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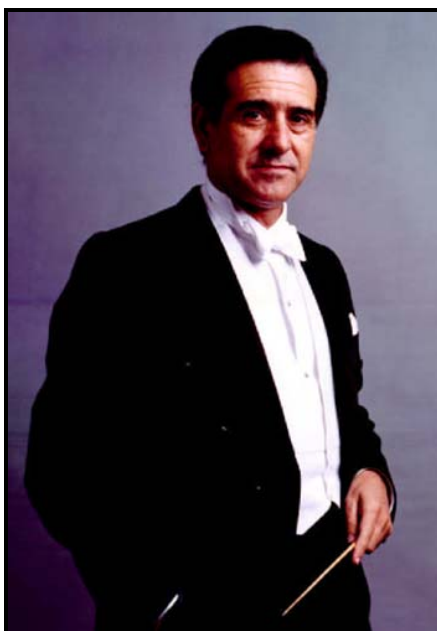
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MAX BRAGADO-DARMAN **CONDUCTOR**



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**** Repertoire available upon request.

BIOGRAPHY

“Max Bragado-Darman is a professional who goes beyond the profession, a painter of music, attentive to every plane, even though the canvas may seem chaotic, he structures emotions through transparency until we are made participants of paradises and infernos far beyond any limitation.” EL PUNTO DE LAS ARTES (Madrid)

A true reflection of his accomplishments as a musician, repeated time and time again by enthused audiences, admiring critics and world renown soloists, this is Max Bragado-Darman in a nutshell. Throughout his career as a conductor, guided by the knowledge he received from teachers and musicians such as Robert Fountain, Robert Baustian, George Szell, Igor Markevich and Franco Ferrara, he has always worked to create magic in the concert hall and to thrill audiences with the passion he has been able to coax from the orchestras he has conducted. Impeccable style, clarity, elegance on the podium, passion and detail in every aspect of performing, visual as well as aural, form the basis of his musical personality.

Max Bragado-Darman, beginning in July of 2004 is Music Director and Conductor of the Monterey Symphony Orchestra, California, appointment awarded after conducting an extremely successful series of concerts with the orchestra and the Irish pianist, John O’Conor as soloist in March 2004. Formerly he was Music Director and Conductor of the Symphony Orchestra of Castile and León, Valladolid, Spain for nine years since its formation in 1991 and considered one of the most prestigious orchestras in the country. Under his direction the orchestra performed for enthusiastic audiences in all the major cities of Spain, Portugal, Switzerland and Germany. He recorded with this ensemble many unknown works of the Spanish repertoire such as symphonies by Bretón, Chapí and Marqués, as well as most of the orchestral works of Turina and Rodrigo under the Naxos label. He also recorded all of the works for cello and orchestra by Alberto Ginastera with his wife, Aurora Anatola, as soloist, as well as many works of the traditional repertoire. The newspaper "Frankfurter Allgemeine" compared this ensemble with several of Europe's most important orchestras and said **"The pearls of this concert were highlighted to such a degree that the orchestra maintained the public electrified from beginning to end."**

In May of 1995, Max Bragado-Darman was appointed Music Director and Conductor of The Louisville Orchestra (Kentucky). Under his direction, the orchestra grew in popularity due to his rapport with audiences, the community in general, and his innovative programming of works combining theater with music, such as Berlioz' "Lelio" and Mendelsohn's "Midsummer Night's Dream". **“... call it affection, call it respect, call it commitment... this was how a conductor is supposed to connect with an orchestra...” (The Courier Journal)** During his tenure with these two orchestras and while conducting many other orchestras, he has worked with distinguished artists such as Alicia de Larrocha, Teresa Berganza, Horatio Gutierrez, Elmar Oliveira, Anne Akiko

Myers, Andre Watts, Reiko Watanabe, Mark Seltzer, Jard Van Ness, Angel Romero, Gary Graffman, Dickran Atamian and Aaron Rosand, among many others.

As guest conductor, Max Bragado-Darman has performed with the New York Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, Honolulu, San Diego, Nashville, Cleveland, Delaware, West Virginia, Cedar Rapids, Savannah, Oklahoma City, Fort Worth, Austin, Monterey, Colorado Music Festival, Boulder Symphony orchestras in the US, the London Symphony, the National Orchestra of Mexico, the National Orchestra, the Radio Television Orchestra and most of the other orchestras of Spain, the National Orchestra and the San Carlos Theater Orchestra of Portugal, the Rhenish Philharmonic Orchestra in Germany, and the St. Galen Symphony Orchestra in Switzerland. In the Fall of 2003 he made his debut at the Wexford Festival Opera with the Granados Opera "María del Carmen", newly edited by the conductor, himself. In the 2004-2005 season he will be conducting the Radio Television Orchestra, the Seville Symphony, the Córdoba Symphony and the Murcia Symphony of Spain in addition to concerts with the Louisville Orchestra in the US and the Belfast Radio Orchestra in Northern Ireland. He also will be bringing the "Concerto Grosso" Chamber Orchestra of Frankfurt, Germany, on a tour of Spain.

As a professional conductor in former years, he has held positions as Music Director of the Philharmonic Orchestra of Grand Canary, Spain, the Concerto Grosso Orchestra of Frankfurt, Germany and the Queen Sofia Chamber Orchestra of Madrid. He was founder and Music Director of the Classic Chamber Orchestra of New York and the conductor of the Mozart Opera Festival in Bronxville, New York, where extremely successful productions of "Don Giovanni" and "Cosi Fan Tutte" were performed.

Born in Madrid in 1945 and trained as a pianist, Max Bragado-Darman graduated from the Royal Conservatory of Madrid and chose to continue his studies in the United States at Oberlin College where he received a Bachelor of Music Degree in piano and a Masters Degree in orchestral conducting. At the University of Michigan, he combined post graduate work with his position as Assistant Conductor of the University of Michigan Orchestras and Associate Conductor of the Michigan Youth symphony Orchestra. As part of his studies, he also worked with George Szell in Cleveland, Igor Markevitch in Monaco as well as with Franco Ferrara, Boris Goldovsky, Theo Alcántara, Robert Page and Robert Baustian. He was finalist in the orchestral conducting competition at Besançon, France.

Max Bragado-Darman is married to Mary Elizabeth Young, born in Princeton, New Jersey, and they have a son, Julio, who is a dancer in The American Ballet Theater, and a daughter, Iliá, who is studying History of Art in Spain.

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CRITICAL ACCLAIM

COURIER-JOURNAL CRITIC

"...Throwing himself into the task with remarkable energy, the ensembles former music director took what could have been mostly a vanity affair and turned it into a formidable achievement....the evening found conductor and musicians in superlative mutual focus...call it affection, call it respect, call it commitment...this was how a conductor is supposed to connect with an orchestra...Most remarkable was Bragado-Darman's account of Prokofiev's Symphony No. 5, a searing performance that confirmed anew what a splendid piece this is...Rarely have I heard a Fifth as fiercely determined as Bragado-Darman's..."

EL PUNTO DE LAS ARTES (Madrid)

"Max Bragado-Darman is a professional who goes beyond the profession, a painter of music, attentive to every plane, even though the canvas may seem chaotic, structuring emotions through transparency until we are made participants of paradises and infernos far beyond any limitation."

GACETA CULTURAL (Madrid)

"Magnificent exhibition of all the instrumental families of the Orchestra of Castile and León, tuned, dedicated and in total union with the baton, a superb lesson given by Max Bragado of the high levels of artistry an artistic director can achieve in only four years."

EL PAIS (Madrid)

The Great Orchestra of Castille and León

"All of the sections of the orchestra shown with brilliance and Maestro Bragado displayed admirable maturity and musicality.

Winds and brass demonstrated perfect tuning, cohesion and beautiful sound, and the luminous flexibility of the strings was evident."

"The National Orchestra responded well to Bragado's baton, and we could enjoy and applaud firm, eloquent, vigorous and clarifying interpretations." Beethoven Symphonies

EL MUNDO (Madrid)

"Max Bragado-Darman, a complete musician who serves each score with his knowledge and passion."

Sentiments

"The Orchestra of Castile and León demonstrated its high quality both generally and throughout all of its sections under the direction of its musical director, Max Bragado Darman, a complete musician who serves each score with his knowledge and passion."

Symphonic Enthusiasm

"The orchestra shows enthusiasm and desire to play, an aspect not shown in other more veteran orchestras."

ABC (Madrid)

Oistrakh and Bragado: A Complete Concert

"A few months ago, we wrote from Valladolid about the quality of this orchestra, one of the splendid realities of the actual Spanish symphonic landscape. It displayed a beautiful sound, with color and warmth, blended."

Musical Excellence

"Max Bragado demands a great deal from his orchestra and the orchestra responds without any discussion: extraordinary sound, compact when required and fluid and lyric when necessary."

The Orchestra of Castile and León, a Great Orchestra

"The artistic director of the Orchestra of Castile and León can be very proud of his work: in four years of existence, this is already a great orchestra, magnificently blended, excellent in all of its families, an example of dedication, disciplined and extraordinary in the quality of its strings."

FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG (Germany)

"It is difficult to find in this country such mellow and delicate sounds.

The pearls of this concert were highlighted to such a degree that the orchestra maintained the public electrified from beginning to end."

WESTFALISCHE RUNDSHAU (Germany)

"The orchestra entertained the public with an immemorable concert which, unfortunately ended too soon."

THE COURIER JOURNAL (Louisville)

"Reducing the string dynamics to an almost imperceptible hush, Bragado-Darman spun out the notes in luscious succession."

"Bragado-Darman coaxed remarkably poised, luscious playing from the strings and woodwinds."

"Bragado-Darman communed with the emotional elements of the works and, perhaps most vitally, understood that emotion is worthless without a rational basis underneath."

DIARIO DE LEON (Spain)

"Far from sensationalism, but rather with that sobriety and elegance which characterize him, Bragado poured out sensibility, refinement, technique and above all, intelligence."
Mahler Symphony #5

F.L.Z. - Ansbach (Germany)

"Bragado - Darman converted "The Firebird" into pure magic.

DIARIO DE LAS PALMAS (Spain)

"Max Bragado-Darman lends this opera an air of musical excellence, measuring this with knowledge, esteem and refinement." La Traviata

THE NEW YORK TIMES

"His way with the score was one of steadiness and clarity. The tempos were designed to make the music and words completely intelligible." Don Giovanni

THE CLEVELAND PLAIN DEALER

"Conductor Max Bragado-Darman was the one who pulled things together with his steady, consistent handling of the performers." Idomeneo

THE HERALD (Carmel, CA)

"Darman's baton technique was a model of clarity, and his physical involvement, though restrained, was always elegant and expressive." Beethoven Symphony #7

NEWHOUSE NEWSPAPERS

"Max Bragado-Darman demonstrated rare flair in guiding his young orchestra with style and brilliance." Cosi Fan Tutte

FT. WORTH STAR TELEGRAM

"The strings were rich and precise, and the other sections did their part in the colorful orchestral melange to produce the finest performance by the orchestra so far this year."

HONOLULU STAR BULLETIN

"Throughout the concert, Darman balanced precision and clarity with colorful and passionate expression..."

GRAMOPHONE-THE CLASSICAL MUSIC WEB SITE "His music is full of colour and life with a winning emphasis of rhythmic variety – but he is also a consummate and subtle orchestrator, as his version of his *Danzas fantásticas*, originally for piano, eloquently demonstrates. " Recent release of: *Danzas fantásticas*, Op. 22. *La Procesión del Rocio*, Op. 9. *Ritmos*, Op. 43. *Soleares*. Castilla y León Symphony Orchestra/Max Bragado Darman Naxos CD © 8 555955 (DDD)

Naxos in the News Week in Review April 18, 2003 -- New Reviews for Naxos.com

"There's no denying that this is a very enjoyable disc, so well- played and recorded I wouldn't have complained if it had been a full-price release."

Calum MacDonald, *BBC Music Magazine*, April 2003

RODRIGO: Complete Orchestral Works 4

“The orchestral works on this program are amongst the most atmospheric and delicious that I have experienced in some time. Rodrigo’s orchestrational language is certainly influenced by his countryman Manuel de Falla, but there is nothing about it that is anything less than fresh and original. The Castille and Léon Symphony Orchestra (Max Bragado Darman, conductor) turns in a performance that is without findable flaw. String playing is lush where needs be, and of shimmering transparency when appropriate. The winds play superbly, and particular notice should go to the oboe and cor anglais player(s), who literally sing throughout this magnificent performance. Don’t walk, run to the CD shop and add this one to your collection.”

- Kevin Sutton, *musicweb.uk.net*

REFERENCES

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