

FELIPE AGUIRRE

Colombian conductor, pianist and philosopher. Felipe graduated with honors from the Vienna Conservatory in 2001, where he studied orchestral conducting and piano with professors Georg Mark and Reinhard Schwarz.

In the year 1998, he started his international career as a director in the Cape Town Opera; where, next to the Cape Town Philharmonic and singers like Johan Botha and Michelle Breedt, he was in charge of the production of *Les Contes d'Hoffmann* (J. Offenbach) and *Los Diálogos de las Carmelitas* (Poulenc F.). His debut as a pianist took place in the USA, with Rachmaninov's No.2 concert under the baton of Lucas Richman and alongside the Spokane Symphony from Washington State. Since then, his musical activity as a conductor and pianist has taken him to perform in the most important concert halls of Europe and America.

Felipe began his piano studies at an early age, under his father's instruction. At his hometown's Conservatory, he took piano lessons with Tatiana Pavlova, composition instruction with Blas Atehortúa and training on orchestra conducting with Carlos Alvarado. As a piano soloist Felipe has performed with various orchestras including the Orquesta Sinfónica de Colombia, Sinfónica de Tolima, Filarmónica de Cundinamarca, Joven Orquesta Balear, Innsbruck Symphony Orchestra and Vienna-Verein.

Since the year 2000, Felipe has conducted the most important orchestras in the country: Orquesta Filarmónica de Bogotá, Orquesta Filarmónica de Medellín, Orquesta Sinfónica EAFIT, Orquesta Filarmónica del Valle, Filarmónica de Cundinamarca, Orquesta FOSBO and Orquesta Sinfónica de Colombia, with which he has toured in various countries.

In Europe, his activity as a conductor began with Anton Bruckner's *Ninth Symphony* at Vienna's famous "Konzerthaus" with Pressburg Symphony Orchestra. Since January 2000, he has worked as chief conductor of the Choral Society and Orchestra of the city of Schwechat (Lower Austria),

which led to his appointment as honorary conductor. Also in the year 2000, he made a series of symphonic and choral concerts with the Kammer-Philharmonie of Hungary, and between 2001 and 2003, Felipe worked as First Guest Conductor of the Vienna-Verein Orchestra, with which he performed on numerous occasions at Musikverein's Golden Hall. In the same season, he was appointed Chief Conductor of Vienna's Schonbrunner Kapelle, with which he specialized in Mozart's operatic repertoire. Felipe collaborated with the Orchestra and the Ancient Music Choir from the Conservatory of Vienna, with which he explored the Baroque repertoire and historicist interpretation. In 2005, he collaborated with the Balearic Opera production of *La Fanciulla del West* by Giacomo Puccini, conducting the Symphony Orchestra of Innsbruck (Austria).

For two years (2002-2004) he was appointed as chief conductor of Tolima Symphony Orchestra, with which he was acknowledged for the interpretation of Bruckner and Schostakovich symphonies and the collaboration with Incolballet for the staging of the *Nutcracker* ballet. In 2006, he became musical director of a new staging of the opera *Don Giovanni* in Bogota. In 2009 he was invited by the Cuban Ministry of Culture to lead the Eastern Symphony Orchestra and performed the premiere of A. Bruckner symphonies with the Symphony Orchestra of Havana. On several occasions, Felipe has been at the forefront of Opera de Colombia, in productions such as *La Traviata* (2010), *Madama Butterfly* (2011) and *Le Nozze di Figaro* (2012). Among other stagings he's participated in are *L'Enfant et les Sortilèges* (2013) and *Gianni Schicchi* (2014), with which he conducted a national tour. He has recently performed with internationally renowned singers such as Fernando de la Mora in Bogotá and Roberto Alagna at the Royal Opera House in Muscat; this last concert was received with honors by the Sultanate of Oman in the Arabian Peninsula.

Since 2007 Felipe has expanded his musical activities to the fields of philosophical and musicological research, including his outstanding organization of conferences and seminars in the European academia. In 2012, he held a series of conferences in Palma de Mallorca about the

modern aesthetic in art and especially music, within which his collaboration with composer Anton Garcia Abril has been of utmost importance.

From 2010 Felipe has collaborated with the Balearic Symphony Orchestra and has worked closely with the Conservatory of the Balearic Islands as a professor and conductor. In the former Season, he was special guest conductor of the Presidential Symphony Orchester of Ankara, Turkey. In 2014 he was appointed as musical director at the Formentor Sunset Classics Festival, collaborating with well renowned musicians, such as Daniel Barenboim, Zubin Mehta, Kiri Te Kanawa, Olga Peretyatko, Anna Netrebko and Thomas Hampson. In 2016 he collaborated with Ainhoa Arteta and the Symphonic Orchestra of Brasilia, in Brasil. Recently, he performed at the renewed Palacio de Bellas Artes, in México, along with the National Symphony Orchestra of this country.

Recently, he collaborated with the Formentor Sunset Classics Festival with Lang Lang and Maria João Pires. Among his future projects are performances with orchestras in Brasil, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Spain, Turkey, Germany and Austria. From the season 2018/19 Felipe has been appointed as Principal Guest Conductor of the Bogotá Symphony Orchestra, with which he has been collaborating since its creation, in 2008.