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Eduardo Alvarez

Conductor



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BIOGRAPHY

Maestro Eduardo Alvarez's musical life began in 1965 when he enrolled in the National School of Music of Mexico. He graduated with a diploma in Concert Accordion in 1970. In 1976 he graduated with honors from the National Conservatory of Music with a Bachelor of Performance in both Violin and Conducting. While at the Conservatory his violin teacher was Robert Vaska and his conducting teachers were Francisco Savín and Efrem Kurtz. During this time, Alvarez founded the Conservatory's Choral Society, as well as the chorus "Axis Mundi" which performed with the most renowned orchestras in Mexico. He also served as concertmaster of both the Conservatory Symphony and Chamber Orchestras, and as the first violin of the Conservatory String Quartet. He was the winner of the orchestral conducting scholarship (granted by the Secretary of Public Education) for six consecutive years.

In 1974 he founded his first orchestra, the chamber orchestra of the "CENETI", comprised of the most prominent students from the Conservatory.

In 1976 he was appointed as a violinist in the UNAM Philharmonic. From 1977 to 1980 he also acted as general coordinator of the Mexican tours by the following orchestras: Brooklyn Philharmonic, Dallas Symphony, Atlanta Symphony, Atlanta Virtuosi, Louisville Orchestra and the Scottish Chamber Orchestra. Also, as a concert accordionist, his solo work with the UNAM Philharmonic Orchestra is particularly noteworthy. In 1980 he was invited to join the Mexico City Philharmonic Orchestra, as an Associate Principal Second Violin, where he remained until 1985, and performed for such notable conductors as Leonard Bernstein, Efrem Kurtz, Isaac Karabachevsky and Emil Tchajarov. He accompanied soloists such as Ruggiero Ricci, Isaac Stern, Henry Szeryng and Guadalupe Parrondo.

In 1982 Maestro Alvarez distinguished himself as the first Latin-American to win a scholarship for further conducting training at the Accademia Musicale Chigiana in Siena, Italy. There, he worked with the eminent maestro Franco Ferrara. He received an honorable mention from the jury panel: Leonid Kogan, Franco Gulli, Severino Gazzeloni, Ruggiero Ricci and Riccardo Muti. At the end of the course he was selected to conduct the Sofia Philharmonic Orchestra for the graduation concert. In 1983, upon his return to Mexico, he was named Assistant Conductor of the Mexico City Philharmonic Orchestra.

Eduardo Alvarez

In 1987 he founded the Philharmonic Concert Society, the first privately funded orchestra in Mexico, where he served as Artistic Director for seven seasons, giving innumerable private concerts, many world premiers by Mexican conductors, extended tours throughout Mexico and recording 25 CD's. It is noteworthy to mention that the Philharmonic Concert Society was the first privately funded orchestra in the history of Mexico and Latin America. It recorded more albums than any other orchestra, and was the first to use digital editing. The Philharmonic Concert Society was widely accepted by the general public

One of Maestro Alvarez's greatest achievements with the orchestra was the inclusion of Mexican popular and folkloric music into the repertoire. He elevated popular Mexican music to the symphonic level, a feat never previously achieved in Mexico. For two years the orchestra had an exclusive broadcast devoted to these recordings.

Maestro Alvarez also performed a very important role as violin professor at the "Escuela de Iniciación" and "Escuela de Perfeccionamiento" –both part of the Ollín Yoliztli Conservatory (CCOY) in Mexico city- where his students won major awards in various national contests. In 1992, with the collaboration of his most outstanding students, he founded the Chamber Orchestra of the CCOY, which attained a high professional level. In 1994, the Mexico City Government awarded Alvarez the Medal of Merit for his outstanding contributions to the musical education of Mexican youth.

Alvarez has been guest conductor of numerous orchestras all around the world, including Moscow, Germany, Bulgaria, USA, Italy, the Netherlands, China, El Salvador, Guatemala, Osterreich and all major Mexican orchestras.

Important soloists who have worked under his baton include: Maria Teresa Rodriguez, Stefan Ragni, Edison Quintana, Michail Svetlev, Garry Petrenko, Luis Giron May, Paul Plishka, Steffano de Peppo, Alfonso Moreno, Gianluca Littera, Violeta Dávalos, Encarnación Vazquez, Horacio Franco, Fernando de la Mora, Guadalupe Parrondo, Jorge Federico Osorio, Kate Sebring, Kristian Koev, Plácido Domingo, Eugene Fodor, Domenico Nordio, etc.

In 1994 Maestro Alvarez founded the Mexican Private Opera Company, the first privately funded one in Mexico, presenting Handel's "Ezio" and Stravinsky's "Renard", both Mexican premiers.

In 1995 he was appointed Deputy Artistic Conductor and Artistic Coordinator of the Mexico City Philharmonic Orchestra.

Eduardo Alvarez

In 1998 he was selected by the Governor of the State of Guerrero, Mexico, to start the Acapulco Philharmonic Orchestra and the State of Guerrero Music School.

It is important to mention that in the short 9 year life of the Acapulco Philharmonic, Maestro has played more than 670 concerts throughout the State of Guerrero, as well as in Mexico City. The Orchestra has also recorded two CD's under his direction, rescuing parts of the extensive music of Guerrero. In 2002, Alvarez took the orchestra to Chicago for four concerts which were met with great critical and public acclaim.

Other festivals and venues that have hosted the Acapulco Philharmonic include: the Jornadas Alarconianas from 1998 to 2006, the Festival Acapulco 1999, Festival Acapulco Millenium and Acapulco Fest 2002 and 2003. Operamanía, all the International Tourist Tianguis editions since 1998, Season of the Sun, the Our Beauty Contest, the Concert of Hope (performing with Placido Domingo) and several Beatlemanías.

Since 1995 Maestro Alvarez has been an active member of the Conductor's Guild.

In the year 2002 he founded the Music School of the Americana University of Acapulco.

From 2003 to 2004 he was named Music Director of the Symphony Orchestra of the Autonomous University of the State of Hidalgo, Mexico.

Maestro Eduardo Alvarez is featured in "Who is Who in Mexico" and "Who is Who in Music". His biography is included in the Latinamerican Music Encyclopedia.