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Joaquín de la Cuesta
Conductor

Biography

Joaquín de la Cuesta is a Spanish conductor (orchestra and choirs) and double bassist, born in Lleida (Spain) and based in Iceland. His work centres on artistic direction, programme thinking, and long-term repertoire development. He trained in symphonic conducting (ABRSM) and holds conservatory-level qualifications in double bass and choral/orchestral conducting in Barcelona.

He combines a solid command of core symphonic repertoire with a distinctive focus on Spanish symphonic music of the nineteenth century and the early decades of the twentieth. This specialism shapes his artistic profile and informs programmes that connect established concert traditions with repertoire discovery—bringing lesser-known Spanish works into a modern orchestral context in a way that remains audience-focused and presentable to international presenters.

Recent conducting engagements include the Filharmonia Zabrzańska (Zabrze, Poland) and Strengsveitin Spiccato (Reykjavík), as well as invitations to conduct the Wiener Postsymphony (Vienna) and the Orquesta Sinfónica Estable de Tucumán (Argentina).

De la Cuesta has worked with orchestral and choral ensembles in several countries and continues to develop projects across symphonic and choral formats. His background as a double bassist includes extensive orchestral experience; he was a member of the Joven Orquesta Nacional de España (JONDE) and has performed in a range of professional settings in Spain and Iceland. In Iceland, he has also been active as an instrumental teacher and ensemble leader, complementing his conducting work with a strong educational profile.

Alongside performance, he pursues musicological and editorial interests centred on Spanish repertoire, reflecting a commitment not only to interpretation but also to the rediscovery and preparation of rarely performed works. This combination of practical musicianship, research-driven programming, and stylistic affinity for Spanish symphonic literature defines his artistic signature: a conductor with a clear identity, capable of delivering mainstream repertoire with reliability—while offering presenters a compelling, distinctive repertoire perspective.

For further details and selected video performances, please visit the online portfolio.

Biografie

Joaquín de la Cuesta ist ein spanischer Dirigent (Orchester und Chor) und Kontrabassist, geboren in Lleida (Spanien) und mit Lebensmittelpunkt in Island. Sein Profil verbindet künstlerische Leitung, Programmgestaltung und langfristige Repertoireentwicklung. Er absolvierte eine Dirigierausbildung an der ABRSM und verfügt über konservatorische Abschlüsse in Kontrabass sowie Chor- und Orchesterdirigieren in Barcelona.

Er verbindet das internationale symphonische Kernrepertoire mit einem ausgeprägten Schwerpunkt auf der spanischen Symphonik des 19. Jahrhunderts und der ersten Jahrzehnte des 20. Jahrhunderts. Diese Spezialisierung prägt sein künstlerisches Profil und fließt in Programme ein, die etablierte Konzerttraditionen mit Repertoire-Entdeckungen verbinden – und weniger bekannte spanische Werke in einen modernen Orchesterkontext stellen, der publikumsnah bleibt und zugleich eine klare programmatische Handschrift trägt.

Zu seinen jüngeren Dirigierengagements zählen die Filharmonia Zabrzańska (Zabrze, Polen) und Strengsveitin Spiccato (Reykjavík) sowie Einladungen zur Zusammenarbeit mit der Wiener Postsymphony (Wien) und der Orquesta Sinfónica Estable de Tucumán (Argentinien).

De la Cuesta arbeitete mit Orchester- und Chorensembles in verschiedenen Ländern und ist sowohl im symphonischen als auch im chorischen Bereich tätig. Sein Hintergrund als Kontrabassist steht für umfangreiche Orchestererfahrung; er war Mitglied der Joven Orquesta Nacional de España (JONDE) und trat in Spanien und Island in vielfältigen professionellen Kontexten auf. In Island war er zudem in der Musikvermittlung und Ensemblearbeit aktiv und ergänzt seine Dirigiertätigkeit durch ein ausgeprägtes pädagogisches Profil.

Neben seiner Dirigiertätigkeit widmet sich de la Cuesta editorischen Projekten mit Schwerpunkt auf spanischem Repertoire und setzt sich für die Wiederentdeckung selten gespielter Werke ein. Diese Repertoirearbeit fließt unmittelbar in seine Programmgestaltung ein.

Weitere Informationen und ausgewählte Videoaufnahmen finden Sie im Online-Portfolio.

Repertoire

International Symphonic Repertoire

Arensky

- Variations on a Theme by Tchaikovsky, Op. 35a

J. S. Bach

- Mass in B minor (BWV 232)
- Magnificat in D major (BWV 243)
- Cantatas (selected)

Beethoven

- Symphony No. 1 in C major, Op. 21
- Symphony No. 2 in D major, Op. 36
- Symphony No. 3 in E-flat major, Op. 55 "Eroica"
- Symphony No. 5 in C minor, Op. 67
- Symphony No. 6 in F major, Op. 68 "Pastoral"
- Symphony No. 7 in A major, Op. 92
- Leonore Overtures Nos. 1–3
- Egmont Overture, Op. 84
- Fidelio Overture, Op. 72
- Wellington's Victory (The Battle of Vitoria), Op. 91

Berlioz

- Le Carnaval romain (Overture), Op. 9

Bizet

- Symphony in C major

Borodin

- Polovtsian Dances (with chorus)
- In the Steppes of Central Asia

Brahms

- Symphony No. 1 in C minor, Op. 68
- Symphony No. 2 in D major, Op. 73
- Symphony No. 3 in F major, Op. 90
- Symphony No. 4 in E minor, Op. 98
- Academic Festival Overture, Op. 80
- Tragic Overture, Op. 81
- Variations on a Theme by Haydn, Op. 56a
- A German Requiem, Op. 45

Britten

- The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra, Op. 34 (Variations and Fugue on a Theme of Purcell)

Bruckner

- Symphony No. 4 (Romantic)

Copland

- Appalachian Spring

Debussy

- La mer
- Ibéria
- Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune
- Nocturnes
- La boîte à joujoux (ballet)
- Printemps (symphonic poem)

Dukas

- The Sorcerer's Apprentice

Dvořák

- Symphony No. 8
- Symphony No. 9 "From the New World"
- Requiem
- Songs My Mother Taught Me, Op. 55 No. 4
- Czech Suite, Op. 39

Elgar

- Symphony No. 1 in A-flat major, Op. 55

Fauré

- Pelléas et Mélisande, Op. 80

Franck

- Les Éolides (symphonic poem)
- Symphony in D minor

Glazunov

- Stenka Razin, Op. 13 (symphonic poem)
- Poème lyrique, Op. 12

Glinka

- Spanish Overtures Nos. 1 and 2
- Overture: Ruslan and Lyudmila
- Symphony on Russian Themes

Gounod

- Petite Symphonie in B-flat major (winds)

Haydn

- Symphonies (selected)

Janáček

- Suite for Strings

Liszt

- Tasso: Lamento e Trionfo (symphonic poem No. 2)

Mahler

- Adagietto (from Symphony No. 5)

Martinů

- Nonet No. 2

Mascagni

- Intermezzo from *Cavalleria rusticana*

Mendelssohn

- Symphony No. 1 in C minor
- Symphony No. 3 "Scottish"
- Symphony No. 4 "Italian"
- The Hebrides Overture (Fingal's Cave), Op. 26
- String Symphonies (selected)
- Octet in E-flat major, Op. 20

Mozart

- Symphonies (selected)
- Requiem
- Requiem (version for soloists, choir and string orchestra)

Mussorgsky / Ravel

- Pictures at an Exhibition (orchestrated by Maurice Ravel)

Orff

- Carmina Burana

Prokofiev

- Symphony No. 1 in D major, Op. 25 "Classical"

Ravel

- Ma mère l'Oye
- Pavane pour une infante défunte
- Daphnis et Chloé
- Le tombeau de Couperin

Respighi

- Antiche danze ed arie per liuto
- Sinfonia in G minor (organ and strings)

Rimsky-Korsakov

- Scheherazade, Op. 35
- Capriccio espagnol, Op. 34

Rossini

- Six Sonatas for Strings
- Overture: L'italiana in Algeri
- Overture: Eduardo e Cristina
- Overture: Il barbiere di Siviglia
- Overture: La gazza ladra
- Overture: Semiramide
- Overture: Guillaume Tell

Saint-Saëns

- Introduction et Rondo capriccioso, Op. 28 (for violin and orchestra)
- The Carnival of the Animals

Salieri

- Sinfonia "Veneziana"

Schubert

- Symphony No. 2 in B-flat major, D 125
- Symphony No. 4 in C minor, D 417 "Tragic"
- Symphony No. 5 in B-flat major, D 485
- Symphony No. 6 in C major, D 589 "Little"
- Symphony No. 8 in B minor, D 759 "Unfinished"
- Symphony No. 9 in C major, D 944 "Great"

Schumann

- Symphony No. 1 in B-flat major, Op. 38 "Spring"
- Symphony No. 2 in C major, Op. 61
- Symphony No. 3 in E-flat major, Op. 97 "Rhenish"
- Symphony No. 4 in D minor, Op. 120

R. Strauss

- Till Eulenspiegel's Merry Pranks, Op. 28

J. Strauss II / Josef Strauss

- Pizzicato Polka

Stravinsky

- L'Histoire du soldat

- Pulcinella Suite
- Apollo (Apollon Musagète)
- Concerto in D
- Octet for Wind Instruments
- Suite No. 1 for Small Orchestra
- Danse infernale (from The Firebird)

Tchaikovsky

- Symphony No. 1 "Winter Daydreams"
- Symphony No. 2 "Little Russia"
- Symphony No. 5 in E minor, Op. 64
- Symphony No. 6 "Pathétique", Op. 74
- The Nutcracker Suite
- Romeo and Juliet Overture-Fantasy
- 1812 Overture, Op. 49
- Valse-Scherzo, Op. 34 (for violin and orchestra)
- Marche slave (Slavonic March), Op. 31

Vaughan Williams

- Fantasia on Greensleeves (arr. Ralph Greaves) — for strings, flute and harp

Vivaldi

- The Four Seasons
- Stabat Mater (alto, strings and basso continuo)

Wagner

- Siegfried Idyll
- Prelude to Tristan und Isolde
- Tannhäuser Overture
- Overture to *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*

Weber

- Jubilee Overture, Op. 59
- Overture: Preciosa, Op. 78
- Overture: *Der Freischütz*, Op. 77
- Overture: *Euryanthe*, Op. 81
- Overture: *Oberon*, Op. 93

Wolf-Ferrari

- Overture: *Il segreto di Susanna* (1909)

Alongside works by these and other composers for chamber orchestra, including:

Elgar; Bartók; C. P. E. Bach; Holst; Grieg

Spanish Symphonic Repertoire

Albéniz

- Prelude: Chants d'Espagne

Álvarez

Suspiros de España (orch. J. R. Hernández)

Arriaga

- Symphony in D major
- Overture: Los esclavos felices

Bacarisse

- Concertino for Guitar and Orchestra (II. Romanza)

Baguer

- Symphony No. 1 in C major
- Symphony No. 2 in C minor
- Symphony No. 3 in D major
- Symphony No. 5 in D major
- Symphony No. 6 in D major
- Symphony No. 12 in E-flat major

Barrios

- Zambra en el Albaicín
- Interlude from La suerte (short piece)

Beigbeder, Germán A.

- Symphony No. 2 in E minor "Rincón Malillo"
- Campos andaluces (Apuntes sinfónicos)
- Symphony in G minor (for string orchestra)
- Suite Jerez (for guitar and orchestra) (Germán & David Beigbeder)

Bretón

- Symphony No. 1 in F major
- Symphony No. 2 in E-flat major
- Symphony No. 3 in G major
- En la Alhambra (serenade for orchestra)
- Zapateado (Spanish dance)
- Escenas andaluzas: Bolero; Polo gitano; Marcha y saeta; Zapateado
- Polo gitano

Bruguera

- Symphony in G major
- Symphony in C major

Carnicer

- Overture: *Il barbiere di Siviglia*

Colbó Puig

- Symphony "Homenatge a Beethoven"

Chapí

- Symphony in D major
- Prelude: El tambor de granaderos
- Prelude: La revoltosa
- Interlude: La boda de Luis Alonso
- Los gnomos de la Alhambra (leyenda musical)
- Scherzo: Combate de Don Quijote con las ovejas
- Fantasía morisca
- Polaca de concierto
- Marcha e himno: La hija de Jefté
- Escenas de capa y espada

Eugène Ysaÿe

- Sonata for Two Violins

María Luisa de Borbón

- Symphony No. 1 in D minor
- Symphony No. 2 in C major
- Symphony No. 3 in C minor / E-flat major
- Symphony No. 4 in C minor / E-flat major

Monasterio

- Violin Concerto in B minor
- Adiós a la Alhambra (for violin and orchestra) (Cantiga morisca)
- Fantasía original española (for violin and orchestra)
- Grande fantasia nationale (for violin and orchestra)
- Marcha fúnebre y triunfal
- Andante religioso (for string orchestra)
- Estudio de concierto in B-flat major (harp, oboe, clarinet, horn and strings)
- Andante expresivo (for string orchestra)
- Scherzo fantástico

Durán

- Overture in D major
- Overture in F major

Fábrega

- Symphony in C major

Falla

- El amor brujo
- El sombrero de tres picos
- Noches en los jardines de España (for piano and orchestra)
- Psyché (poème)

Garay

- Symphonies Nos. 1–10

García

- Symphony No. 1 in C major
- Symphony No. 3 in G major
- Symphony No. 5 in E-flat major

Garreta

- Pastoral
- Illes Medes

Gómez

- Ave Maria (soloist, choir and orchestra)

Granados

- Intermezzo from Goyescas
- Torrijos
- Marcha de los vencidos
- Suite oriental
- Suite sobre cantos populares gallegos
- La nit del mort (poema de desolació)
- Dante (poema sinfónico)
- Liliana (version by Pau Casals)
- Elisenda – El jardí
- Danza gitana
- Danza de los ojos verdes

Guigou

- Symphony in G minor

Manrique de Lara

- Symphony No. 1 in E minor
- La Orestíada (symphonic poem)

Marqués

- Symphony No. 1 in B-flat major
- Symphony No. 2 in E-flat major
- Symphony No. 3 in B minor
- Symphony No. 4 in E major

- Symphony No. 5 in C minor

Martín i Soler

- Overture: Una cosa rara

Morera

- Somni

Ocón

- Andante

Ordoñez

- Symphonies Nos. 1–14 (for string orchestra)
- Violin Concerto in D

Pahissa

- A les costes mediterrànies

Pedrell

- Excelsior (symphonic poem)
- Prelude: Quasimodo
- Prelude: L'último Abenzeraggio
- Prelude: Clèopâtre

Power

- Piano Concerto in B-flat major
- Polaca de concierto
- Symphony in A minor

Remacha

- Sinfonía a tres tiempos

Sarasate

- Zigeunerweisen (Gypsy Airs), Op. 20 (for violin and orchestra)

Rodrigo

- Concierto de Aranjuez

Sor

- Overture: Alphonse et Léonore

Sorozábal

- Capricho español
- Suite vasca
- Dos apuntes vascos
- Variaciones sinfónicas sobre un canto popular vasco

- Siete lieder
- Victorina (suite orquestal sobre coros de T. L. de Victoria)
- Paso a cuatro (ballet)
- Comedieta (ballet español)
- Vino, solera y salero (ballet español)
- Paso a dos (ballet)
- Rêverie (2nd movement) from String Quartet + Double Bass in F major (for string orchestra)

Toldrà

- Empúries
- Sardana per a orquestra
- La rosa als llavis
- Maig

Turina

- Sinfonía sevillana: III. Fiesta en San Juan de Aznalfarache

Vinyals

- 6 Quintets for Wind Instruments

Zubiaurre

- Symphony in E
- Prelude: Don Fernando el Emplazado
- Prelude: Ledia
- Bailable de Ledia
- Ecos de Oíz (for cello and orchestra)

More works by these and other Spanish composers for chamber orchestra, including:

Toldrà; Morera; Lamote de Grignon; Cervelló; Turina; Del Adalid; Echevarría; Jimeno; García; Hurtado; Ugena; Lidón; Carnicer; Eslava; Lestán; Gorriti; J. J. Martínez

Opera / Operetta (selected)

Bizet

- Carmen

Lleó

- La corte de Faraón (operetta)

Mozart

- Le nozze di Figaro

Puccini

- Tosca

Verdi

- Rigoletto