



Jose Areán Conductor

José Areán's career has covered a vast amount of musical and cultural ground. Equally comfortable conducting opera, symphonic and chamber music, he has devoted much time as well to outreach and education in his homeland, Mexico, championing young talents, contemporary music and open-air musical experiences for a wide audience, hosting a cultural television show for ten years, and working with some of the foremost artists of our time.

As an operatic conductor, he started out as First Assistant Conductor at Mexico's National Opera, Bellas Artes (1996-2001) and was later appointed its Artistic Director (2007-2009). Conducting dozens of mainstream opera and ballet performances, he championed as well contemporary operas and conducted many world premieres onstage and world premiere recordings of works such as *the Visitors*, by Carlos

Chávez, *En Susurros los Muertos*, by Gualtiero Dazzi and the acclaimed Latin Grammy-nominated *Únicamente la verdad* (*Only the Truth*) by Gabriela Ortiz, as well as Mexico's first performance of *The Consolations of Scholarship* by Judith Weir.

Premiere of... Gabriela Ortiz' opera *Únicamente la Verdad*... Maestro Areán demonstrated a keen understanding of the opera's score, drawing forceful playing from the orchestra that maintained both the tension and intensity of the work. Karyl Charna Lynn, Opera Now

He has worked with international stars such as Francisco Araiza, Ramón Vargas, Rolando Villazón, Javier Camarena and Maria Katzarava, among many others. Mtro. Plácido Domingo invited him last year to conduct at his 55th Anniversary Gala at a sold-out Auditorio Nacional (9,500 seats) and they performed together Verdi's Requiem at an open-air concert commemorating the victims of Mexico's '85 earthquake.

In the concert hall, Areán's activity is equally dynamic. Since 2005 he has been Associate Conductor to the Minería Symphony Orchestra, Mexico's finest Festival Orchestra. The range of music they have performed under Areán ranges from a Mahler cycle (2010-11), including Deryck Cooke's version of the 10th Symphony and rarely performed works such as *Das klagende Lied*, to first performances of works commissioned by the orchestra, to pops concerts in ten-thousand-seater venues.

After the Verdi Requiem with Plácido Domingo

Rehearsal for Maestro Domingo's gals at Auditorio Nacional





During his tenure as Artistic Director of the Mexico City Philharmonic (2011-2016) Areán was widely recognised as an original and bold conductor and programmer. He performed nearly 70 Mexican works, a third of which were composed in the last decade. He commissioned and performed 10 new works and presented 20th century classics by a wide array of composers seldom presented to Mexican audiences: from Ligeti's violin concerto with Irvine Arditti to Cage's

101 to Britten's War Requiem. Challenging orthodox marketing notions, he achieved record numbers- especially young audiences- in these new music and 20th century music concerts. He expanded the orchestra's horizons to perform fully staged works (Bartók's Bluebeard's Castle, Stravinsky's Rite of Spring) and to collaborations with artists from different genres and backgrounds (Antony Hegarty, NORTEC, Michael Nyman, and Alejandro Marcovich, among others



Rehearsing with tenor
Javier Camarens

Internationally, he has performed in the Takemitsu Memorial Hall in Germany, Austria, Argentina, Tokyo, the ORF Hall in Vienna, Brazil, Spain, France, The Staatstheater Braunschweig, Netherlands, Israel, Italy, Japan, Staatstheater Darmstadt, Den Haag Czech Republic, Rumania and Danstheater, Theater aan het Switzerland leading orchestras such Vrijthof in Maastricht, La Filature as the Tokyo Philharmonic, Scène Nationale in Mulhouse, Gare Braunschweig Staatsorchester, du Nord Basel, Teatro Argentino de George Enescu Philharmonic, Brno la Plata, etc.

State Theatre Orchestra, Limburg

Symphony, Deutsche Philharmonie He has worked with soloists such as Merck, La Plata Theatre Orchestra, Irvine Arditti, Philippe Quint, Sarah Filarmónica Ibérica, Phoenix Chang, Valentina Lisitsa, Giora Ensemble, Puglia Symphony and Feidman, Jorge Federico Osorio others, in concert halls including and many others.



Ligeti's violin concierto at Bellas Artes Theatre with Irvine Arditti

At the end of the first performance of Nocturno, a concerto for electric guitar by Antonio Juan Marcos, commissioned by José Areán. With Alejandro Marcovich at the guitar.



In his role as programmer and administrator, he was Artistic and General Director of the Mexico City Festival (2002-2007) where he applied successfully his fund-raising skills to achieve world-class programming, ranging from Wynton Marsalis and Bobby McFerrin to the first ever Mexican production of Wagner's Ring.

Since 2006 Areán co-hosts Escenarios (Stages), a three-hour weekly television programme in the Mexican public channel Canal22, presenting opera, ballet, theatre

and concerts. He has recorded 350 episodes of the programme.

Among his recordings, there are several film soundtracks and commercial CD's.

Areán was trained at Mexico's National Music School and graduated with honours from the Vienna Conservatoire.

Some links to José Areán's work

In Concert (2016)

Bernstein, *Symphony no. 2*

Mexico City Philharmonic

Mei-Ting Sun, piano

[https://www.youtube.com/
watch?v=qXE8fkN6eS0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qXE8fkN6eS0)

In Rehearsal (2015)

Holst, *The planets*

Javier Torres Maldonado,

Di natura artificiale (first
performance)

Bruch, *Scottish Fantasy*

Mineria Symphony

Philippe Quint, Violin

[https://www.youtube.com/
watch?v=4QXboMO2nuU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4QXboMO2nuU)

In Concert (2014)

Georgina Derbez, Double

Concerto for Flute and Piano

(first performance)

Mexico City Philharmonic

Clara Andrada, Flute

Alberto Rosado, Piano

[https://www.youtube.com/
watch?v=QduyowauzFc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QduyowauzFc)



At a children's concert
someone's giving me
some pointers on
conducting!