

7th SPRING CONCERT

THE PERFORMER: ALFONSO CALDERÓN DE CASTRO

Born in Malaga, he showed an interest in music at an early age, and was tutored by his mother, a piano teacher, and Stéphanie Cambier (a student of Alfred Cortot and Edwin Fischer).

After leaving school in Malaga, he went on to study at the Higher Music Conservatory of Seville, where was taught by Ana Guijarro and obtained the maximum grades.

After leaving the Conservatory in 1996, he moved to Germany (Freibourg im Breisgau), where he received master classes under the teacher Tibor Szasz.

He has studied on a variety of courses and master classes, held in both Spain and abroad, run by teachers including Elza Kolodin, Lilya Zilberstein, Vitali Margulis, Rudolf Kehrer, Asir Rosemberg, Stéphanie Cambier and Joaquín Achúcarro, and has also played several concerts for solo piano, as well as in chamber orchestras.

In 1993 he passed his Conservatory opposition exams (specialising in piano), and taught as an assistant professor at the Elementary Conservatory of Music. Then in 2003, he was selected by Juventudes Musicales de Andalucía to go on a concert tour organised in that part of Spain. In 2000 he became general coordinator of the International Project Comenius I (under the title Popular Music) which saw participation by Spain, Italy and Portugal.

In May 2003, he gave the premiere performance in Seville of Two Preludes for Piano by the Spanish composer and orchestral conductor Pedro Halffter.

He has contributed articles to the music magazine Hoquet, and has been a speaker at the Higher Conservatory of Malaga's Contemporary Music Week, where he also gave the premiere performance of Stockhausen's Klavierstücke IX.

Likewise, he has received praise from Justo Romero, El Mundo's music critic, who called him "a pianist blessed with mighty talents, expressed in exultant, energetic versions and with a convincing authority, virtues that he combines with a hyper-virtuosity; he is a performer who is hardened, extroverted, brilliant and solidly trained".

His experiences abroad have taken him to countries such as Switzerland, Italy, Germany, France, Portugal, Poland and Norway.

In July 2007 he participated in the CIMA Festival in Tuscany (Concerti in Monte Argentario) on the occasion of the 250th anniversary of the death of Domenico Scarlatti.

He has been awarded the 2007 Musical Performance Prize by the Association of Friends of the College of Spain in Paris, which led to him recording a CD that was released by INAEM.

Since 2005, he has lived in Paris at the CIUP (Cité Internationale Universitaire de Paris), while studying with the maestros Jorge Chamine and Marie-Françoise Bucquet.

During the academic year 2008/09 he directed a research project (Andalusia Regional Government-Education and Science) based on an exhaustive study on the technical-pedagogical possibilities of the music of Domenico Scarlatti.

He currently holds the Manuel Castillo Piano Chair at the Higher Music Conservatory of Seville.