir, directed by the prestigious Maestro Sergio Siminovich. She has been teaching guitar since 1998, privately or in different institutions and has experience with children, youth, and adults. In Cuba taught guitar at the School of Arts of Ciego

de Avila from 1998 to 2001, and in the School of Arts Manuel Saumell, Havana from 2001- 2003. In Mexico in the Autonomous University of Queretaro, 2008-2010 and in the National College of Contemporary Music, 2009- 2011. Guitar and voice at St Cecilia Academy 2021-2014. To perform Hispanic early music, she funded the Children Ensemble of Tilaco in the Sierra Madre of Queretaro. They participated in many early music festivals in Mexico under Pestana's direction. In 2015, in Argentina, she developed a course for elder adults, teaching them to play instruments like the Bowed Psaltery and Anglo-Saxon lyres to prevent Alzheimer and other memory problems. Moved with her daughter to the US in 2016. In 2018 had a second opportunity to continue her studies and she started at Onondaga Community College (OCC) in Syracuse, NY with baritone Dr David Rudari in Classical Voice and in 2019 got transferred to Syracuse University (SU) to continue studying voice with Soprano Janet Brown. Also studied Classical Guitar Performance at SU earning the BM Performance in String- Classical Guitar (SUMA CUM LAUDE) with Dr. Kenneth Meyer. She also plays early music plucked instruments from medieval to romantic periods, such as citole, lute, vihuela, baroque guitar, and six-course guitar in concerts as a soloist or as a continuo player for Schola Cantorum of Syracuse, every season since 2016 through 2022. She participated in the Day of Guitar at OCC in 2019. She has performed regularly in Syracuse, NY at different venues at Lemoyne College, SU Spanish Department, SU's Hendrick Chapel, La Casita Cultural Center, etc. Also, in the International Festival Rockus Fest at Brooklyn, NY in 2019. She is member of Lute Society of America, Early Music America, and Guitar Foundation of America.