

Asier Puga conductor



“Asier Puga is an exceptionally trustworthy artists, colleague, and person. I have in many very intense circumstances relied on his capacity as a conductor to help me in my projects. Namely, and most notable was his assistance to me in being assistant producer in my Complete Beethoven Symphonies Cycle which was released on the Ondine Label. The musicians of both the Euskadiko Orkestra and Malmo Symphony trust Asier, and have enjoyed making music with him on the podium. I always have trusted and do trust Asier to be fantastic on the podium, and he is one of the most promising young Spanish Conductors today.”

Robert Treviño

Music Director Euskadiko Orkestra
Music Director Malmo Symphony Orchestra
Principal Guest Conductor Orchestra Sinfonica Nazionale Della RAI

“From the first meeting I was struck with his tenacity, professionalism and innate musicianship.”

Peter Stark

Professor of conducting Royal College of Music
Rehearsal Director EUYO

Recent reviews

31/07/2023

“This version of Oresteïa has remained in my memory as one of the great concerts I have attended in the 21st century.”

“Xenakis himself often commented that what was most important when performing his music was how it sounded and not so much the extreme fidelity to what he had written (which had to be adapted to multiple performative variables). It seems obvious that this was Asier Puga’s great achievement in his exemplary concertation of Grupo Enigma, the Ensemble Vocal Teselas and the Coro Infantil Amadeus-IN. Achieving the magic and maintaining it during the concert is the fruit of long and intense days of rehearsal, during which the conductor-concertmaster has gained the full confidence of each and every one of the individual performers”.

MUNDO CLÁSICO, Xoán M. Carreira (critic)

Read de complete review **here**

04/07/2023

“Faced with an optimal acoustic, but certainly difficult for the instruments, and faced with the risk that the radical Xenakian poetics could have been diluted, Asier Puga fastened an iron version of spastic energy, not even lessened by the textual interpolations of the narrator, Simón Ferrero, effective in his contextual role”.

ÓPERA ACTUAL, Ismael G. Cabral (critic)

Read de complete review **here**

Reviews

05/12/2022

“Ciklus Ensemble is once again the great musical protagonist, under the conducting of Asier Puga. With this group and this conductor we are in front of some authentic references of what contemporary music performance means; following this group means being up to date with new musical forms and ensuring a rigorous performance, made from the confidence in the work and the empathy shown with the current composition”.

“Everything, coordinated and conducted by Asier Puga, who is once again an example of what a neat, exact and heartfelt work is. Having listened to the concert, one can only express one’s joy at the high level of the performance and the symbiosis between each and every one of the musicians with the composer’s work”.

PLATEA MAGAZINE, Enrique Bert (critic)

Read the complete review **here**

25/10/2022

“He had an artistic complicity of the first order. First of all, a truly luxurious instrumental group, the Ciklus Ensemble, [...] conducted by another luxury accomplice, Asier Puga, a sound sentinel of many carats”.

EL PAÍS, Jorge Fernández Guerra (critic)

Read the complete review **here**



Asier Puga conducting the "Oresteïa" by Xenakis (2022).

EDUCATION

- 2014 - 2016** **Royal College of Music.** Londres. Master of Performance in Orchestra Conducting (**Calification: *Distinction***).
- Professors: Peter Stark, Howard Williams and Robin O'Neill.
- 2009 - 2014** **Higher School of Music of the Basque Country** (Musikene). Bachelor of Arts in Music, speciality of Orchestra Conducting.
- Professors: Arturo Tamayo, Manel Valdivieso and Enrique García Asensio.

ORCHESTRAS & ENSEMBLES CONDUCTED

- Mar 2023** **Castilla y León Symphony Orchestra.** Mahler, Das Lied von der Erde. Astrid Nordstad, Alejandro del Cerro. Segovia y Zamora.
- Febe 2023** Taller Sonoro and Rocío Frutos. Javier T. Maldonado. Espacio Turina, Sevilla.
- Ene 2023** **Ensemble Itinéraire** and OCAZEnigma. Murail, López López, Illean. La Marbrerie, París.
- Agos 2022** Niño de Elche and Chamber Orchestra of the Saragossa Auditorium. Falla y Berlioz. V Festival Múver.
- May 2022** Chamber Orchestra of the Saragossa Auditorium. Iannis Xenakis "Oresteia". Auditorio de Zaragoza.
- Jun 2021** Chamber Orchestra of the Saragossa Auditorium. **"Die Stadt ohne Juden", Olga Neuwirth. Spanish premiere.**
- Ene 2020 - to present** **Music and Artistic director. Enigma Group.**

Dic 2019	Assistant music director - Ópera de Oviedo. Pagliacci, Leoncavallo. Eine florentinische Tragödie, Zemlinsky. Will Humburg, music director, Guy Joosten, stage director. Teatro Campoamor, Oviedo.
Oct - Nov 2019	<u>Assistant conductor of Robert Treviño. Malmö Symphony Orchestra.</u> Beethoven Festival 2019, in which all of Beethoven's symphonies were performed and recorded. Malmö Live, Suecia.
Jul 2019	Guest conductor. Music Camp Orchestra (London). Messiaen's Turangalila. Cynthia Millar (ondes martenot), John Reid (piano).
Abr 2019	Guest conductor. Covent Garden Chamber Orchestra. Tchaikovsky and Shostakovich. Londres.
Mar 2019	Guest conductor. Euskadi Symphony Orchestra. Rossini, Donizetti, Bellini. Helena Orcoyen. Kursaal, San Sebastian.
Sep 2018	Guest conductor. Explore Ensemble. Vortex Temporum by Grisey. Kings Place (debut), Londres.
Ene 2018	Guest conductor. Burgos Symphony Orchestra. Gluck, Webern and Beethoven. Burgos.
Feb 2017	Guest conductor. Covent Garden Chamber Orchestra. Stravinsky, de Falla and Shostakovich. London.
Jul 2016	London Sinfonietta Academy 2016. Boulez, Turnage, Webern and Adams.
May 2015	Guest conductor. Bilbao Symphony Orchestra. Shostakovich, Dukas, Tchaikovsky. Palacio Euskalduna. Bilbao.

FEATURED ORCHESTRAS AND ENSEMBLES CONDUCTED

Castilla y León Symphony Orchestra, Euskadi Symphony Orchestra, Bilbao Symphony Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra of the Saragossa Auditorium, Covent Garden Chamber Orchestra, Burgos Symphony Orchestra, Ensemble Itinéraire, Taller Sonoro, Explore Ensemble, Liceu XXI (Conservatori Liceu), RCM Philharmonic Orchestra, RCM Symphony Orchestra, RCM New Ensemble, Banda Municipal de Vitoria-Gasteiz, Banda Municipal de Bilbao, among others.



Euskadi Symphony Orchestra



Enigma Group



FEATURED FESTIVALS AND AUDITORIUMS

Auditori de Barcelona, Auditorio de Zaragoza, Kings Place (London), Auditorio 400 Museo Reina Sofía, Auditorio Kursaal, Palau de la Música de Valencia, Teatros del Canal (Madrid), Britten Theatre, Quincena Musical de San Sebastián, Palacio Euskalduna, Fundación Juan March, Festival Carmelo Bernaola, Amaryllis Fleming Concert Hall, Museo Guggenheim, among others.

FEATURED MASTERCLASSES

Feb 2021	Teatro Real. Course on the vocal music of Britten with Luis Gago .
Jul 2019	Masterclass on conducting Mozart with Manuel Hernández-Silva .
Jul 2016	London Sinfonietta Academy. Conducting masterclass with Diego Masson .
Mar 2015	Composition masterclass with Steve Reich .
Aug 2011	Lucerne Festival Academy. Conducting masterclass with Pierre Boulez .

Biography

Asier Puga, music and artistic director of the Zaragoza Auditorium Chamber Orchestra - Enigma Group (one of the leading chamber orchestras in Spain), trained as a conductor with maestros such as Peter Stark, Robin O'Neill and Howard Williams at the Royal College of Music in London, where he achieved the highest grades (Distinction), and previously in Spain with Arturo Tamayo, Manel Valdivieso and Enrique García Asensio at the Higher School of Music of the Basque Country (Musikene). Furthermore he increased his knowledge by attending masterclasses with maestros such as Pierre Boulez (Lucerne Festival Academy), Diego Masson (London Sinfonietta) and Martin André (RCM).

Asier Puga has conducted the Castilla y León Symphony Orchestra, the Basque Country Symphony Orchestra, the Bilbao Symphony Orchestra, Ensemble Itinéraire (Paris), Explore Ensemble (London), Taller Sonoro, Covent Garden Chamber Orchestra (London), the Burgos Symphony Orchestra, Liceu XXI (Higher School of Music of Liceu - Barcelona), the RCM Philharmonic Orchestra, the RCM Symphonic Orchestra, the Classical Orchestra of Lanzarote, the Symphonic Wind Band of Vitoria and Bilbao, the Bizkaia Symphony Orchestra and RCM New Ensemble. Asier has performed in several acclaimed festivals and auditoriums such as Kings Place, Kursaal Auditorium, Palau de la Música de Valencia, Teatros del Canal (Madrid), San Sebastián Music Fortnight, Juan March Foundation, Britten Theatre, Carmelo Bernaola Music Festival, Euskalduna Palace, Amaryllis Fleming Concert Hall, SMASH International Music Festival, Alexandra Palace and Guggenheim Museum, among others.

Puga has been the music and artistic director of Ciklus Ensemble (2010 - 2022, and since 2020 he has continued solely as principal conductor), and of the Chamber Orchestra "Gregorio Solabarrieta" (2016 - 2022).

His interest in symphonic music, vocal and operatic repertoire, as well as in new forms of contemporary expression, has led Asier Puga to collaborate with various artists such as the choreographer, dancer and artist La Ribot (with whom she co-directed the show "Juana"), the flamenco singer and multidisciplinary artist Niño de Elche, the filmmaker María Ruido, the composer and sound artist Llorenç Barber, the performer Carlos Llavata and the flamenco dancer and researcher Fernando López.

In 2014 Asier made his debut as an opera conductor with *Armida* by F. J. Haydn, and in 2015 he conducted the premiere of *Singularity*, the third opera by the English composer Michael Oliva. Asier has studied correpetition with Maciej Pikulski. Inspired by his growing attraction for the expressive possibilities of the voice and for drama, he has worked with many singers such as Astrid Nordstad, Alejandro del Cerro, Maria Ostroukhova, Helena Orcoyen and Maciej Nerkowsky, among others. Asier has also been assistant conductor to Michael Rosewell in productions of Britten's *Albert Herring* (Liam Steel, stage director) and Strauss' *Die Fledermaus* (John Copley, stage director).

Additionally, Asier Puga has been assistant conductor to Robert Treviño and the Malmö Symphony Orchestra (Sweden) during the Beethoven Festival 2019, in which all of Beethoven's symphonies were performed and recorded. Asier was also the assistant music director of the fourth production of the Oviedo Opera in its 2019-20 season, with Will Humburg and Guy Joosten as music and stage director respectively, in which Leoncavallo's *Pagliacci* and Zemlinsky's *Eine florentinische Tragödie* were performed.

In 2023 Asier conducted the inaugural concert of the 69th edition of the International Classical Theatre Festival of Mérida, performing the complete version of the great *Oresteia* by Iannis Xenakis, a production that was applauded by the critics.

Asier Puga has attended composition courses with Ramón Lazkano and Gabriel Erkoreka, as well as masterclasses by Steve Reich, Félix Ibarondo, Johannes Maria Staud, Elena Mendoza and Jesús Torres.

Owing to his great interest in contemporary music, Asier has conducted around 70 world premieres both in Spain and in England, and has worked with composers such as José Manuel López López, Nuria Núñez, Núria Giménez-Comas, Javier T. Maldonado, Iñaki Estrada, José Luis Campana, Lisa Illean, Cheryl Frances-Hoad, to name but a few. Asier has written several articles on music and contemporary art for different publications and digital magazines.



Recordings

Gustav Mahler, Das Lied von der Erde (1909)

Castilla y León Symphony Orchestra · Astrid Nordstad, Alejandro del Cerro.

• Recording [here](#)



OSCyL ORQUESTA
SINFÓNICA DE
CASTILLA Y LEÓN

Iannis Xenakis, Oresteïa (1965-89)

Enigma Group

• Recording [here](#)



OCAZEnigma

Falla, Noches en los jardines de España (1915)

Covent Garden Chamber Orchestra · Juan Carlos Fernández Nieto

• Recording [here](#)



CGCO
Covent Garden
Chamber Orchestra

Donizetti, Lucia di Lammermoor (1835)

Basque National Orchestra · Helena Orcoyen

• Recording [here](#)



John Adams, Chamber Symphony (1992)

Enigma Group

• Recording [here](#)



Audio recording

- more recordings at www.asierpuga.com -

Manuel de Falla, El Amor Brujo (1915)

"Gregorio Solabarrieta" Chamber Orchestra

• Recording [here](#)

