

Alejandra Urrutia

Conductor

Alejandra Urrutia is Music Director of the Chamber Orchestra of Teatro Municipal de Santiago – National Opera of Chile. She was Music Director of the Chilean Chamber Orchestra and, previously, the Provincial Symphony Orchestra of Santa Fe, Argentina, for three years. She is also the Artistic and Music Director of the Portillo International Music Festival & Academy and the Grand Concert for Humanity (Gran Concierto por la Hermandad). She is also Resident Conductor of the Orchestra of the Americas.

From 2017 to 2019, she was Assistant Conductor of Maestro Iván Fischer with the Konzerthausorchester Berlin and the Budapest Festival Orchestra.

In January 2019, Alejandra launched one of the most innovative projects in Chile: the Portillo International Music Festival & Academy, an initiative for the instruction of young musicians in the majestic Andes Mountains. The Academy focuses on learning the chamber music repertoire under the guidance of international teachers, in addition to classes of leadership, coaching and hatha yoga for promoting a holistic development of Latin America's great talents.

As creator and conductor of the Grand Concert for Humanity, Alejandra brings together more than 150 instrumentalists and a citizen choir of more than 200 people every year under the motto "Music as a common territory" for this beautiful project born as a message of unity with our immigrant brothers and sisters in Chile. In January 2020, after conducting Gustav Mahler's Second Symphony, "Resurrection", Alejandra was awarded the Mahler Prize 2020 by the Mahler Society of Mexico.

Ale has the ability to move from a powerful and intense Mahler to Mozart's refinement and subtlety in less than a heartbeat. She is one of those conductors who understand the power of silence in both music and life. She blends a deep and permanent calm with her intense love of music. Combining a great neatness with a simple nature, Ale continues to explore new horizons and find unexpected results in both established and new works.

During the 2020-2021 season, Alejandra will make her debuts with the Santiago Philharmonic Orchestra in Chile and the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra in Canada.

Born in Concepción, Chile, she studied with famous maestros such as Robert Spano and Hugh Wolff at the American Academy of Conducting at Aspen, as well as in courses with Marin Alsop, Kenneth Kiesler, Gustav Meier, Hans Graf, Larry Radcliff and Murry Sidlin. She has worked internationally as conductor, violinist and educator with a bachelor and doctorate from the University of Michigan.

Throughout her artistic career, she has worked with orchestras in Europe, North America and Latin America, including: Ensemble Orchestral du Paris in France, National Arts Centre Orchestra in Canada; Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music Orchestra, New York Chamber Players and the Orchestra of the American Academy of Conducting of Aspen in the United States; Buenos Aires Philharmonic Orchestra, Orchestral Academy of Teatro Colón, Mendoza Philharmonic Orchestra (with pianist Bruno Gelber), and the Provincial Symphony Orchestras of Rosario, Bahía Blanca, and Córdoba in Argentina; UFF National Symphony Orchestra in Niteroi, Brazil, and the Montevideo Philharmonic and Sodre Symphony orchestras in Uruguay. In Chile, she has worked with the main orchestras of the country, including: National Symphony Orchestra of Chile (performing the first concert ever on Easter Island in 2014 with pianist Mahani Teave, and working as a guest conductor in the summer season of 2015 at the Frutillar Musical Weeks), Concepción Symphony Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra of the Catholic University of Chile, Chamber Orchestra of Valdivia, La Serena Symphony Orchestra, Classical Orchestra of the University of Santiago, Los Ríos Philharmonic Orchestra and Maule Regional Orchestra.

In 2016, violinist Dorian Lamotte, with Emmanuele They from the Belgian label Le Chant de Linos, invited Alejandra to explore and record together music by Latin American composers. In January 2017, with the Chilean Chamber Orchestra, they recorded Enrique Soro's *Danza d'Amore*, *Primavera*, *Tempo di Gavotta*, and *Romanza sin Palabras*; Vicente Bianchi's *Momento Andino*; Santiago Vera-Rivera's *Orogenika II* for violin and orchestra, and Esteban D'Antona's *Suite for Violin and Orchestra "Camino al Norte"*. In February 2013, she recorded an album for CRS Artists with the New York Chamber Players with works by American composers, including John Schlenck's *Fanfare and Variations for Chamber Orchestra*, John Russo's *Three Studies for Clarinet and Orchestra*, and Giacomo Francis' *Three Variations on a Theme of Michael Levy for Piano and Orchestra*. In November 2012, she worked with the American composer Gabriela Lena Frank in the premiere of her *Suite Compadre Huashayo*, a classical work including roots of Andean music and performed on that occasion by a unique ensemble: the *Orchestra of Andean Instruments of Quito*. A documentary of this work has been edited for the American PBS channel. On the same year, she recorded the album "*Dos Conciertos Latinoamericanos*" with Chilean guitarist Carlos Pérez and the *Classical Orchestra of the University of Santiago*, with concertos by Leo Brouwer and Antonio Lauro.

Alejandra Urrutia is a Fanjul & Ward artist.