



Dr. Juan Manuel ABRAS, PhD (born in Stockholm, Sweden)

Juan Manuel Abras (also written Jan Emanuel Abras), born in Stockholm (Sweden), is an international award-winning classical music composer, conductor, musicologist and historian who studied in Vienna, Germany, Italy, Poland, Spain and Buenos Aires. A student of Krzysztof Penderecki and Kurt Schwertsik, he also studied with Karlheinz Stockhausen, Helmut Lachenmann, Wolfgang Rihm, etc. A pupil of Leopold Hager, he also studied with Michael Gielen, Ervin Acél, Dominique Fanal, etc.

Awards and scholarships: TRINAC Prize and TRINAC Mention (EIMC-ISCM, 2017 and 2014), Grafimuse Prize (Brussels, 2011), 2nd Vienna Film Music Prize (Vienna, 2010), Sibelius Chamber Orchestra Bicentenary Mention (Buenos Aires, 2010), TRINAC Prize (EIMC-ISCM, 2008), Argentine Foundation Scholarship (Warsaw, 2006), National Fund for the Arts Scholarship (Buenos Aires, 2005), In Memoriam Erich Kleiber Scholarship (Berlin, 2004), Theodor Körner Prize (Vienna, 2003), 2nd Reintl Prize (Vienna, 2002), TRINAC and TRIMARG Mentions (EIMC-ISCM-CAMU-IMC-UNESCO, 2002), CSMMF Gold Medal Awards in Composition and Orchestral Conducting (Buenos Aires, 2000), etc.

Work Experience - Artistic: Composer of works performed in 20 countries at international leading festivals and venues by ensembles and orchestras (Ensemble Aleph of Paris, Tonkünstler Ensemble of Vienna, Kwartludium Ensemble of Warsaw, etc.): Gaudeamus Music Week (Holland), Warsaw Autumn International Festival of Contemporary Music (Poland), Festival MANCA (France), Time of Music (Finland), Piano City Milano (Italy), Ördögkatlan Festival (Hungary), Festival Grafimuse (Bulgaria), Manuel Enríquez International Forum of New Music (Mexico), Festival Internacional de Música Contemporánea Darwin Vargas (Chile), Salzburg Mozarteum Foundation (Austria), Bimhuis - Muziekgebouw aan 't IJ (Holland), Colon Theater in Buenos Aires (Argentina), Culture City Hall Dresden (Germany), St James's Church Piccadilly London (United Kingdom), Balassi Institute Brussels (Belgium), Columbia University in the City of New York (USA), University of Ottawa (Canada), Summart Arts Center (Turkey), Longoria Palace (Spain), etc. Commissioned and guest composer and composer-in-residence: Warsaw Autumn International Festival of Contemporary Music (2008), Ensemble Aleph of Paris - International Forum for Young Composers (2006, Culture 2000 Programme - European Union), Laboratory of Contemporary Music Festival (Warsaw, 2006), International Forum for Culture and Business (Dresden, 2003), etc. Discography with works included in 11 CDs published in Germany, Austria, France, United Kingdom, Poland and Argentina. Conductor and artistic director of several orchestras, pianist, orchestrator, arranger, copyist and musical engraver, judge of artistic competitions and concert organizer. Member of Austrian Composers' Society, Musimagen, FDC, SADAIC, etc.

Work Experience - Teaching and Scientific: Professor at the National University of Lanús and Professor at the Astor Piazzolla Higher Conservatory of Music of the City of Buenos Aires (musical analysis, musical stylistics, instrumental practice, techniques and chamber music of the 20th century). Guest Member (Researcher) at the Carlos Vega Institute for Musicological Research - Pontifical Catholic University of Argentina (transcription and analysis of Renaissance and Baroque musical manuscripts, musical ekphrasis, intertextuality and numinosity, new technologies and extended performance techniques): member of research teams, speaker and moderator. Author of journal articles and book chapters with papers presented at international congresses and forums (IRCAM of Paris, etc.). Member of the Spanish Society of Musicology, etc.

Education: Two Postgraduate Programmes in Composition and a Postgraduate Programme in Orchestral Conducting (MDW - University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna), Doctor (PhD) in Music-Composition (Pontifical Catholic University of Argentina), Doctor (PhD) in Musicology (Complutense University of Madrid and University of Valladolid), Master in Hispanic Music (University of Salamanca and University of Valladolid), Postgraduate Study in Composition (Academy of Music in Kraków), Licentiate in History and Bachelor in History (University del Salvador of Buenos Aires and studies at the University of Deusto), two Post-Degrees: Music Composer/Orchestra Conductor with Specialization in Symphonic and Chamber Music, two Degrees: Higher Technician in Music - Composition and Musical Arrangements/Orchestral Conducting (Manuel de Falla Higher Conservatory of Music), Professor Degree - Piano Specialty (Higher Municipal Conservatory of Music of San Sebastián and studies at Conservatorio di Musica Benedetto Marcello di Venezia and at Carlos López Buchardo National Conservatory of Music). Studies in violin, harpsichord, clarinet and percussion. Courses, seminars, workshops (IRCAM of Paris), internships (Berlin State Opera), etc.

"The breathless intensity of Abras" (Genuin Classics, Germany).

"Abras' music is at the same time visceral and of metaphysical flight" (Alejandro Drago, USA).

"In your works, Abras, there are, apart from the psychoanalysis, references to literature, religion, archaeology, etc. Variety is also found in your musical language" (Makis Solomos, France).

"I want to mention a pair of examples of interesting dramatic products. The fifth title was created by Abras, whose work «The song of Anna O.» took the listener to a world of rhythmically pulsating fantasy, similar to a haunted castle" (Wilhelm Kvist, Finland).

"In «Chacarera beat-boxera» Abras has united in a whole elements taken from ethnic music, ancient popular melodies and New Music, creating a dancing whirlwind somewhat trance-like, full of sunny joy and amusement" (Beata Boleslawska, Poland).

"Abras is one of the most prestigious resident musicians of the moment. Composer, conductor and researcher, his encyclopedic culture has allowed him to articulate a cosmopolitan horizon" (Alejandro Goldzycher, Argentina).

"«Suite argentina» is written in a very personal style, and shows mastery of the composer. It won an important award in Austria, and it showcases different types of dances, much in the way that Ginastera did with his ballet Estancia" (Christian Baldini, USA).