



Alejandro Hernandez-Valdez

Jack Price

Founding Partner / Managing Director

Marc Parella

Partner / Director of Operations

John-Andrew Murphy
Marketing Manager

Mailing Address:

520 Geary Street Suite 605
San Francisco CA 94102

Telephone:

Toll-Free 1-866-PRI-RUBI (774-7824)
310-254-7149 / Los Angeles
415-504-3654 / San Francisco

Email:

jp@pricerubin.com
mp@pricerubin.com

Website:

<http://www.pricerubin.com>

Yahoo!Messenger

pricerubin



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Alejandro Hernandez-Valdez- BIOGRAPHY

Alejandro Hernandez-Valdez is a highly acclaimed choral and orchestral conductor, solo and chamber pianist, and composer. He is the **Artistic Director of The New Orchestra of Washington (NOW)** and the **Associate Conductor of the Choral Arts Society of Washington**. He has been a conductor at the Oregon Bach Festival, has conducted the University of Maryland and the University of Texas Symphony Orchestras, and has conducted members of the National Symphony Orchestra, the Baltimore Symphony, the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, the **Los Angeles Philharmonic**, the Annapolis Symphony, the **Washington National Opera Orchestra**, "**The President's Own**" **United States Marine Chamber Orchestra**, among others. Seeking to reinterpret the past, nourish the new, and illuminate the future of classical music Dr. Hernandez-Valdez founded and became the Artistic Director of the New Orchestra of Washington. The orchestra presents carefully crafted performances that combine contemporary works with masterworks from the standard repertoire.

Dr. Hernandez-Valdez is the Artistic Director and cofounder of **The New Orchestra of Washington (NOW)**. NOW was founded in 2011 by some of the Washington area's most exciting young professional musicians. NOW's focus is to perform works originally written for chamber orchestra or that have been adapted for chamber orchestra from the full orchestra repertoire. NOW's dynamic and eclectic approach to performance sheds new light on works spanning 500 years from the Baroque to the contemporary.

Dr. Hernandez-Valdez, alongside violinist Regino Madrid and cellist Benjamin Wensel, is a member of the internationally acclaimed **B.A.R. Piano Trio** (formerly known as the Washington Conservatory Piano Trio). With Grace Cho and Yun Park he is also a member of **PULSE**, a highly innovative two-piano and percussion chamber ensemble.

Dr. Hernandez-Valdez has received numerous awards such as the Solidaridad Endowed Presidential Scholarship, the E.D. Farmer Endowed International fellowship (multiple times), **the Aspen Music Festival's solo, vocal accompanying, and orchestral piano Fellowships**, among others. On April 28th, 2011 Cantigas honored Dr. Hernandez-Valdez with the first-ever **Award for Talent** in celebration of their 20th anniversary. During this ceremony at the Organization of American States, Cantigas also presented awards for Outstanding Achievement in the Arts to Artistic Director of the Washington Ballet Septime Weber and to Placido Domingo. In honor of this occasion the Mayor of Washington proclaimed April 28 Latinos in the Arts Day.

Dr. Hernandez-Valdez has played under the baton of internationally acclaimed conductors **David Zinman**, **Sir Neville Mariner**, **John Williams**, **Valery Gergiev**, **Christoph Eschenbach**, **Helmuth Rilling**, **Rafael Frübeck de Burgos**, Robert Spano, **James Conlon**, Julius Rudel, James DePriest, Jefferly Kahane, Michael Stern, Murray Sidlin, James Ross, Robert Shafer, J. Reilly Lewis, and Norman Scribner. He has performed in some of the most important halls in Mexico and the United States such as the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington,

D.C., Carnegie Hall in New York City, Harris Hall and Benedict Music Tent at the Aspen Music Festival, the National Cathedral of Washington, and in Mexico at the Teatro Degollado, Instituto Cultural Cabañas (UNESCO Patrimony of Humanity), Ex-convento del Carmen, and the Historic Paraninfo of the University of Guadalajara.

In the summer of 2011 Dr. Hernandez-Valdez spent three weeks as a conductor at the prestigious Bach Oregon Festival working under the mentorship of Helmut Rilling. Dr. Hernandez-Valdez conducted performances of J.S. Bach's "Magnificat" and Cantatas 19 ("Es erhub sich ein Streit") and 149 ("Man singet mit Freuden vom Sieg").

Dr. Hernandez-Valdez is a native of Guadalajara, Mexico where he initiated his music studies under the tutelage of his father. Dr. Hernandez-Valdez holds a Master and Doctor of Music degrees from the Sarah and Ernest Butler School of Music at the University of Texas at Austin.

Alejandro Hernandez-Valdez-Curriculum Vitae

Professional Positions

- 2011 Artistic Director and cofounder of The New Orchestra of Washington (NOW)
- 2011 Pianist of the B.A.R Piano Trio. Regino Madrid, violin and Benjamin Wensel, cello
- 2011 Pianist of the two piano and percussion ensemble PULSE. Grace Cho, piano and Hyun Park, percussion
- 2011 Conductor under the mentorship of Helmuth Rilling at the Oregon Bach Festival(<http://oregonbachfestival.com>)
- 2010 - pres. Associate Conductor and Pianist, Choral Arts Society of Washington. Norman Scribner, Music Director (www.choralarts.org)
- 2006 - pres. Director of Music/Master Pianist and Organist, Westmoreland Congregational Church United Church of Christ in Bethesda, Maryland (www.westmorelanducc.org).
- 2004 - 2006 Director of Music/Choir Director/Master Pianist and Organist, All Saints Lutheran Church Bowie, Maryland (www.allsaintsbowie.org).
- 2001 - 2004 Pianist/Organist, Christ Lutheran Church in Austin, Texas.

Teaching Positions

- 2005 - 2010 Professor of Piano and Composition at The Washington Conservatory of Music in Washington, D.C. (www.washingtonconservatory.com).
- 2007-2009 Assistant Adjunct Professor of Piano and Piano Literature at Shenandoah Conservatory of Shenandoah University in Winchester, Virginia (www.su.edu).
- 2003 - 2004 Professor of Piano and Music Theory at the Orpheus Academy of Music in Austin Texas (www.orpheusacademy.com).
- 2003 - 2004 Professor of Piano and Chamber Music at the Austin Chamber Music Center in Austin Texas (<http://austinchambermusic.org>).
- 2002 - 2003 Graduate Assistant Instructor, University of Texas at Austin. Graduate Assistant to Professor Martha Hilley who is recognized worldwide as the leading figure in group-piano instruction.
- 2001 - 2002 Coordinator and music theory instructor for the groundbreaking Piano Project Program at the University of Texas at Austin. Graduate Assistant to Professor Sophia Gilmsen.
- 2000 - 2003 Graduate Instructor of group-piano, University of Texas at Austin.
- 1999 - 2002 Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Texas at Austin.

Honors and Awards

- 2011 In April 2011 Cantigas (<http://cantigas.org/gala.php>) honored Dr. Hernandez-Valdez with the first-ever Award for Talent in celebration of their 20th anniversary along with fellow awardees Septime Weber (Artistic Director of the Washington Ballet) and Placido Domingo. In honor of this occasion the Mayor of Washington proclaimed April 28 Latinos in the Arts Day.
- 2003 One of ten University of Texas students chosen to participate based on merit, in a private meeting with the President of Mexico Vicente Fox, following his speech at the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library in Austin Texas.
- 2000 First place in the Sidney M. Wright Collaborative Artists Competition (University of Texas at Austin).
- 2000 Winner of the Cavani String Quartet Collaborative Piano Competition (University of Texas at Austin).
- 1999 Graduated Magna cum Laude from Shenandoah University.
- 1999 Lisette Black Outstanding Pianist Award (Shenandoah University).
- 1999 Eugenia Evans Piano Award (Shenandoah University).
- 1999 Piano Ensemble Award (Shenandoah University).
- 1997 First place in the Virginia Music Teacher's Association Collegiate Artists Piano Competition.
- 1997 Honorable Mention in the regional Music Teacher's Association Collegiate Artists Music Competition at Florida State University.
- 1996 Winner of the Shenandoah Conservatory Concerto Competition.
- 1995 First place at the R.C. Evans Piano Competition (Shenandoah University).

Performance Highlights

Multiple performances in the United States and in Mexico in venues of international reputation such as:

- The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and the National Cathedral in Washington,DC appearing as soloist and also with conductors Norman Scribner of the Choral Arts Society of Washington, J. Reilly Lewis of the Cathedral Choral Society, and Robert Shafer of the City Chorus of Washington. Also appearing with the Choral Arts Society of Washington and the National Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Christoph Eschenbach Music Director of the Kennedy Center.
- Carnegie Hall in New York City (with the Choral Arts Society of Washington). Performances of Mahler 2nd and 8th Symphonies with internationally acclaimed conductor Valerie Gergiev and the Mariinsky Orchestra in celebration of the 150th anniversary of the composer's birth.
- Teatro Degollado, Hospicio Cabañas (UNESCO Patrimony of Humanity), Ex-convento del Carmen, and the Historic Paraninfo of the University of Guadalajara, in Guadalajara, Mexico. These performances were given in sold-out halls under the full sponsorship of the Secretaria de Cultura del Gobierno del Estado de Jalisco (Department of Culture of the Government of the State of Jalisco).
- Benedict Music Tent and Harris Concert Hall at the world-renowned Aspen Music Festival and School. Appearances as soloists, organist, with orchestra, with vocal and instrumental soloists, and in chamber music. Also appearing as a solo pianist in the festival celebrating the music of Latin America entitled "Postcard from Latin America."

- The Salida Concert Series in Colorado. Other international acclaimed artists that have appeared in this series are pianists Ann Schein, pianist Wu Han, and cellist David Finkel from the Emerson String Quartet.
- Washington National Cathedral.
- The Montalvo Center for the Arts in California.
- The Garth Newel Music Center in Virginia.
- Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center in Virginia.
- The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center at the University of Maryland.
- Jessen Auditorium and Bates Recital Hall at the University of Texas at Austin.
- Goodson and Armstrong Concert Halls at Shenandoah Conservatory of Shenandoah University. The World of Piano International Series.
- Westmoreland Congregational UCC Music and Arts Series.

Recordings

Recorded (as pianist, harpsichordist, and conductor), supervised, and oversaw music for the fifth edition of "Tonal Harmony" by Stefan Kostka and Dorothy Payne (published by McGraw-Hill). Tonal Harmony is the best-selling music theory book in North America.

Recorded selected musical examples for the "Anthology of Music for Analysis" by Stefan Kostka and Roger Graybill (published by Prentice Hall).

Compositions

- "Agnus Dei," for chorus, oboe, and organ.
- "Danza," for two trumpets and piano.
- Prelude, for oboe and two trumpets.
- "How Lovely is your Dwelling Place," for chorus, trumpet, timpani, and piano.
- "I See His Blood Upon the Rose," for baritone, cello, and piano.
- Etude, for timpani, xylophone, and two pianos.
- "Laberinto," for thirteen players.
- Anthem on Psalm 150, for chorus, oboe, two trumpets, timpani, and organ.
- Rondo, for piano trio.
- Postlude for trumpet, timpani, and piano.

Arrangements

- "Peter and the Wolf" by Sergei Prokofieff arranged from the orchestral score for wind instruments and piano, four-hands.
- "Sensemaya" by Silverstre Revueltas arranged from the orchestral score for piano, four-hands.
- "Huapango" by Pablo Moncayo arranged from the orchestral score for piano, four-hands.
- "Mexico Lindo y Querido" folksong arranged for tenor and piano, four-hands.
- "My Spirit be Joyful" by J.S. Bach arranged from the vocal score for two trumpets, timpani, and organ.
- "Rejoice in the Lamb" by Benjamin Britten arranged from the choir and organ score for choir, percussion, and organ.

Fellowships

- 2005 - 2006 E. D. Farmer International Fellowship from the Teresa Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies at the University of Texas at Austin.
- 2005 One of two recipients of the Aspen Music Festival Fellowship in Orchestral Piano.
- 2004 One of two recipients of the Aspen Music Festival Fellowship in Orchestral Piano.
- 2004 Sole recipient of the Republic of Mexico Solidaridad Endowed Presidential Fellowship.
- 2003 - 2004 E. D. Farmer International Fellowship.
- 2002 - 2003 E. D. Farmer International Fellowship.
- 2002 One of two recipients of the Aspen Music Festival Fellowship in Vocal Accompanying.
- 2001 - 2002 E. D. Farmer International Fellowship.
- 2001 One of two recipients of the Aspen Music Festival Fellowship in Vocal Accompanying.

Scholarships

- 2001 Time Warner Scholarship at the Aspen Music Festival. One of three recipients in the festival.
- 2000 The Chambers-Grant Aspen Music Festival Full Scholarship.
- 1999 Talent scholarship (University of Texas at Austin)
- 1997 Maryann Park Foundation Scholarship.
- 1996 Maryann Park Foundation Scholarship.
- 1995 - 1999 Full scholarship (tuition, room, and board) from Shenandoah Conservatory of Shenandoah University.

Education

- 2009-2010 Special Advanced Student in Orchestral Conducting, University of Maryland, College Park. (www.umd.edu). Studio of James Ross, Professor of Orchestral Conducting and Director of Orchestras.
- 2001-2007 D.M.A. in piano performance, University of Texas at Austin (www.utexas.edu). Studio of Gregory Allen, Professor of Piano.
- 2007 Doctoral Dissertation: The Piano Music of Joaquin Rodrigo - Hidden Spanish Jewels of the 20th Century.
- 1999 - 2001 M.M. in piano performance with a secondary emphasis in conducting, University of Texas at Austin. Studio of Gregory Allen, piano performance. Studio of Kevin Noe, conducting, former Director of Orchestras at The University of Texas at Austin and Artistic and Music Director of the Pittsburgh New Music Ensemble (www.pnme.org).
- 1995 - 1999 B.M. (Magna cum Laude) in piano performance with a minor in organ and additional studies in conducting at Shenandoah Conservatory of Shenandoah University (www.su.edu). Piano studies with Professor Elizabeth Temple. Organ studies with Professor Steven Cooksey. Conducting studies with Maestro Robert Shafer, Grammy-Award winner, former Music Director of The Washington Chorus, and current Music Director of The City Chorus of Washington.
- 1992 - 1994 Music Diploma, Escuela Superior de Musica Sagrada (Superior School of Sacred Music) Guadalajara, Mexico - emphasis in piano, organ, composition, and

Gregorian chant. Studio of Richard Tetley-Kardos, Professor of Piano, Hermilio Hernandez, Professor of Organ, and Domingo Lobato, Professor of Composition, Father Arturo Arechiga, Professor of Gregorian chant.

Additional Studies

- 2000 - 2005 Aspen Music Festival and School (www.aspenmusicfestival.com). Advance studies with Professors Gabriel Chodos, Professor of Piano at the New England Conservatory of Music (www.newenglandconservatory.edu), Frank Weinstock, Professor of Piano at the College-Conservatory of Music, University of Cincinnati (www.ccm.uc.edu), Rita Sloan, Professor of Piano and Collaborative Piano at the University of Maryland (www.umd.edu), and Anton Nel, Professor of Piano at the University of Texas at Austin (www.utexas.edu).
- 2004 - 2005 Fellowship Pianist for the Aspen Chamber Orchestra, Aspen Festival Orchestra, and Aspen Concert Orchestra working under the baton of conductors David Zinman, Sir Neville Mariner, John Williams, Robert Spano, James Conlon, Julius Rudel, James DePriest, Michael Stern, David Robertson, and Murray Sidlin.
- 2002 - 2003 Fellowship Pianist for the Aspen Festival Vocal Performance Studies. Worked with critically acclaimed international singers/coaches Susan Mentzer, Paul Sperry, Irene Gubrud, Vinson Cole, Vivian Thomas, Adele Addison, Gilda Cruz-Romo, James Conlon, and Julius Rudel.

Master classes

Master classes with pianists Leon Fleisher, John Nakamatsu, John Perry, Claude Frank, John O'Connor, Rita Sloan, Misha Dichter, Ann Schein, Margarita Shevchenko, Lillian Kallir, Margo Garrett, cellists Lynn Harrel, Yehuda Hanani, guitarist Sharon Isbin.

Alejandro Hernandez-Valdez-Reviews

Dr. Hernandez-Valdez is an extraordinary musician, a musician with qualities that rank him among the very top of his field, a musician that has demonstrated success in an unusually versatile career as concert (solo), chamber, and collaborative pianist, conductor, Kapellmeister, composer, and teacher. While many musicians may excel at one aspect of music, it is very rare for a young musician to excel at so many aspects of music. It is a sign of prodigious musical understanding and talent. With his abilities and accomplishments he is recognized nationally and internationally as one of the top persons in the field, and not just one of many minor players.

Dr. Hernandez-Valdez is employed at the internationally acclaimed, award-winning Choral Arts Society of Washington as Associate Conductor and Pianist. The Choral Arts Society of Washington is considered by experts such as Chorus America to be at the top 5 percent of choral organizations in the nation and one of the leading choruses in the world. The Choral Arts Society of Washington and its Music Director Norman Scribner, a legend in his field, have performed with leading symphony orchestras, sung under the world's most distinguished conductors, collaborated with the most distinguished soloists, commissioned and gave world premiers of works by eminent composers, and participated in numerous special events both live and televised. Because of his highly rare and exceptional combination of skills, as Associate Conductor and Pianist, Dr. Hernandez Valdez is integral to the organization's ability to continue sustaining and expanding such an impressive, top-quality, international music program.

Dr. Hernandez-Valdez has conducted choruses and orchestras formed by members of the National Symphony Orchestra, the Washington National Opera, the Utah Symphony, the University of Maryland Symphony Orchestra, the University of Texas Symphony Orchestra, and the New York Metropolitan Opera. Only the top players in the world can be members of these major musical ensembles.

The only descriptions I can think of to capture Dr. Alejandro Hernandez-Valdez's very unusual combination of skills (which he performs at the highest level) are that he is a Renaissance man or a musical polymath. This is rarely found, especially at his relatively young age, in Washington, in the United States, or for that matter around the world.

John O'Connor, internationally acclaimed Concert Pianist

Dr. Hernandez-Valdez enjoys a top-flight reputation in Washington, D.C. for his stellar work as Director of Music for The Westmoreland United Church of Christ, one of the most prestigious positions in the Washington metropolitan area. In a recent concert that I attended there, I was not only strongly impressed by his consummate technical and stylistic authority, but also deeply moved by the emotional power that Maestro Hernandez-Valdez brought to the works of J. S. Bach featured on his program.

In any artistic environment, Dr. Hernandez-Valdez would be considered to be a major player. As his brilliant career further unfolds, I have no question that he will rise to ever more prominent positions, enabling him to extend his extraordinary talents to an

ever widening audience. In this era of so many changes in the popular culture, we need, more than ever, the special gifts so bountifully evident in Maestro Hernandez-Valdez's flourishing career. I know, beyond question, that he has already significantly enhanced our musical life here in the nation's capital.

Dr. Hernandez-Valdez is the "complete" artist, destined for very great things as the years progress. To savor the full measure of this great artist, however, one needs to examine his most impressive resume of musical accomplishments and associations to date. Here is proof positive that this young artist has already made his mark not only in Washington, D. C. but in many other locations as well. This will only increase as the years ahead unfold.

He is simply one of the most talented young artists it has been my pleasure to encounter in my 59 years as a professional musician.

Norman Scribner, Artistic Director and Founder of the Choral Arts Society of Washington

Alejandro would be placed in the upper 1% of students with whom I have been in direct contact over the past 40 years. I cannot remember any classmate or any other student who could match both the intellectual acumen and musical gifts of Alejandro Hernandez-Valdez.

James A. Kriewald, B.S., M.M., Ph.D., Vice President and Professor of Music, Shenandoah University, Winchester, VA

It is my professional opinion that Mr. Hernandez-Valdez has extraordinary ability as a classical musician – as a pianist, organist and conductor. . In the world of classical music Alejandro Hernandez-Valdez stands out as an exceptional musician. It is my opinion that he is a person of extraordinary abilities both as a performer and as a teacher.

Kathy Judd, Executive and Artistic Director, Washington Conservatory of Music, Bethesda, MD

Dr. Hernandez-Valdez is an incredibly gifted and unique performing artist, truly a man with extraordinary ability in the arts...I consider him to be one of the most talented individuals in his field and one of the most extraordinary young artists that I have worked with in the last 10 years... It was his work with James Conlon that really brought him to my attention. Maestro Conlon is one of the leading experts in the music written by Alexander Zemlinsky. I had been contracted by the Munich Philharmonic to sing one of Zemlinsky's compositions and I needed a collaborative pianist to help me prepare the role. By the very nature of the craft, singers must collaborate with other artists to perform. In preparing a new work, a singer depends upon the guidance and support of a fine pianist. Although very busy preparing his own recitals, Dr. Hernandez-Valdez learned this very difficult piano score and helped me prepare for the performance. We worked steadily for four weeks. His preparation was meticulous, his ability to analyze problems was exceptional and his support and suggestions were very useful to me. I was amazed and grateful for his expertise and my performance in Munich was very successful. He has also helped me prepare

other twentieth-century works for performance including the fiendishly difficult Berg Lulu suite. I had the honor to perform this work with him. At the end of the performance, the audience recognized the high level of his performance and the response was overwhelming. I mention these things because they indicate that his abilities are at the highest level. I have worked with many collaborative artists from around the world and his work is absolutely equal to the best of them.

Linda Mabbs, Professor and Distinguished Scholar, University of Maryland School of Music

It is my professional opinion that Mr. Hernandez-Valdez has extraordinary ability as a musician, both as concert pianist and as an instructor. . . . Mr. Hernandez-Valdez has extraordinary command of the piano, and his performance successes are proven in countless ways. As a teacher he exhibits the same high level of expertise, wielding significant impact also in his ability to inspire students and in his enthusiastic approach to both the music and the student(s).

Evelyn Grau, Artistic Director and Violist-in-Residence, Garth Newel Music Center, Warm Springs,VA

I first encountered Mr. Hernandez-Valdez at the University of Texas, where he proved himself one of the most gifted pianists in the school's history. . . I might point out three honors he has achieved through competitive processes, namely his faculty position at the Washington Conservatory of Music, his attendance as a fellow at the Aspen Music Festival, and his participation in many master classes taught by some of the world's greatest artists. These opportunities are offered only to the brightest and best. In a terribly crowded field, Mr. Hernandez-Valdez has rightly risen to the top.

Timothy Lovelace, Ethel Alice Hitchcock Chair in Collaborative Piano and Coaching, University of Minnesota School of Music

As his primary teacher during his graduate studies, I can verify that he certainly deserves all of these honors; among the many graduate students I have taught in my thirty-three year teaching career, he definitely ranks in the top 2%.

Gregory Allen, Professor of Piano, University of Texas at Austin School of Music

It is my professional opinion that Mr. Hernandez-Valdez has extraordinary ability as a musician, particularly in the fields of solo and concerto piano performance, collaborative piano performance, conductor of orchestra and chorus and as a teacher of piano, as well as other musical subjects. . . Alejandro . . . is one of a kind: a supreme artist of music and an intuitive, accomplished artist in human interactions

Frances Lapp Averitt, D.M., Professor of Music, Flute, Shenandoah Conservatory, Shenandoah University, Winchester, VA

It is in my professional opinion that Mr. Hernandez-Valdez is in the top 3% of performers in his field. Both Washington conservatory and Westmoreland UCC are uniquely privileged to have a world class musician in their employ.

Christopher Sala, Trumpet Instrumentalist, United States Navy Band, Washington, D.C., Third Trumpet, Annapolis Symphony Orchestra

Dr. Hernandez-Valdez is an exemplary pedagogue with the ability to bring forth the best in his students regardless of their level of expertise. He is as effective with young children at the beginning level as he is with quite advanced pianists with many years of experience.

Martha F. Hilley, Professor, Group Piano and Pedagogy, University Academy of Distinguished Teachers

Of all the students I have observed indirectly, or worked with directly, he is by far the most gifted and most productive of any in my (to date) forty-five years of teaching. In summary Alejandro is a uniquely brilliant and gifted young man, artistically and intellectually, and also a truly beautiful human being, possessing depth and maturity of character that is rare.

Elizabeth A. Temple, Professor of Piano, Chair, Keyboard Division, Shenandoah University

It is my professional opinion that Mr. Hernandez-Valdez has extraordinary ability as a Musician, particularly in all the varied areas which comprise the field of solo, collaborative and pedagogical piano as well as organ and conducting. . . . One of Dr. Hernandez-Valdez' significant achievements was being awarded several different fellowships at the Aspen Music festival and School. In all my years with the Festival and School, I believe he may be the only person who has had both a vocal piano fellowship as well as orchestral piano fellowships in subsequent years.

Rita Sloan, Piano Faculty, Director of the Collaborative Piano Program, University of Maryland, Artist Faculty, Founder and Director of the Collaborative Artist Program, Aspen Music Festival and School

It is the consensus of all who know him that Alejandro Hernandez-Valdez is a young man whose extraordinary potential for development into a remarkable performing musician and musical scholar has come to maturity. He is a brilliant pianist, a deeply thoughtful musical academic and teacher, and a fine conductor.

Letter from William Averitt, D.M., Professor of Music, Coordinator of Composition, Shenandoah Conservatory

I do not hesitate to say that Dr. Hernandez-Valdez is one of the best of the best of a generation of pianists who are now coming to national and international prominence as performing artists and teachers.

Rebecca A. Baltzer, Ph.D., Professor Emerita of Musicology, University of Texas at Austin School of Music

“It is my professional opinion that Mr. Hernandez-Valdez has extraordinary ability as a Musician, particularly in the field of piano performance and pedagogy. . . . He is a valued professional who at this young age possesses extraordinary performing, teaching and administrative skills.

Sophia Gilmsen, Associate Professor of Piano Pedagogy, University of Texas at Austin School of Music

From the moment he [Alejandro Hernandez-Valdez] entered school, it was clear to his professors that they had an exceptional student. His artistic achievements and academic progress have been phenomenal at all stages of his career. At every juncture, where he needed to progress to obtain advanced degrees, he has been offered scholarships from every prestigious university to which he applied and proceeded at every stage, to win honors and awards and maintain the highest academic standard.

Dr. Harlan C. Snow, former Dean of Centenary College, and former Professor of Voice at Shenandoah Conservatory of Music

Alejandro is an exceptionally gifted pianist and teacher, a superb sight-reader with excellent technique.

Delores Ziegler, mezzo-soprano, Professor of Voice, University of Maryland, New England Conservatory

It is my professional opinion that Mr. Hernandez-Valdez has an extraordinary ability as a musician, particularly in the field of Piano Performance (both as a solo and collaborative performer) and as a Teacher of Piano.

David Renner, Associate Professor of Piano, University of Texas at Austin School of Music

You are such an exceptional musician— your expression, musicality, sensitivity to collaboration with the soloists— your incredible technique and facility—you have a fantastic future in front of you.

Eric Ewazen, composer and Juilliard Professor

The sheer drama of winning piano competitions and the prestige of working with some of the world's most famous musicians will surely garner the lion's share of attention in Dr. Hernandez-Valdez's case. And while these should be taken as reflections of his extraordinary ability in the arts—particularly in music—I hope such feats will not eclipse his quieter, but no less important contributions as a teacher of music, specifically piano instruction... Having heard Dr. Hernandez-Valdez perform on the piano, it is my professional opinion that he is very likely among the top liturgical musicians in the United States today in terms of sheer artistry and interpretation. In sum, Dr. Hernandez-Valdez not only possesses an extraordinary ability in the arts, he shares this ability generously with our fellow citizens in the United States.

Dr. Lorenzo Candelaria, Associate Professor of Musicology at the University of Texas at Austin

Alejandro Hernandez-Valdez-Repertoire

Orchestra

J.S. Bach

Orchestral Suite No. 3, BWV 1068 by

Samuel Barber

Adagio for Strings

Bela Bartok

Concerto for Orchestra

L. van Beethoven

Coriolan Overture, Op. 62

Symphony No. 2

Symphony No. 5

Symphony No. 7

Symphony No. 4

Benjamin Britten

Simple Symphony

Aaron Copland

Appalachian Spring

Franz Joseph Haydn

Symphony 104

Alejandro Hernandez-Valdez

Laberinto, a Fantasy for Children

Gustav Mahler

Adagietto from Symphony No. 5

Jose Pablo Moncayo

Huapango

W.A. Mozart

Symphony No. 25 in G minor, K. 183

Symphony No. 36 in C major, K. 425

Symphony No. 40 in G minor, K. 550

Camile Saint-Saëns

The Carnival of the Animals

Bedrich Smetana

Mä Vlast

P.I. Tchaikovsky

Rococo Variations

Virgil Thomson

The Plow that Broke the Plains

Choir and orchestra

J.S. Bach

Magnificat in D, BWV 243

Cantata 19 "Es erhub sich ein Streit"

Cantata 149 "Man singet mit Freuden vom Sieg"

Leonard Bernstein

Chichester Psalms

Benjamin Britten (with added percussion arr. by Alejandro Hernandez-Valdez)

Rejoice in the Lamb

Gabriel Faure

Requiem

G.F. Handel

The Messiah

Alejandro Hernandez-Valdez

Agnus Dei

How Lovely Is Your Dwelling Place

Psalm 150

W.A. Mozart

Mass in C major, K. 317 "Coronation"

Vesperae Solennes de Confessore

Requiem in D minor, K. 626

Daniel Pinkham

Christmas Cantata

Franz Schubert

Mass in G

Antonio Vivaldi

Gloria

Choir

Numerous shorter works for a'capella choir or for choir with piano or organ accompaniment from all periods of music history, including plainchant and contemporary compositions.

Alejandro Hernandez-Valdez-References

Norman Scribner, Artistic Director and founder of the Choral Arts Society of Washington

normanscribner@choralarts.org

202.244.4346

Fred Begun, former Principal Timpanist of the National Symphony Orchestra (1951-1999)

primodon@verizon.net

301.365.0814

Regino Madrid, Assistant Concertmaster of "The President's Own" U.S. Marine Chamber Orchestra

ginomadrid@gmail.com

202.549.6723

Carole Libelo, Assistant Principal Oboe and Solo English Horn, Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra

cmlibelo@comcast.net

301.970.9958

Rita Sloan, Head of the Collaborative Piano Department at the University of Maryland, College Park and the Aspen Music Festival and School

rita.sloan@gmail.com

301.404.5527

Elizabeth Temple, Professor of Piano at Shenandoah Conservatory of Shenandoah University

pianoetemple@gmail.com

540.665.4640

Kathy Judd, Executive and Artistic Director of the Washington Conservatory of Music

kjudd@washingtonconservatory.org

703.442.7720

Gregory Allen, Professor of Piano at the University of Texas at Austin

g.allen@mail.utexas.edu

512.458.8835

Linda Mabbs, Professor of Voice at the University of Maryland, College Park
lmabbs@umd.edu
301.405.5507

Scott Wood, Conductor of the Amadeus Orchestra and Interim Music Director of the
Arlington Philharmonic
ascottwood@cox.net
571.212.7268