

Juan Pablo Izquierdo

Juan Pablo Izquierdo was born in Santiago de Chile in 1935. After graduating in Composition at the University of Chile he continued studies in conducting with Hermann Scherchen in Gravesano, Switzerland. In 1961 he became Music Director of the Music Department at the Catholic University of Santiago where he organized and conducted concert and opera series dedicated mainly to contemporary music. For this work he was given in 1962 the National Critics Award. Since then he appears regularly as guest conductor of the National Symphony and Philharmonic Orchestras of Chile.

In 1966 he was awarded First Prize in the Dimitri Mitropoulos International Competition for Conductors in New York and became Leonard Bernstein's Assistant Conductor at The New York Philharmonic. During 1967-69 he was Resident Conductor for Opera and Concerts at Indiana University.

In addition to the traditional repertoire he has conducted several festivals of contemporary music in Santiago de Chile, Warsaw, Berlin, Jerusalem, Indiana, Frankfurt and has developed an international career appearing regularly with important orchestras in Europe, the United States and South America such as:

New York Philharmonic, Residentie Orchestra The Hague, Hamburg Radio Orchestra, Vienna Symphony, Budapest Symphony Orchestra, Frankfurt Radio Orchestra, National Symphony and the Teatro Colón Philharmonic Orchestra in Buenos Aires, National Symphony and Philharmonic Orchestra in Santiago de Chile, The Chilean Chamber Orchestra, The National Symphony of Brazil, East Berlin Symphony Orchestra, Leipzig Radio Orchestra, Dresden Philharmonic Orchestra, Stuttgart Radio Orchestra, Kol Israel Jerusalem, The Beethovenhalle Orchestra in Bonn, Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestra, Orchestre National in Paris and others.

Some excerpts from press reviews 1967-74:

" Mr. Izquierdo is a comer, and one can prophesy a fine career for him." (The New York Times, 3/24/67).

" During the Overture Iphigenie in Aulis by Gluck it was immediately evident how purposefully Izquierdo works to acquire a lively, clear and extremely fascinating performance. He chooses the only right and possible way: that is simply to play taking into account the natural phrasings which the composer wrote into the work.

The concert ended with a temptingly perfumed and forceful performance of Ravel's

La Valse.

It would be desirable if we were to see Izquierdo soon in this country again and for a longer time. What he has accomplished in this short time with the Residentie Orchestra is of unique quality elevating the audience at his performances to a much higher level than usual. " (Nieuve Rotterdamse Courant, 9/9/67 Rotterdam).

" At Indiana University Saturday night, the school of music justly renowned opera theater presented the first of four scheduled performances of the Elegy for Young Lovers (Henze) under the direction of a young conductor, Juan Pablo Izquierdo, who most certainly is a find. Under his direction, the orchestra and singers thru one of the most complicated scores as tho born to both its idiom and delicate shadings. " (Chicago Tribune, 3/4/68).

" Juan Pablo Izquierdo had his debut in Vienna with Mahler's First Symphony with an extraordinary, we could say sensational success.

How great was this success was shown by the audience who usually applaude before the last notes of the piece are over, yet in this case they reacted timidly as if coming back from a dream." (Express 12/5/69, Vienna).

" Izquierdo is a young artist full of temperament, with a special feeling for color and sound brilliance, dynamic values and sparkling rhythms. Above all he knows how to build monumental forms in an impressive way, placing contrasts with audacity and conviction; his performances not being external or decorative. The reading of Mahler's First was exemplary, formally balanced and plastic in its thematic development." (Die Furche 12/15/69, Vienna).

" He is a conductor with an extraordinary passion. Without a baton he conducts his musicians with an iron will. The Vienna Symphony was obviously impressed by the knowledge and warm musicality of their visitor." (Arbeiter Zeitung 12/6/69, Vienna).

" We are in the presence of an important and interesting artist. A performer with drive, cultured and inspired. He clearly appeared to us as a professional that adds to his great natural talent the furthest knowledge of his craft." (La Nación 10/17/70, Buenos Aires).

"... this same enthusiasm was expressed by the audience for his version of the Beethoven Symphony: ethereal, full of contrast, rich in substance. Such a concert must be printed with golden letters in the annals of the Tibor Varga Festival. (Budapest Symphony Orchestra, Sion)." (Tribune de Laussane 9/3/70).

" He is the right man to express the magic of images and to reveal the mysteries of sound.

In Strawinsky's Firebird he conducted the Radio Symphony Orchestra that played under him with a subtlety such as we had never heard before. They excelled themselves." (B.Z. 3/17/71, Berlin West).

" With stormy applause and bravos the audience celebrated the Chilean conductor Juan Pablo Izquierdo at the 13th subscription concert with the Leipzig Radio Symphony Orchestra.

The artist raised the Leipzig Orchestra to an extraordinary level with his great temperament; the ensemble quality was also outstanding. We can refer to this concert as the culminating point of the present season." (Neues Deutschland 4/8/71, East Berlin).

" The reputation of Juan Pablo Izquierdo, the internationally renowned conductor who has been awarded several prizes, was already familiar to us. The 9th special concert with the Dresden Philharmonic Orchestra was for us a captivating experience. Of small stature and conducting without a baton, he overwhelmed both orchestra and audience with his thrilling manner of conducting. In his conducting he makes use of his entire body as a fascinating mean of expression.

Les Preludes by Liszt acquired a new light under his hands. The culminating point of the evening was the performance of Beethoven's Eroica. The everlasting greatness of this work came through with sublimity; conductor and players gave everything. It left an unforgettable and powerful impression upon us." (Sächsische Neueste Nachrichten 21/4/71, Dresden).

" Juan Pablo Izquierdo conducted with tempi of great energy, true sound-balance, a rich dynamic variety and organic tensions. He obtained a high degree of virtuosity in a very convincing performance of the Kiel Philharmonic. (Mendelssohn, Fifth Symphony).

There was long and warm applause from the audience." (W.Konold 2/2/72, Kiel).

" From the very first moment, when he started to conduct Mozart's Prague Symphony we could see that in the podium there was standing a thoroughbred musician, one whose ability to communicate is irresistible.

He conducted with minimal and concentrated gestures; with simplicity, no pose and completely at the service of the music. The conductor performed masterfully achieving the highest intensity. The orchestra played with astonishing discipline and precision. They performed Mozart with gaiety, subtlety and great clarity; the audience was totally absorbed.

Afterwards he conducted a marvelous version of Brahms' Fourth Symphony. This austere, serene, intimate and warm music could not have been better performed. We can consider this performance as exemplary in its concept." (Thüringische Landes Zeitung 14/3/73).

" The Chilean conductor Juan Pablo Izquierdo had his debut with the Orchestra of the Beethovenhalle. Among the conductors of the young generation he should be considered an extraordinary star." (Bonner Rundschau 3/20/74, Bonn).

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