

# DARWIN AQUINO

[www.darwinaquino.com](http://www.darwinaquino.com)



A musical product of “*el Sistema*,” Darwin Aquino has been hailed as one of the rising stars in orchestral conducting from Latin America. Maestro Jose Antonio Abreu, founder of the well-known Venezuelan “Sistema,” refers to Aquino as “*a great conductor, excellent composer and eminent violinist. A pioneer for the musical youth in Latin America*”. In 2004 he was appointed Principal Conductor of the National Youth Symphony Orchestra of the Dominican Republic, his homeland, and was awarded in the United States the Hildegard Behrens Young Artist prize and the Arts Advocacy prize for his outstanding musical leadership throughout the Americas.

Upcoming engagements for the 2015-2016 seasons include guest conductor for the Mainz Philharmonic Orchestra in Germany, the Winter

Opera in St. Louis (Verdi’s “*Il Trovatore*”), the Palm Beach Symphony, the X Santo Domingo Music Festival, the Heredia Symphony Orchestra in Costa Rica and the Florida Lakes Symphony Orchestra. The Florida Grand Opera selected Aquino as Cover and Assistant Conductor for Rossini’s “*Barber of Seville*”, Bellini’s “*Norma*” and Donizetti’s “*Don Pasquale*”, at the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts in Miami.

Darwin Aquino’s international career has led him to conduct the Philharmonisches Orchester Mainz in Germany, the Alfredo de Saint Malo Festival Orchestra in Panama, the FIU Symphony Orchestra and Opera Theater in Miami, the National Symphony Orchestra of Costa Rica, the Filarmonica Boca del Rio in Mexico, the Sembrando Talentos Festival Orchestra in Uruguay, the Opera Naples in Florida (Assistant and Cover Conductor for Puccini’s “*La Boheme*”), the International Youth Orchestra in Virginia, the Music Sacra Philharmonic in the Dominican Republic, among others. He has also been guest conductor and founder violinist of the YOA (Youth Orchestra of the Americas) and the Latin American Youth Orchestra (under the batons of Gustavo Dudamel, Valery Gergiev, Leonard Slatkin, Benjamin Zander and Carlos Miguel Prieto) on concert tours throughout the Americas and for special performances at Carnegie Hall in New York City. Aquino has worked as conductor with soloists such as Rachel Barton Pine, Kemal Gekic, Robert Davidovici, Shari Mason, Roland Baldini, among others. Aquino is the first conductor in the Dominican Republic to premiere Anton Bruckner’s symphonies.

The Latin American Collegium of Composers and the Caribbean Composers Forum selected Aquino as their youngest member for his outstanding achievements in composition. Recently, was invited to La Habana, Cuba, as one of the judges for the Composition Prize Casa de las Americas 2015. He has won three National

Composition Prizes (2006, 2012) and two Academic Composition Prizes in the Dominican Republic. In 2003 and 2007 he was commissioned to compose two large orchestral works by the Santo Domingo Music Festival Orchestra, conducted by Maestro Phillippe Entremont. In 2008, the Dominican Ministry of Culture appointed Aquino as the first composer in residence of the National Symphony Orchestra. In 2009, he won the Musici Mojanesi composition award in Italy, which resulted in publications of his work by Ars Publica Edizioni and the Société des auteurs, compositeurs et éditeurs de musique (SACEM) of France. The complete recordings of his works are found on albums produced in the Dominican Republic: “Espacio Ritual” (2008), “Congofonia” (2012) and a DVD “Musica Sacra” (2011).

For the last several years Aquino’s compositions have been premiered by the Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, Simón Bolívar Symphony Orchestra of Venezuela, the Youth Orchestra of the Americas, the Mainz Philharmonic in Germany, the Santo Domingo Music Festival Orchestra, the Panama National Symphony Orchestra, the Dominican National Symphony Orchestra, the Orquesta Filarmonica Boca del Rio in Mexico and the Musica Sacra Philharmonic. His chamber music is frequently performed at international festivals such as, the Festival Presences in Paris, the New Music ISCM in Miami, Latin American Music in Venezuela, Flamingo International in the USA, SMASH Salamanca in Spain, the Latin American Composers Forum in Colombia, University of Costa Rica, the Las Americas in Concert at the Mannes College of Music in New York, ATempo in Caracas, the Premio Casa de las Americas in Cuba, the International Forum of New Music in Mexico, and North South Consonance in New York, among others.

Aquino was also selected as an international representative for the Orquesta Juvenil Centroamericana (OJCA), Iberorquestas and Jeneusses Musicales International (JMI). In 2011, The David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies at Harvard University invited Aquino as a distinguished conductor and speaker for the conference “Youth Orchestra of the Americas: case study of social entrepreneurship”. As an accomplished violinist, Aquino founded the Dominican Trio, which has been devoted to programming his own compositions as well as transcriptions of Dominican music.

Darwin Aquino studied composition at the Conservatoire National du Strasbourg in France with Italian Maestro Ivan Fedele. Later he was appointed Assistant Conductor of the Florida International University (FIU) Symphony Orchestra in the United States, under the baton of Maestro Grzegorz Nowak, Principal Associate Conductor of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in London, where he graduated with a Master in Orchestral Conducting “Summa Cum Laude”. Aquino has been selected to participate in many international conducting master classes with maestros such as David Effron, Colin Metters, Jose Serebrier, Ramon Tebar, Neil Varon, James Judd, Mark Gibson, Enrique Garcia Asensio and Eduardo Marturet.