



2015/2016 SEASONS BASQUE NATIONAL ORCHESTRA

For its 34th season, the Basque National Orchestra will be offering **more concerts**. In doing so, it will recuperate the number of season concerts offered several seasons ago, which is a new boost and a way of being more connected to the cycles in Bilbao, Vitoria, San Sebastian and Pamplona. Yet, and furthermore, **a huge effort will be made to keep directors and soloists on the payroll**. Almost all of them are new names on Basque stages, and in some cases nationally, but their quality is unquestionable and a must-have on international stages. A **contrast in programming** will be a constant throughout the entire Season, with contrasts between composers, works, styles and formats. The Basque Orchestra will be offering a vast musical catalogue, with room for fundamental works from the symphonic repertoire, but also for contemporary music and the stage.

After their initial entrance with “Cinderella,” the **Royal Opera of Versailles** is once again on the Basque Orchestra’s horizon with a new production, “**Beauty and the Beast**,” which will premiere in December, along with Malandain Ballet Biarritz. The Orchestra will be returning to one of the Gallic country’s most select cycles.

The Basque Orchestra is moving forward with its mission to be the Country’s great cultural-musical asset. This is why, in addition to the season concerts in the four customary cities, we have another large catalogue of activities and concerts in different formats and for different audiences. This is a continuous selection that is renewed every year, a clear example of the Orchestra’s involvement in different spheres: **teaching**, through the **Jorda Gela Classroom** with Musikene. The new Season will have the first promotion of the Primer Master’s Degree in Orchestral Studies. And **education**, through the Music Classroom. The **Miramón Matinees** are a quality, small-format music cycle, and **Orkestra Herrietan** is large-format music outside customary stages. Additionally, the Orchestra is fully involved with its social and cultural task by means of its connection with cultural events such as **ABAO and Musika-Música in Bilbao, Quincena Musical and Zinemaldia in San Sebastián, Festival de Musique in Côte Basque and Musikaste**.

In this year of holding **Capitalidad Cultural, Donostia 2016**, the Basque Orchestra’s involvement in different events is noteworthy, such as **EMUSIK** and **ICMA**, the European classical music awards ceremony that will be taking place in San Sebastian, with the Basque Orchestra as host.

2015/2016 Season

The Basque National Orchestra's 2015/2016 Season will begin next **24 September in Vitoria, and will end 17 June 2016 in Donostia**. For this new season, the 34th, the Orchestra will be offering 12 different programmes. There will be 11 concerts in Bilbao, Donostia (double session), Vitoria and 10 in Pamplona, for a total of 54 concerts throughout the Season.

The Season, programme-by-programme:

1.- Sibelius Universe: Celebration of the 150th anniversary of his birth. "Finland" and "Kullervo," a work of youth, fundamental and a great symphonic-choral work that also allows us to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Easo Abesbatza Choir. This is a strong take-off. A very living and youthful, but also tortured spirit borne by Kullervo, a character from Finnish mythology who struggles against himself. Sibelius and Tolkien's Lord of the Rings drew from this character as a source.

Markus Nieminen and Marjukka Tepponen are the great voices that Ari Rasilainen selected for this Sibelius. Ari Rasilainen is a specialist on Sibelius, and one of the most renowned conductors in Finland.

2.- Programme with great contrast: this Beethoven from the great piano repertoire, wonderful for whomever is listening for the first time, will be interpreted by Tamar Beraia. This is a pianist who, with her youth and virtuosity, is providing a renewed vision of the Concerto for piano number 4, a piece that the Basque Orchestra has not interpreted for 20 years. The second part of this programme explains the musical 20th century and its later development. "Petrushka" is a magnificent peek through the keyhole to discover the inner workings of an orchestra. Additionally, Manuel de Falla links in to the end of Petrushka with the "Love, the Magician" dance ritual, bringing us to the same setting and place, but with Falla's singular aesthetic.

3.- Premier work: "Pensieri," rhapsody for flute and orchestra. The director for this premiere by Luis de Pablo knows his work in depth and is an erudite in contemporary music from the past 70 years, but especially from the Basque Country. We are talking about José Ramón Encinar and his responsibility in premiering Luis de Pablo's Rhapsody for flute and orchestra. The spotlight will be on Roberto Fabricciani, the illustrious Italian flutist for whom Luis de Pablo composed the piece. Mozart's "The Magic Flute" will inaugurate the programme's overture, and Manuel de Falla's complete version of the grand referential work "The Three-Cornered Hat" will close the event. Raquel Lojendio will be the main character in this same role with the Berlin Philharmonic and Juanjo Mena with the baton a few months later.

4.- For the 2016 inauguration, the Orchestra will be playing in large format, but with the utmost delicacy: Ravel will be on the music stands, interpreting the complete ballet "Daphnis and Chloé" for the first time. Ravel will also be expressing himself through his Concerto for piano in G Major, perhaps one of his most popular works. This is why a special pianist was selected, Ingrid Fliter, a blend of "delicacy and audacity." An artist with a huge personality who records for EMI Classics. The Andra Mari Chorus, on its 50th anniversary, will be in attendance at this programme with Fauré and "Daphnis and Chloé" by Ravel.

5.- "The Beauty and the Beast" with Malandain Ballet Biarritz. After the success garnered by "Magnifique" and "Cinderella," now another premiere is before us, a creation by Thierry Malandain with Tchaikovsky's music as the narrative thread. The Basque Orchestra, in its third collaboration with Malandain Ballet Biarritz, is already very comfortable with this format and continues to shape and create new synergies with this company. Ainars Rubikis, winner of the Gustav Mahler Conduction Contest in 2010 just triumphed in conducting Carmen at the Liceu de Barcelona.

6.- Ainars Rubikis is continuing with another programme, conducting a referential work, one of Tchaikovsky's best-known symphonies, the Sixth. Along with her, we are presenting one of the most spectacular concerts for violin, signed by Körngold. This composer has a very singular aesthetic, and is more known for film soundtracks. This concert, with great virtuosity and

shine, will put Jack Liebeck to the test. One of the most versatile violinists, he has great sound is more committed than anyone else to the new repertoire.

7.- With his thirty-odd young years, Robert Trevino is an American conductor on the rise. He is conducting the best orchestras in the world as a huge revelation, all with musical maturity that will make him unreachable within a short time. With this soloist-free programme, he wants to show himself in three different scopes: Bruckner, Ravel and Gaigne. With Bruckner, the idea is to present a large-volume work, in contrast with Ravel, whom the Basque Orchestra always likes to revisit. This is a delicate, brief piece that the Orchestra has not programmed in some time. With Gaigne, the Orchestra will be showing the work carried out at the musical workshops held biannually with Musikagileak.

8.- The Basque Orchestra is training to do Bruckner. For this season, the Seventh and the Fourth have been programmed, two symphonies for the Orchestra's own sound, to be presented with the headliner Jun Märkl. As counterpoint to the Fourth, we have Canteloube and the "Cinq chants des Pays Basque," delicate songs interpreted by Clara Mouriz. This Basque mezzosoprano residing in London has a solid international career, which means her premier on Basque stages is a unique occasion to listen to her.

9.- Cristoph König and Alexander Lonquich tandem, sharing the same concept of music. König is a solvent conduct with exceptional musicality. Lonquich is one of the great European pianists, mature and renowned, never missing at programmes in Salzburg along with the Viennese Philharmonic, the Czech Philharmonic, etc. His rigour and honesty make his concert a seasonal milestone. The two of them are coming together to present a programme with three indisputably huge names in symphonic music, with the most noteworthy works, the milestones from each composer joining forces in one same concert. For example, Beethoven's Fifth, a piece that the Basque Orchestra has not interpreted for a long while that is always worth revisiting. Because there will always be someone who discovers it for the first time.

10.- With the idea of death and hope all at the same time, Jun Märkl proposes a programme with two great referential works by Berg and Mahler that are a must in this Season for the Basque Orchestra. The young Cypriot singer Zoe Nicolaidou, having triumphed with several of Mozart and Mahler's roles, will be leading Mahler's Fourth. On the other hand, Viviane Hagner, a versatile, great interpreter of Alban Berg (last year, along with Kent Nagano) is already a renowned violinist.

11.- In this penultimate Seasonal programme, we will be listening to a Concerto that is probably the least-played and most heartrending and expressive one in existence for the cello, the first five bars bearing witness to this. According to conductors, Alban Gerhardt is one of the top ten cellists. One of his latest hits was along with the City of Birmingham Symphony with Andris Nelsons as conductor. His strength and expression are a guarantee to get to know the most expressive, and yet least-interpreted cello concerto by Shostakovitch. Under Andrey Boreyko, Brahms' Third will be another great page in symphony to be discovered.

12.- It is quite the luxury to end the season with the great vitality and virtuosity of the American violinist Jennifer Koh, a regular at the Chicago Symphony or Los Angeles Philharmonic. Her charge is to make the most profound Bernstein known, the one removed from American musicals. Before, we will be premiering "...laino argidun artean..." by Iñaki Estrada. At the forefront of this latest programme will be



Juraj Valcuha, one of the most important conductors in Europe. He shares his time as resident conductor in Naples with attendance at orchestras such as the New York Philharmonic. He has been entrusted with a brilliant Seasonal close with Prokofiev's Fifth, one of the scores that perhaps best expresses the sound of a symphonic orchestra.

Other Orchestra activities

In addition to the seasonal concerts, a fundamental line for each Season, the Basque National Orchestra's activity is completed by a highly diverse catalogue of concerts, spread out both in concert cycles of our own production and at important festivals and other cultural events. The Seasonal Concerts and this important addition together give the Basque Orchestra around one hundred activities throughout each Season.

DONOSTIA 2016.

One of the milestones will be taking place in 2016, thanks to the Capital of Culture. The Basque Orchestra will be connecting with it and the audience, mainly through two large events. **EMUSIK**, the European Festival of Music Schools that will be welcoming more than 120,000 spectators.

Additionally, the **ICMA (International Classical Music Awards)**, the European Classical Music Awards ceremony, taking place in Donostia with the Basque Orchestra as host. This awards ceremony, which is the equivalent of Grammys for classical music, will be held for the first time in the Country, which will make San Sebastian, and consequently the Basque Country, the focal point of classical music in Europe.

VERSAILLES (Paris): This will be the great international meeting for the new Season. After its debut with "Cinderella" in June 2013, the Basque Orchestra is returning to the prestigious cycle "Opéra Royal: les grands concerts de Versailles," held at the Chateau de Versailles. In what is considered the most beautiful Baroque theatre in Europe, the Basque Orchestra will present "Beauty and the Beast," a new creation by Thierry Malandain and his company, Malandain Ballet Biarritz. The new dance show is illustrated with music by P. I. Tchaikovsky. There will be three shows between the 11th and the 13th December, 2015.

JORDA GELA CLASSROOM: the Basque Orchestra in providing education. Within the framework of the institutional agreement entered into by the Basque Orchestra and Musikene, both entities will continue to define different ways to collaborate through the **Jordá Gela Classroom**, now by implementing the First Master's Degree in Orchestral Studies. With the orchestral internship section, students of the Master's Degree will be joining the ranks of the Orchestra's musicians.

MUSIC CLASSROOM: the Basque Orchestra in providing education. Family Concerts, School Concerts, Sensitisation Workshops, Workshops at Educational Centres, Visits to Orchestra headquarters, Sinfokids and many more, all to foment love for music from an early age and to act as a resource to support formal musical training.

MIRAMÓN MATINEES. Twenty-four seasons offering quality music in a different format. Universal music in a singular universe, the auditorium at the Miramón Orchestra's headquarters.



ORKESTRA HERRIETAN. An Orchestra that owes itself to the society that maintains it, travelling to the region's far reaches.

FESTIVALS AND OTHER CYCLES. Fruit of the close collaboration with other cultural institutions in our environment, and aware of the importance of creating synergies that enrich contributions to culture, this section of the Orchestra's activity continues to grow, season after season.

In addition to its regular commitments, of note is the fact that the Basque Orchestra holds two titles in **ABAO** and two concerts at the festival **Musika-Música de Bilbao**; it is increasing its participation in the **Quincena Musical** and continues to explore new pathways within the framework of **Zinemaldia**. New meeting at **Musikaste** and a new workshop dedicated to the **Musikagileak** Association. It will also be returning to the **Festival Musique en Côte Basque in San Juan de Luz**.

HOMAGE TO TOMÁS ARAGÜÉS.

On his 80th birthday. This adopted Basque composer has dedicated his entire life to music in all of its different aspects. He conducted the Basque Orchestra at the beginning of the 80s, and his vast composition catalogue was on Miramón's music stands many a time. In light of his 80th birthday, all musical players are now coming together to pay a well-deserved homage, which will take place at the Kursaal Auditorium the 22nd of October.