

LEONEL MORALES

Professor at the Sommerakademie in Salzburg and at the University Alfonso X el Sabio in Madrid. Exclusive Artist of Yangtze River Piano (China), Artistic Director and Founder of Maria Herrero International Piano Competition (Granada), La Rioja International Piano Competition (La Rioja) and the Spanish Composer International Piano Competition (Madrid)

Academic member of the “Academia de Bellas Artes de Santa Isabel de Hungría” in Sevilla (Spain).

Born in Cuba, is a Spanish citizen and lives in Spain since 1991. He graduated from the University of Havana under the tutelage of Frank Fernandez, a student of Victor Merzhanov, which itself was a disciple of Feinberg, so he follows the traditional Russian school. He made a postgraduate with Dmitry Voskresensky and Jacov Latainer.

Leonel Morales, arrived to Spain at the age of 25 and between 26-29 he competed in a lot of international competitions winning prizes such as:

- First Prize in the Guerrero Foundation International Piano Competition (Madrid).
- First Prize at the International Piano Competition “Ciudad de Manresa” Spain,
- First Prize at International Piano Competition “Teresa Carreño” of Venezuela.
- Second Prize at Jaen International Piano Competition, Prize to the Best Interpretation Contemporary Music and the Best Interpretation of Spanish Music, “Rosa Sabater” Prize.
- Second Prize at International Piano Competition “Cidade Do Porto” in Porto, Portugal.
- Prize whit Distinzione in the Concorso Pianistico Internazionale Aosta , Italy
- Prize to the Best Concert Soloist of Korea
- Prize Sommerakademie Mozarteum of Salzburgo...
- Winner in the William Kapell, Epinal, Uneac Competitions...

He has performed in two consecutive nights the integral of the concerts for piano and orchestra of Rachmaninov including the Rhapsody on a Paganini's Theme.

In October 2008, he was awarded with the prestigious prix “Tasto D’Argento 2008” (Alexandria – Italy) because of his consolidate international career. He showed his exceptional dotes in the tour concerts he made through USA with the Spanish National Orchestra, Mexico National Orchestra and through Germany with Valencia Symphonic Orchestra and Hamburg Symphonic Orchestra

*...His incredible Concert of Tchaikovsky created an instantaneous ovation. “Hero of the day”. (**Palm Beach Post**)*

*...The Spanish pianist with Cuban origin, was the hero of the night, with his enormous technique achieved the magic in every note with facility. He played the piano with elegance, discipline and intelligence. . **(Die Rheinpfalz)***

He is invited to be part of jury at major international piano competitions like Shenzhen Piano and Orchestra International Piano Competition, Cleveland Competition, Pozzoli, Scriabin (Grosseto), Lyon, Valsecia, Cesar Franck, Pancho Vladigerov, Ferrol, etc.

Morales give Master Classes all over the world in places such as the Mozarteum in Salzburg, Korea, Italy, Mexico, France, Belgium, China...

Many of his students have been prize winners in more than 40 national and International Piano Competitions.

In his two several tours in EEUU with National Symphony Orchestra from Spain and Mexico State Symphony Orchestra with Columbia Artists, has had the opportunity to play in the most important halls of North America, among them are Carnegie Hall, Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center , having great success with the critics and the public.

*... extraordinary interpretation and power **(WASHINGTON POST)***

*...Undoubtedly Morales is a pianist of great virtuosism, trust, efficiency but of big naturality and without big gestures **(CLASSICAL MUSIC REVIEW)***

Once again in 2010, the critical named him as "the hero" in the concert tour of Germany in halls such as "Beethovensaal" in Stuttgart, "BASF-Feierabendhaus" in Ludwigshafen with the Valencia Symphony Orchestra playing the Concert nr. 1 of F. Chopin.

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He worked as “teacher in residence” in the University of Music in San Juan - Puerto Rico, advising the department of piano.

He also runs successful courses in which he analyses and interprets the 32 Beethoven Sonatas.

In the Weill Recital Hall of the Carnegie Hall of New York ... *Impressively clean and nice structured Sonata Op. 101 of Beethoven ... His marvellous Petrouska made tremble the audience.* (**Harris Goldsmith, NEW YORK CONCERT REVIEW**)

More than 60 pianists from the entire world come to his International Masterclass and Piano Festival of Granada (Leonel Morales & Friends) which is celebrated on the month of July.

Morales ability and virtuosity have frequently been shown during his concert performances with the Spanish National Orchestra, Spanish Radio and TV Orchestra, Royal Philharmonic of Galicia, Symphonic Orchestra of Bilbao, Philharmonic Orchestra of Malaga, Symphonic Orchestra of Tenerife, Symphonic Orchestra of Murcia, the Symphonic Orchestra of Hamburg, Portuguese, Frankfurt-Oder Orchestra, RAI National, Orchestra of Turin, Adana, Istanbul and Ankara Symphonic Orchestras of Turkey, Virtuosos Orchestra of Berlin Philharmonic, Philharmonic Warsaw Orchestra, Dresdner Philharmonie, Philharmonic Orchestra of Bergen, Symphonic Orchestra of Ljubljana...where he has shown us his capacity as concertist, conducted by major Spanish and International known conductors as: Frühbeck de Burgos, Cristobal Halffter Víctor Pablo Pérez, Juanjo Mena, Pedro Halffter, Miguel Ángel Gómez Martínez Manuel Galduf, Enrique García Asensio, Antoni Ros Marbá, Max Valdés, Tania León, Michael Jurowski, George Pehlivanian, Alexander Rahbari, Marc Tardue, Jacques Mercier, Adrian Leaper, George Pehlivaniam, Alexander Rahbari, Jacques Mercier, Adrian Leaper, Ovidiu Balan, Franz Krager, John Bae, Emin Güven Yaslıçam, Jiri Malat, Enrique Bátiz, Marzio Conti, Yaron Traub , Pavel Baleff, Joel Revzen, En Schao, Antoni Witt , Mariusz Smolij