

Juan José García-Caffi

Composer, arranger and orchestra conductor

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The beginning

Composer, arranger and orchestra conductor, the maestro was born in Buenos Aires in the 20th century.

His teachers in different specialties were: José María Clavero, Erwin Leuchter, Rodolfo Kubik, Guillermo Gratzner, Alberto Ginastera, Jacqueline Ibels, Roberto Kinsky, Clelia Troisi, Jean Fournet, Ernesto Halfter and Johan Elhert.

He was a founding member of the Chamber Choir of the Wagnerian Association of Buenos Aires.

Creator of the Chamber Vocal Group of the National University of Buenos Aires and of the «Madrigalistas del Buen Ayre».

Creator and member of the Cuarteto Zupay, one of the most outstanding vocal groups in the history of Argentine music.

He was awarded the «Diploma de Honor» by the Argentine Chamber Music Association (1973) and the diploma for «Artistic Merit» by the National University of Buenos Aires (1975).

Honorary Professor at the National University of San Juan.

South America and the United States

In Argentina, he has conducted all the orchestras, with special mention to the Buenos Aires Philharmonic Orchestra and the National Symphony Orchestra.

In the rest of the American continent, he conducted, among others, the national orchestras of Ecuador, Peru, Puerto Rico, Mexico Symphony, Caracas Symphony, Venezuela Symphony, Montevideo Philharmonic, and New York Festival Symphony Orchestra, performing in prestigious halls such as the Colon Theater in Buenos Aires, Solis Theater in Montevideo, Sucre in Quito, Teresa Carreño and Municipal in Caracas, Palacio de Bellas Artes in Mexico, Bellas Artes in Puerto Rico, Carnegie Hall in New York, etc.

Spain and Portugal

In 1975, he settled in Spain, where he obtained dual nationality.

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He collaborated in different opportunities with the Ministry of Culture, composing, conducting and making symphonic adaptations for Theater, Music and Dance, emphasizing in this period the work of compilation, adaptation and orchestrations of music for Dances of the Spanish Bolero School of the XVIII and XIX centuries for the archive and repertoire of the National Ballet.

Also with the repertoire of the Escuela Bolera, he collaborated with the famous Margot Fonteyn in the BBC documentary «The Magic of Dance».

He conducted the symphony orchestras of the Principality of Asturias, Illes Balears, Orquestra Simfónica de Barcelona i Nacional de Catalunya, Sinfónica de Bilbao, de Euskadi, Manuel de Falla de Cádiz, de la Comunidad de Madrid, Sinfónica de Madrid and titular of the Teatro Real, Filarmónica de Málaga, Sinfónica de la Región de Murcia, Real Orquestra Sinfónica de Sevilla, de Tenerife, Orquesta y Coro de Radio Televisión Española, etc...

In 1981 in Geneva (Switzerland), he obtained the «Prix de la Musique», awarded by the specialized critics for his musical work.

In 1983, he was director of the «I MOSTRA INTERNACIONAL DA MUSICA», celebrated in Madeira Island, organized by the Portuguese government and broadcasted by Eurovision.

He conducts the Portuguese Radio and Television Symphony Orchestra, Prague Philharmonic Orchestra, Bratislava Symphony Orchestra, Budapest Symphony Orchestra, London Chamber Orchestra and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

Between 1984 and 1995, he was simultaneously chief conductor of the Orquesta de Cámara de la Sociedad de San Pablo and of the Agrupación Lírica de Madrid, with which he covered the great Zarzuela repertoire.

He made the symphonic arrangements of the international lyric repertoire to be interpreted by the tenor José Carreras with «Los Tres Tenores». For cinematography he composed more than sixty soundtracks for long and short films, as well as for well-known television series, for which he was named a full member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences of Spain.

He is a full member of the Academy of Arts and Sciences of Music of Spain.

Nowadays

As a composer, arranger and conductor, García-Caffi has manifested himself within a versatile aesthetic covering various musical genres, proof of this is that the Philharmonic Orchestra of Buenos Aires, commissioned him the orchestral arrangements of «Doce Tangos Sinfónicos» for the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Orchestra, arrangements that later recorded with the Orchestra and Choir of Radio Televisión Española.

With this repertoire he closes in December 1999, at the Teatro Colón in Buenos Aires, the famous «Semana Internacional del Tango de Buenos Aires», with the Philharmonic Orchestra and the National Polyphonic Choir of Argentina.

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In 2002, commissioned by the Fundación Autor de España, he recorded a CD of Spanish classics with the Orquesta Simfónica de Barcelona i Nacional de Catalunya, and after being released in Spain and the United States, he was nominated for a Latin Grammy Award in 2003 for the best symphonic work.

His eclecticism allowed him to adapt, arrange and conduct the musical works: «The Rocky Horror Show» (Buenos Aires 1975; London 1983; Barcelona 1984). «The Sound of Music» (Madrid 1977; London 1979). «West Side Story» (Madrid 1978). «Evita» (Madrid 1980; Barcelona 1984), work with which he obtained the «gold disc». «Cabaret» (Buenos Aires 1988). He directs the original version of «Les Miserables» with production of the Royal Shakespeare Company and Plácido Domingo (Madrid 1992). «Beauty and the Beast» with original Disney production (Madrid 2000). «Jekyll & Hyde» (Madrid 2002), work with which he was nominated for the «Max» Theater Awards as best musical director.

Throughout 2004 he incorporates to his musical activity the direction of the symphonic work of Juan Manuel Serrat, touring Spain and America. Also in that year he joined the group «Les Luthiers» to conduct his symphonic work «Concerto Grosso».

In 2011 he conducts the «Concierto Conmemoración» of the 25th anniversary of the Academia de las Artes y las Ciencias Cinematográficas de España, with the Orquesta Sinfónica de Radio Televisión Española, in a concert broadcasted throughout Spain by the state television channel.

From 2015, he repeatedly travels to Russia and conducts the St. Petersburg State Symphony Orchestra, Tomsk Philharmonic, Krasnoyarsk Symphony and Bryansk Symphony Orchestra at the Svetlanov Hall of the Great International House of Music in Moscow.



In June 2017, he performed the closing concert of the «Festival of St. Petersburg Palaces» at the Grand Palace of Catherine the Great in Pushkin and in March 2018 he conducts at the Bolshoi Dramaticheskoy Theater, to great critical and public acclaim.

Until today, García-Caffi develops his activity as a composer, arranger and conductor between Europe and America.

During this period he has made many recordings, including those with the Spanish Radio Television Orchestra and Choir, recordings of the Latin American repertoire with the Prague Philharmonic Orchestra and the Budapest Symphony Orchestra, and the work «Cyrano de Bergerac» by Leslie Bricusse and Frank Wildhorn, with the Slovak Radio Symphony Orchestra.