

IKER SÁNCHEZ, Conductor

Iker Sánchez made his remarkable debut conducting the Basque National Orchestra in 2007. Since then, he has been invited to conduct some of the best orchestras in Spain and Portugal such as the Tenerife Symphony Orchestra, Barcelona National Orchestra, Principado de Asturias Symphony Orchestra, Bilbao Symphony Orchestra, Oviedo Philharmonía, Oporto "Casa da Musica" Symphony Orchestra (Portugal), Bayonne Côte Basque Symphony Orchestra (France), JONDE (Spanish National Young Orchestra), Donostiako Kamara Orkestra (he was granted the second National Prize for Young Ensembles in 2007), Humboldt-Universität Orchestra Berlin, Concentus Alius Berlin, Bogotá Youth Symphony Orchestra and Venezuela's Teresa Carreño Youth Symphony Orchestra. In 2020 he will make the debut with Montenegro Symphony Orchestra and will conduct again the Bilbao Symphony Orchestra and Gasteizko Ganbara Orkestra.

Since 2017 Iker is the General and Artistic Director of Bilbao Sinfonietta, performing with soloists like Angeles Blancas or Stage Directors like Barbora Horáková. The repertoire of BS is versatile, reaching great success from "Pierrot Lunaire" by A. Schönberg, to scenic music such as "El amor brujo" by M. De Falla or "Mahagonny Songspiel" by K. Weill. Several current composers have written new projects for the group itself.

During the 2007-08 and 2008-09 seasons, he worked as assistant conductor for the Bilbao Symphony Orchestra (BOS), a position that he was given after winning the competition organized by the Orchestra. He spent several intense years assisting such renowned conductors who have left a profound impact on the formative years of his conducting career as Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos, Vasily Petrenko, Juanjo Mena, Pablo Gonzalez, Günther Herbig and Michael Jurowsky; in orchestras such as the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra, the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic and the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra.

Concerning Operatic projects, he has conducted "Die Zauberflöte" by Mozart (14/15 season in Vitoria-ARKE, 18/19 season in San Sebastian-Opus Lírica), "L'Elisir D'Amore" by Donizetti, première of "La Cenicienta Roja" (Red Cinderella) by Hilario Extremiana/David Barbero, "Lo Scoiattolo in Gamba" (The witty squirrel) by N. Rota, "El Caserio" (zarzuela) by J. Guridi, "La tabernera del puerto" (zarzuela) by P. Sorozabal. His recent and future highlights include, "Don Giovanni" by Mozart, "Cosí fan tutte" by Mozart and "The Little Sweep" by B. Britten. From season 19/20 Iker is the new Chief Conductor of OPUS LÍRICA, a Spanish Opera Company.

He also participated as assistant conductor in the production of Richard Wagner's

"Parsifal" with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Vasily Petrenko, in Manuel de Falla's "Retablo de Maese Pedro" (Master Peter's Puppet Show) with the Mtro Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos, as well as Verdi's "Ballo in Maschera" with Maestro G. Marcianó. Among others, he has taken part in several operas such as Bizet's *Carmen*, Bartók's *Bluebeard's Castle* and Strauss' *Salome*, worked with singers like Nikolai Shukoff and Violeta Urmana.

Apart from the great Romantic repertoire, Iker Sanchez has also built up an enviable reputation for his interpretations of Contemporary music, conducting many instrumental ensembles such as Smash Ensemble (Salamanca-Paris), T.I. 04 (Vitoria), Bilbao Sinfonietta, Conjunto Instrumental Musikene (San Sebastián), Kabos Ensemble (Bilbao), Cre-art-project (London) and Krater Ensemble (San Sebastián) of which he was the Chief Conductor from 2008 till 2011. He has conducted many premieres worldwide: countries as Finland, France, Colombia, Venezuela, Portugal or Italy have seen the talent of this young conductor.

In 2008 he became Artistic Director of the EIO Symphony Orchestra (8 years), a national music project which involves music students from the Basque Country, and in 2014 Iker Sanchez was appointed Principal Conductor of the Gasteizko Ganbara Orkestra, performing with soloist like Asier Polo, Ara Malikian or Perico Sambeat among others.

He has recorded several CDs, many of them linked to the music of the 20th and 21st centuries: with the Bilbao Symphony Orchestra for the label "Brian's records", the Basque National Orchestra, the Ensemble Residencias (trío Arbos + Neopercusion), with Iñaki Alberdi (accordion) as soloist for the label "Verso", the premiere of two piano concertos by Luis Fraca and Mikel Mate with the Anitz Symphony Orchestra, and music by Borja Ramos for a Victor Ullate's ballet with Sigma Project+Krater Ensemble. In 2020 he will record with Bilbao Symphony Orchestra the full opera "Maitena" by the french composer C. Colin for the label "IBS Classical" and with Bilbao Sinfonietta the first version (1915) of "Amor Brujo" and "Seven Spanish songs" by the great composer Manuel de Falla, also for the label "IBS Classical"

He also made recordings for the Spanish and Basque National TV and radio channels (RTVE, RNE and EITB).

Iker Sánchez Silva was born in Irún, Spain, where he started taking trumpet and double bass lessons. He developed his music specialization in San Sebastián, Bordeaux, and Richard Strauss Konservatorium of Munich, collaborating with orchestras as a trumpet player such as the Münchener Symphoniker, the Basque National Symphony Orchestra or the Bilbao Symphony Orchestra.