

19 | 20

**EUSKADIKO
ORKESTRA
SINFONIKOA**
ORQUESTA
SINFÓNICA
DE EUSKADI

ROBERT TREVIÑO
ZUZENDARI TITULARRA
DIRECTOR TITULAR



EUSKADIKO
ORKESTRA



Bartok
Mahler
Chamizo
Holst
Erkoreka
Copland
Ravel
Berg
Bruckner
Lalo
Saint-Saëns
Beethoven
Berlioz
Rimsky-Korsakov
Brahms
Urquiza
Dvorak

Mojca Erdmann
Bilboko Koral Elkartea
Vocalia Taldea
Kalakan
Juanjo Mena
Julian Bliss
Frank Peter Zimmermann
Jennifer Johnston
Corby Welch
Edo de Waart
Jonathan Roozeman
Pinchas Steinberg
Varvara
Mei-Ann Chen
Yulianna Avdeeva
Augustin Hadelich
Georg Mark
Kate Royal
Justina Gringyte
Donostiako Orfeoia

Bilbao | Bilbo
Donostia | San Sebastián
Vitoria | Gasteiz
Pamplona | Iruña

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2019/2020 SEASON

“A JOURNEY INTO THE UNKNOWN”

- Robert Treviño brings new ideas and projects to his third season as director, adopting a long-term musical outlook and working on the artistic improvement of the orchestra. He will again direct six concert programmes and put the orchestra on the stage of the emblematic Théâtre Champs-Élysées in Paris.
- The idea of a journey into the unknown – with the emotions, fears, dreams and situations that this entails – will be the central theme of the season, and will be present in many programmes, being most strikingly expressed at the beginning of the season with a hidden programme. We will know nothing about it apart from the premiere of the work by Mikel Chamizo, within the Elkano project, and its interpreters, the Bilbao Choral Society, Mojca Erdmann and Treviño himself. The beginning will be a unique experience, a mystery that will only be resolved at the end of the concert.
- The Elkano project will be launched. It is a result of the orchestra's desire to join the commemoration of the fifth centenary of the first round-the-world voyage with the commissioning and subsequent premiering of five allegorical works linked to this journey. It will be carried out over three seasons, mirroring the three years that the journey lasted. The first premiere will take place at the start of the season courtesy of Mikel Chamizo, whose creation will simulate the beginning of that voyage. The second of this season will be by Mikel Urquiza.
- Each of these trips will have its own image, and the graphic compositions created for the occasion are closely linked to the theme or main work of each programme. They will become a boarding pass to the unknown.

CONCERT SEASON:

The 2019/2020 Season of the Basque National Orchestra will begin on **27 September in Vitoria and will end on 4 June 2020 in the same city**. The orchestra will offer 10 concerts in each of its venues in Bilbao, San Sebastian (double session), Vitoria and Pamplona, which will make a total of 50 concerts in the season.

1. ABOUT THE PROGRAMMING:

In his first season as director, Robert Treviño proposed ideas such as “resistance, conflict and reconciliation” through Shostakovich and Britten. In the second, he concentrated on the concept of “variations” and put the focus on three composers: Elgar, Rachmaninoff and Dvorak. **Now he takes as an argument the idea of the journey, of the definitive journey (not the last one), and everything that this provokes in us, and the idea that each journey changes us, which brings us to the central idea of “Expectation”.** According to our principal conductor, **we have taken as inspiration the emotions, the fears, the dreams and the situations that we face when we venture into the unknown.** This idea will be present in the season’s different programmes through great symphonic masterpieces such as *The Planets* by Holst, *The Song of the Earth* by Mahler, the *New World Symphony* by Dvorak, *Scheherazade* by Rimsky-Korsakov, the *Fantastic Symphony* by Berlioz and Bruckner’s unfinished *Symphony No. 9*; all of them are works that excite and inspire us, make us dream, take us through life or death, and change us.

Another example will come with the first programme of the season in which we will try to relive the sensations of sailors like **Elkano in the first round-the-world voyage**. The Basque National Orchestra wanted to make its own contribution to the commemoration of the fifth centenary with the commissioning and subsequent premiering of five allegorical works linked to this journey. The first premiere will take place at the start of the season courtesy of Mikel Chamizo, whose creation will simulate the beginning of that voyage. Apart from this work and its performers, nothing else is known.

Treviño in the Season: “Expectation” is the title of the first programme. Consistent with this idea, which will accompany us throughout the season, the programme to be interpreted will be hidden, except for the premiere of the first work in the Elkano project, which is the responsibility of Mikel Chamizo and will bring the Bilbao Choral Society to the stage. We also know that it will involve the soprano Mojca Erdmann, soloist on the tour of Germany and Austria, and that it will be conducted by the director of the orchestra. We do not know anything else. “It is time to propose a programme of this type; with vertigo and fear, but also with confidence,” suggests Robert Treviño. The rest of the programme to be performed will be a complete unknown and the pieces will only be announced at the end of the concert.

After this extraordinary start, which is unlikely to leave anyone unmoved, Robert Treviño will take up the baton to explore Bartok – another composer on whom he wanted to focus on this season – and also Ravel and Bruckner and his ninth “farewell” symphony. From Mahler,

to whom Treviño always returns in his grand symphonic work, he will conduct the monumental *The Song of the Earth* and Mahler's popular "Resurrection". This will also involve the voices of Jennifer Jonhston, Corby Welch, Kate Royal and Justina Gringyte, as well as the Orfeón Donostiarra. The director will also receive Zimmermann (violin) for the Berg Violin Concerto, Julian Bliss (clarinet) for the Copland Clarinet Concerto and Juliana Avdeeva (piano) for Bartok's *Concerto No. 2*.

Continuing with other aspects of the programming. Only in the concert season, the orchestra will perform a total of 32 works, of which 9 will be new additions to the repertoire, including the two premieres of the pieces by Mikel Chamizo and Mikel Urquiza for the Elcano Project.

The new programming will give much prominence to the voice through four major works (the Elcano project, *The Planets*, *The Song of the Earth* and "Resurrection") with three choirs and four singers.

And also, apart from the programmes that Treviño will direct, the orchestra will perform a number of very popular works that it has not played for some time. These are works much appreciated by our most loyal audiences and which also reach out to the general public, providing a point of entry for those who are discovering classical music and the Basque National Orchestra for the first time. We are referring to the *New World Symphony* (Dvorak), *The Planets* (Holst), the *Fantastic Symphony* (Berlioz) and *Scheherazade* (Rimsky-Korsakov).

Supporting Basque music: our own country's creation, composers and performers.

The Elcano project will be launched this season, with the start of the journey entrusted to **Mikel Chamizo and Mikel Urquiza**. Both are fully immersed in the creative process in preparation for the premieres of their works in September and May, respectively. **Gabriel Erkoreka**, whose 50th birthday we are celebrating, will also be represented in the programming with *Zuhaitz* (Tree). This work was written for percussion and orchestra and will feature the trio from the French Basque Country, **Kalakan**. **Maurice Ravel** will have an important presence in the Season with the inclusion of six symphonic works. In fact, the Basque National Orchestra will open at the Théâtre Champs-Élysées in Paris with the composer from Ciboure. In the choral section, extra special mention must be given to the presence of three choirs from three different territories: **the Bilbao Choral Society, Vocalia Taldea and Orfeón Donostiarra**. A Basque conductor will also be raising the baton. **Juanjo Mena**, from Vitoria, will be on the podium of the Basque National Orchestra to conduct the women of Vocalia Taldea and the men from Kalakan in *Zuhaitz* by Erkoreka.

2. ABOUT THE CONDUCTORS

Robert Treviño, with six programmes, will occupy a major part of the programming. But the principal conductor will also hand over the podium to other important conductors, all of them highly regarded in the international scene. First on the roster of invited conductors will be **Juanjo Mena**, from Vitoria, who was associate director of the Basque National Orchestra at the end of the 1990s, and today is one of the most renowned directors on the international circuit. He is currently the Principal Conductor of the Cincinnati May Festival and Associate Conductor of the Spanish National Orchestra. He will be followed by the three distinguished conductors **Pinchas Steinberg, George Mark**

and Edo de Waart, and the Taiwanese-American conductor **Mei-Ann Chen**. The last three will be conducting the Basque National Orchestra for the first time.

3. ABOUT SOLOISTS AND CHOIRS

This section is always a great attraction within the programming. A considerable number of invited soloists and choirs will accompany the orchestra throughout the entire program: **eleven soloists (instrument and voice), three choirs and the trio Kalakan**. In terms of soloists, we begin by highlighting the importance of having a violinist of the calibre of **Frank Peter Zimmermann** on our stages again, now for seventh time. Following him, the orchestra has sought to present new figures from the international scene, allowing our audience to discover a new generation of top-flight artists. The role of violinist will be taken by one of today's finest performers, **Augustin Hadelich**, who will be followed by **Julian Bliss**, outstanding clarinetist and designer of clarinets at affordable prices, **Jonathan Roozeman** on cello, and the pianists **Varvara and Yulianna Avdeeva**. And the vocalists will include **Mojca Erdmann**, soloist during our last tour of Germany and Austria, and **Kate Royal** in the soprano part, with **Jennifer Johnston and Justina Gringyte** providing the mezzo-soprano voices, and the American tenor **Corby Welch**.

Special mention must be given to the presence of three choirs from three different territories. The **Bilbao Choral Society** will open the season and will give voice to the first work to be premiered, composed by Mikel Chamizo, in the Elkano Project. The Bilbao choir will then hand over to **Vocalia Taldea**, from Álava, whose female vocal group will take us into the world of Holst. The **Orfeón Donostiarra** will close the season with the interpretation of Mahler's "Resurrection" (Symphony No. 2).

The section of invited artists concludes with the presence of the group from the French Basque Country, **Kalakan**, who will join the programme to interpret *Zuhaitz*, composed for percussion and orchestra by Bilbao's Gabriel Erkoreka. This programme, once again illustrating the territorial connection, will be directed by Juanjo Mena from Vitoria.

4. ABOUT THE IMAGE FOR THE NEW SEASON

According to the agency ACC Comunicación, creator of the image: "The graphic compositions created to visually describe the new programmes of the Basque National Orchestra are based on the concept of *Expectation* that the principal conductor Robert Treviño has proposed for the 2019/2020 Season: 'we have taken as inspiration the emotions, the fears, the dreams and the situations that we face when we venture into the unknown.' In this way, the torn paper that crosses each original graphic becomes the edge of a curtain, the profile of a door or the silhouette of a hiding place: the beginning of that adventure towards uncertainty, that journey towards the future. Through these cracks drawn on the canvas of our existence, photographic figures, anonymous characters, monuments, planets, gestures, architectural constructions and even skulls emerge that seek a complicity (more or less explicit) with the theme or main work of each programme. Thus we might say that each graphic representation aims to become a boarding card to the unknown, a journey 'through life or death, the sea, the sky or the cosmos' that the universe of music offers as a reward to the spectators who decide to embark on the fascinating season that is about to set sail."

OTHER ACTIVITIES INVOLVING OUR ORCHESTRA:

In addition to the subscription concerts, the main focus of each season, the activity of the Basque National Orchestra is completed with a very diverse catalogue of concerts, both as part of its own production cycles and in connection with important festivals and other cultural events and institutions. Adding the performances from the subscription concert season (50 concerts) to this important section will once again give a total of more than one hundred activities by the orchestra over the entire season. This ability to adapt to each of the musical formats included in its programming allows the orchestra to connect with audiences of different types, interests and ages, with the result that it is able to reach **150,000** spectators each season.

PARIS. Théâtre Champs-Élysées The theatre has already announced the programming for the 2019/2020 season. And it features our orchestra, which will occupy the stage of one of the most emblematic venues in Paris on 25 January 2020. Conducted by Robert Treviño, the orchestra will introduce itself with pieces by Maurice Ravel and with the interpretation of Mahler's magnificent *The Song of the Earth*. The orchestra will share the billing with a number of internationally prestigious orchestras. And this will also be its premiere in the French capital. Despite many European tours, the orchestra has not previously stopped in Paris, making its premiere in the city the orchestra's latest international challenge.

SORIA. Musical Autumn in Soria The orchestra returns to the festival founded by the conductor Odón Alonso. It will be accompanied by the Orfeón Donostiarra.

FESTIVALS AND OTHER CYCLES: COLLABORATION AND SYNERGIES WITH OTHER INSTITUTIONS

The Basque National Orchestra will maintain its commitment to the **ABAO Bilbao Opera Season**. It will do so with two titles: It will open the season with *Lucia di Lammermoor* by G. Donizetti and will return in February with *La Fanciulla del West* by G. Puccini. The orchestra will return to the **Musika-Música festival in Bilbao**, and to the San Sebastián **Musical Fortnight**. It will participate in the celebration of the anniversaries of Mondragon Corporation (50th), the Kursaal Auditorium (20th) and the Basque Parliament (40th). And it will continue to explore new links between music and cinema within the framework of **Zinemaldia** and Basque music in **Musikaste**. With the transfer to Bilbao of the **BBVA Foundation Frontiers of Knowledge Awards**, the orchestra has become the principal orchestra associated with these prizes and will return to honour this appointment.

MUSIC ROOM: The Basque National Orchestra at the educational and social level:

Family concerts, school concerts, awareness workshops, workshops in schools, visits to the orchestra's headquarters and much more in order to foster the love of music from an early age and to serve as a resource to support formal musical training. The orchestra's most important social activity also involves the Music Room, with activities for the public

with considerable functional diversity, an outstanding example of which is the innovative “Mosaic of Sounds” project, which has now won several prizes.

Within this area of activity alone, the Basque National Orchestra reaches more than 9,000 people every year, and the number continues to rise.

MIRAMÓN MATINÉES:

The Basque National Orchestra chamber season is in its 28th year, offering quality music in a different format. Universal music in a singular universe, the auditorium in the orchestra’s headquarters in Miramón.

Finally, the orchestra would like to thank the important collaboration and support of all the entities that participate in the carrying out of its different activities – 7,000 season ticket holders and the public in general, sponsors and collaborators, cultural agents, the media, etc. – which make possible the activity of the Basque National Orchestra.

Information and sale of season tickets:

The new season tickets will be on sale from 20 May. Prices for all cities range from €70 to €218, depending on the seat location. There are special rates for different groups. The season tickets can be purchased through the orchestra’s website (euskadikoorkestra.eus) and by telephone (943 01 32 32).



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