

The Orchestra

The **Hungarian Chamber Symphony Orchestra**, established in 1998, is one of the newest professional ensembles in Budapest, comprised of thirty-five of Hungary's finest instrumentalists. HCSO offers a new concept in concert programming, featuring contemporary and rarely performed works, in combination with well-known classical repertoire. In keeping with this special commitment to twentieth-century music, HCSO has performed and introduced to Hungarian audiences major works by Frank Martin, García Abril, Einojuhani Rautavaara, Joan Guinjoan, Falcón Sanabria, Joonas Kokkonen, Xavier Montsalvatge, Joaquín Rodrigo, Othmar Schoeck, Luis de Pablo, and Alfred Schnittke. HCSO has performed with many of Hungary's internationally reputed soloists, among them Lajos Miller, Katalin Pitti, Imre Magyari, María Teresa Uribe, Boldizsár Keönch, Katalin Farkas, András Virágh, Eszter Perényi, and Sylvia Sass. In addition to its regular concert season in Budapest, where performances are held at the Franz Liszt Academy of Music, Vigadó Concert Hall, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, and St. Matthias Church, the orchestra also performs on tour throughout Central Europe.

Alberto Santana, Music Director

Spanish-born **Alberto Santana** is Music Director and Conductor of the Hungarian Chamber Symphony Orchestra, a position he has held since 1998. He also appears regularly as guest conductor with several orchestras in Hungary and abroad. His tours have covered Hungary, Austria, Germany, ex-Yugoslavia, Switzerland, Italy, Spain, Venezuela, and the United States.

As the Music Director of the HCSO, Maestro Santana's concept of concert programming perfectly combines the well known Classic and Romantic repertoire with contemporary music, and he has a special fondness for rediscovering rarely performed works.

Born in Tenerife, Canary Islands (Spain), Santana began his musical studies at the age of six. He graduated from the Conservatorio Superior de Música de Tenerife majoring in Piano. In 1986 he entered the Franz Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest, studying Composition with Emil Petrovics and János Vajda, while continuing his studies with Franco Donatoni in Siena, and with Leonard Bernstein in Schleswig-Holstein. He has also worked as a coach and conductor at the International Opera Studio of the Zürich Opera in Switzerland.

As a conductor, Alberto Santana recognizes Sir Georg Solti as his principal artistic inspiration. For several years, invited by the Maestro, he attended Solti's rehearsals and performances in London and Salzburg. The personal guidance and influence he received from the Maestro have determined his artistic choices.

LOJENDIO, RAQUEL

Raquel Lojendio was born in Santa Cruz de Tenerife and studied at the Conservatorio Superior there with Isabel García Soto, continuing her studies with Carmen Bustamante at the Conservatorio del Liceu in Barcelona. She won first prize in the 1999 Barcelona Festival Músicos Jóvenes and the 2000 Caja Canarias Regional Singing Contest. Since her début she has sung the rôles of Ortlinde in Die Walküre, Violetta in La traviata, Gato in Montsalvatge's Gato en botas (Puss-in-Boots), Silverklang in Mozart's L'impresario and the Sandman in Humperdinck's Hänsel und Gretel. Her concert repertoire ranges from Bach to Mahler, Orff and Villa-Lobos. She has appeared with distinguished conductors and orchestras at home and abroad.

ALBERTO FERIA

Nace en el año 1968 en Santa Cruz de Tenerife. Inicia sus estudios musicales becado por el Excelentísimo Cabildo Insular de Tenerife, con el Barítono Giuseppe Valdengo y con la profesora María Cristina Pantaleoni en Vall D`Aosta (Italia)

En los años 1995-1996 y 1996-1997 estudia en la Escuela Superior de Música Reina Sofía con el Maestro Alfredo Kraus (técnica vocal), Suso Mariategui (interpretación) y Edelmiro Arnaltes (lied). Debuta profesionalmente en el año 1999 en el Teatro de la Maestranza de Sevilla, en la ópera Don Carlo bajo la dirección del Mtro. Antoni Ros Marbá. Posteriormente junto al Mtro. Pedro Halffter retorna a este teatro para cantar La Mort du Tasse de Manuel García.

En el Teatro de la Zarzuela de Madrid, canta Los Siete Pecados Capitales, de Kurt Weill.

También realiza el estreno mundial de la ópera Maror de Manuel Palau. Sus últimas apariciones en el Palau han sido cantando La Atlántida de M. de Falla junto a Teresa Berganza ASÍ como en Capuletti e i Montecchi.

Debuta en el Teatro Real de Madrid en el año 2004 con la ópera Il Viaggio a Reims de Rossini, bajo la dirección del Maestro Alberto Zedda. Posteriormente en dicho teatro ha cantado La Bohème y El Gato con Botas, dentro de la programación infantil del Teatro Real.

A nivel europeo ha cantado en el Royal Concertgebouw de Amsterdam la ópera I Vespri Sicilianni (2002) Il Viaggio a Reims en Pesaro-Italia (2003) así como el Requiem Verdi en Erfurt-Alemania (2004).