

ORQUESTA FILARMÓNICA DE SAN PEDRO SULA



The San Pedro Sula Philharmonic Orchestra (OFSPS) was founded in January 2017 thanks to the initiative of Maestro Óscar Barahona and some of the best musicians in the country, with the support of Mayor Armando Calidonio. Together, their objective is to promote San Pedro Sula's serious cultural reference in the eyes of Honduras and the world. The OFSPS became in a short time a professional ensemble with quality standards, strength and interpretive character that only the best orchestras at an international level possess. Violinist Elena Mikhailova said : "The San Pedro Sula Philharmonic Orchestra is one of the best orchestras which I have had the opportunity to play with", being so impressed that she did not hesitate to invite Maestro Barahona on a tour in Madrid at the end of 2019.

Within the last years, soloists of international stature performed with the OFSPS, such as the Filarmóni Quartet from Munich, musicians from the Munich Radio Orchestra, tenors Mario Chang and Gerardo Reynoso (winner of the Operalia Prize). Furthermore, the OFSPS musicians played with Tenor Plácido Domingo in Honduras.

Interpretive strength, sound balance, combined with discipline, study and technical abilities made the OFSPS become one of the best orchestras in Latin America in a short time, being from now on the benchmark for orchestras in the country.

For the next season, the orchestra has more than ten confirmed concerts, which will be offered to the main cities of Honduras, presenting high-level programs with famous soloists and conductors, who have expressed their desire to collaborate and support the artistic enhancement of our city.



San Pedro Sula, Honduras, 2018



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Óscar Barahona, conductor

Biography

Óscar Barahona is a conductor, violinist, pianist and piano accompanist born in San Pedro Sula, Honduras. He started his musical career at the age of six at the School of Musical Application, where he graduated in 1996 with honors. At 12, he was accepted into the Victoriano López Music School, where he took violin as a main instrument. His piano teachers were Sergio Suazo Lang (Honduras) and Amalia Marín (Cuba) ; as a violinist he studied with Rubén Moncada (Chile) and Maestro José Iglesias Carnot (Cuba).

Óscar's versatility, energy and musical maturity led him to be considered as one of the best piano accompanist of Latin America. Famous bassist Claus Stoll said : “Óscar is one of the best pianists I've worked with, his sensitivity and sound quality have no comparison, he is THE bassists' pianist.” His level of leadership and devotion to study allowed him to win the post of concertmaster of the San Pedro Sula Chamber Orchestra, considered in that time as the best chamber orchestra in Central America, appearing on international tours and collaborating with renowned soloist on numerous occasions.

Between 2007 and 2011, he founded the choir of the Ovidio Decroly School, developing one of the best choral systems of the country. In 2008, he began his career as conductor, taking the baton of the Symphonic Choir and the Symphony Orchestra of San Pedro Sula. He became the youngest conductor invited to work with the Philharmonic Orchestra of Honduras and the National Symphony Orchestra of Guatemala.

Barahona has been leading orchestras throughout Central America and has performed in the United States and Europe. In July 2018 he was invited to conduct the Trouville-sur-mer Music Festival Orchestra (France), presenting two concerts at the closing ceremony of the festival.

In November 2018 he became the first central american invited at the National Auditorium in Madrid, accompanying russian armenian violinist Elena Mikhailova.

With the deep desire to provide for his city a world-class event, in May 2016, he created the San Pedro Sula International Music Festival (INMUVEST). Its first edition presented the Isar Quartet, formed by members of the Munich Philharmonic Orchestra and a large number of international artists, unifying the music in the country and presenting four concerts in a week, gathering an audience of ten thousand people, creating a historical record for a classical music event in the country. In 2017, The INMUVEST became the most important Music Festival in Central America, giving seven concerts in a week, working in collaboration with members of the Munich Philharmonic and the Radio Orchestra of Munich.

Subsequently, in January 2017, Barahona founded the Philharmonic Orchestra of San Pedro Sula, receiving high-level soloists, such as tenor Mario Chang, french virtuoso Marie-Claudine Papadopoulos, cellist Alexandre Vay and violinist Elena Mikhailova.

Nowadays Óscar is considered to be the main cultural promoter of his city. In 2012, he created the Academy De Cámara (Óscar Barahona Piano Academy) as well as a scholarship program aiming to help children and young people with limited economic resources, based on the idea that a musical career can allow them to get out of intellectual and economic poverty.

Barahona received the prestigious TOYP award, given by the Junior International Chamber, as one of the ten most influential young people in the country.

He won the first place at the conducting competition in the Balkans, conducting Belgrade's Symphonic Orchestra (Serbia).

In 2019, he was recognized by Forbes Magazine as one of the most creative people in Central America and the Caribbean.



IMNUVEST, San Pedro Sula, 2019