

Mauricio Sotelo

Composer/Conductor

A triumphant première (...) [Sotelo] has listened thoroughly to Lorca's language, opened its vast acoustic spaces and equipped it with an impressive constellation of different timbres.

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Spanish composer Mauricio Sotelo (b. 1961) studied composition with Francis Burt at the Vienna University of Music, where he was unanimously awarded the Prize of Honour for graduate studies in 1987. In Vienna he also studied electroacoustic music with Dieter Kaufmann and conducting with Karl Österreicher. He subsequently honed his skills with composer Luigi Nono in Berlin and Venice.

Sotelo has been awarded numerous prizes including the Spanish National Music Prize (2001), the Queen Sofía International Prize for Composition (2000) and the Ernst von Siemens Composers' Prize (1997). His works have been selected for the UNESCO International Composers' Tribune in Paris and have been recognised by international institutions such as the Körber Foundation in Hamburg, the Alban Berg Foundation in Vienna and the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation in Germany.

Sotelo's music has been published by Universal Edition Vienna since 1991. His works have been premiered in internationally recognized series including the Salzburg Festivals, Wien Modern, Biennale di Venezia, Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, Munich Biennale, Granada International Festival, Berlin Philharmonic and Konzerthaus, Bonn Beethovenhaus, Köln Philharmonie, Vienna Musikverein and Vienna Konzerthaus, the Netherlands Opera, Suntory Hall in Tokyo, Madrid's Teatro Real and the Gran Teatre del Liceu in Barcelona.

In February 2015 the Teatro Real premiered his opera *El Público* [The Audience] to great international critical acclaim. Based on the play by Federico García Lorca, this was Gerard Mortier's last commission for the house. *El Público* was released on DVD by Bel Air Media in 2016. Other recent commissions include a new piece for piano ordered by the Busoni Piano Competition on occasion of their 60th edition, inspired by his conversations on Liszt with the pianist Alfred Brendel and *Red Inner Light Sculpture*, which had its world premiere in June 2016 by violinist Patricia Kopatchinskaja and the St Paul Chamber Orchestra.

The Cuarteto Casals performed Sotelo's latest work for string quartet *Quasals vB-131* during their 20th-anniversary tour in Barcelona, Bucharest, Bochum, Berlin and London's Wigmore Hall. In February 2018 the Orquesta Nacional de España and Nicholas Hodges premiered Sotelo's new Piano Concerto conducted by David Afkham.

Mauricio Sotelo was Composer in Residence (2011/12) and Fellow (2012/13) at the Berlin Wissenschaftskolleg [Institute for Advanced Study]. He is a Composition professor at the Escola Superior de Música de Catalunya in Barcelona and has been invited as a composition lecturer by prestigious institutions in Austria, Germany, Italy, Japan, Spain and the USA. Sotelo is also a member of the High Council of Art Education for the Spanish Ministry for Education.

The music of Sotelo is strongly connected to the cultural heritage of Spain, especially flamenco and Spanish literature. Other inspirations include the ideas of the Italian philosopher Giordano Bruno (*De imaginum, signorum et idearum, De Magia*) and the works of renowned Irish painter Sean Scully (*Wall of light red, Wall of light black and Wall of light sky*).

In parallel to his activity as a composer, Sotelo is also developing a career as a conductor, leading ensembles such as Klangforum, musikFabrik, Concentus Vocalis, the Ensemble di Venezia and Avanti!. Soloists he has worked with include Salome Kammer, Marcus Weiss, Roberto Fabbriciani, Yukiko Sugawara, Enrique Morente, Juan Manuel Cañizares and, in particular, the internationally celebrated Moldavian violinist Patricia Kopatchinskaja. Highlights from recent seasons include conducting the Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra with the Aleph Guitar Quartet, whom preformed Sotelos guitar quartet.