

EDUARDO DIAZMUÑOZ

Mexican-Spanish-American conductor Eduardo Diazmuñoz is recognised as one of the most versatile musicians of his generation. Known as conductor, composer, pianist, educator, promoter, organizer, orchestrator, Arts advocate, producer, editor, and gifted lecturer, throughout his 39-year conducting career in 16 countries, he is regarded as a “complete” musician who fuses “old school” training – forged under mentors Léon Barzin and Leonard Bernstein – with love, commitment and passion, and a musical curiosity that has led to some 150 premieres. He began his musical training as a pianist but got to play percussion, cello, and self-taught himself to play several other instruments which he managed to continue for several years, until he took the decision of devoting his energy and time to conducting and composing.

Diazmuñoz first came to public attention at age 22 in his Palacio de Bellas Artes (Fine Arts Palace) debut in Mexico City. Since then, he has conducted over 100 orchestras, 15 of them as resident conductor, and has occupied posts ranging from Assistant Conductor to General Music Director in 6 countries; he founded 3 of these ensembles. He has recorded over 35 CDs for 24 labels, basically championing new music.

Among the many awards he has received, stand out the coveted yearly award granted by the Mexican Union of Theatre and Music Chronicles an unprecedented four times (1978, 1987, 1997, 2002) and the 2003 Musician of the Year Award from the International Biographical Centre in Cambridge, England. He has received three Latin Grammy Award nominations with different orchestras; twice in the Best Classical Album category having obtained the valued statuette in the Best Instrumental Album category. He has also received two Golden Discs and a Platinum Disc for his recordings sales.

His commitment towards education has continued throughout the years at the National Autonomous University (UNAM) and the National Conservatory of Music in Mexico City, the Société Philharmonique in Paris, the New World School of the Arts in Miami. As member of the National Council of the Music Academy Fermatta in Mexico, he held the post of Dean of Academic Review from November 2012 through February 2015. As Artistic Director of the Opera Division at the University of Illinois, he produced 31 titles of which he conducted 24 between 2004 and 2014, including local premieres and a world premiere by Stephen A. Taylor. During this decade long tenure, he also reinstated the New Music Ensemble as its Artistic and Music Director for five years. He retired from Illinois in January 2014 to come to Sydney, although he began his appointment at the Sydney Conservatorium in August 2013 as Chair and Professor of Conducting and Chief Conductor, Artistic and Music Director of the Sydney Conservatorium of Music Symphony Orchestra.

He is also Chief Editor for the work of his long time friend and collaborator, composer Daniel Catán, who's catalogue has been managed by Schirmer and who's main creative output was opera. After Catán's sudden passing in 2011, he was asked to complete his last unfinished opera, *Meet John Doe*, which has already had a Workshop with the Cincinnati Opera and is still a work in progress. Daniel wrote of Eduardo several years ago: "*His interest in composing makes him creative and understanding as a conductor, conversely, his ability to conduct gives him invaluable insight as composer.*"

Last June, he conducted the World Premiere of his most recent symphonic work, *Los Inesperados Caminos del Espíritu* (*The Unexpected Ways of the Spirit*) at the helm of one of his former orchestras in Mexico City to critical acclaim.

Díazmuñoz has an affinity for young musicians seeking an education in traditional music, be it symphonic, opera, or contemporary musical theatre. He is widely recognised for his exceptional experience, which uniquely positions him to deliver the technical, musical, and artistic training to fully develop his students' talents hence, he has offered master classes and summer courses, and has served as juror for international competitions and professional examinations in the United States, France, Spain, Mexico, and various countries of Central and South America, and most recently, in Sydney.

Eduardo is synonymous of quality, certitude, innovation, and audacity, qualities that prompt everyone who knows him, including several artists with whom he has collaborated, to assure that Maestro Díazmuñoz is one of the most complete, versatile and exciting musicians they have ever met and/or worked with.

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