

About the Conductor

Juan Pablo Izquierdo was born in Santiago, Chile. After graduating in Composition at the University of Chile he became a pupil of the renowned German conductor Hermann Scherchen with whom he studied for three years in Switzerland. He initiated his career conducting the National and Philharmonic Orchestras in Santiago.

In 1966 he won the First Prize in the Dimitri Mitropoulos International Competition for Conductors in New York, and was named Assistant Conductor to Leonard Bernstein with the New York Philharmonic.

From 1974 to 1985 he was Music Director of the Testimonium Israel Festival in Jerusalem and Tel-Aviv conducting world first performances of major contemporary composers such as Iannis Xenakis, Mauricio Kagel, Gilbert Amy, Tomas Marco, Emmanuel Nunes, Leon Schidlowky, and Samuel Adler, among others.

He has been awarded the National Critics Award in Santiago and in 1976 the National Music Prize by the Israel Ministry of Culture.

He has been Music Director of the Gulbenkian Orchestra in Lisbon and Music Director of the Santiago Philharmonic Orchestra which he reorganized and conducted until 1986. In 1990 he inaugurated the Claudio Arrau Symphony Orchestra in Santiago with an opening attendance of 15,000. Instrumental in forming the new orchestra, he is now its Music Director.

Mr. Izquierdo has been professor-in-residence at Indiana University in Bloomington and is currently Director of Orchestral Studies at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, PA. There he has formed and directs an "Institute" that aims to develop musical thinking and performance as a unit. This Institute will be dedicated to the memory of Dr. Hermann Scherchen and will be officially inaugurated next season. Among the subjects that have been studied and performed in the past three years are: J. S. Bach, Mass in B minor; Arnold Schoenberg, Chamber Symphony op. 9; Edgar Varese, Ameriques; "A John Cage Event," and currently, "The Art of the Fugue by J. S. Bach and its projections in the music of today."

His international career includes conducting orchestras such as: the Radio Orchestras of Bavaria, Hamburg, Frankfurt, Berlin, and Leipzig; Vienna Symphony, Dresden Philharmonic, New Philharmonic, National Orcestra and Ensemble Intercontemporain in Paris, the Jerusalem Symphony and Israel Chamber Orchestras, Radio TV and National Symphony of Spain, and Radio Philharmonic of Holland, among others.

He has conducted in world famous music festivals such as: Berlin Festival, at the Berlin Philharmonic; Holland Festival, at the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam; Frankfurt Festival, at the Alte Oper; Paris Automme Festival at Radio France; Vienna Festival, at the Musikverein; Testimonium Israel Festival in Tel-Aviv and Jerusalem and Strasbourg Festival, among others.

Upcoming appearances of Mr. Izquierdo abroad include, among other standard repertoire programs, "Bach: The Art of the Fugue" in his own version for orchestra (Santiago), Gustav Mahler's "Song of the Earth," in transcription by Arnold Schoenberg (Tel-Aviv), and a festival dedicated to the works of Iannis Xenakis (to be held in Pittsburgh and New York's Carnegie Hall next season with the Carnegie Mellon Philharmonic) in celebration of the composer's 75th anniversary.

JUAN PABLO IZQUIERDO, some press reviews:

“ One of the best conductors of his generation in the world today”
(Claudio Arrau, El Mercurio, Santiago).

“ A true artist of the podium” (The Jerusalem Post).

“ Juan Pablo Izquierdo conducted the complex forces in a simple, clear and objective manner” Frankfurt Festival, Alte Oper. (Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung).

“ The perfect conducting of Juan Pablo Izquierdo gave all the impact to this strong and beautiful music.” (Strasbourg Festival, Derniers Nouveils d’Alsace).

“ Juan Pablo Izquierdo performed with supreme conductivity talent and energy.”
Hercules Saal, Bayerische Zeitung, Munich).

“ Juan Pablo Izquierdo conducted as a true emperor of the podium.” (Holland Festival
at the Concertgebouw, NCR Handelblad, Amsterdam).

“ We face a conductor with lively, powerful and electrifying personality in his gestures
in the performances he produces.” (ABC, Madrid).

“ It was such an impressive performance that it will stay as a living treasury for those
who attended this glorious concert (of the B minor Mass by Bach). (El Mercurio,
Santiago).

