

Biography of Prof. Mario Diaz

University prof. Hon. Prof. Mario Antonio Diaz Varas

The Chilean tenor Mario Diaz started his musical career at an early age. He studied concert guitar for the first time as a young student at the Franz Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest and then continued his studies in opera singing at the Stockholm University of Arts with maestro Nicolai Gedda.

Among his teachers were Prof. Monica Pick-Hieronimi, Prof. Kerstin Meyer and Maestro Ubaldo Gardini. Working with Birgit Nilsson, Giuseppe Giacomini, Ingvar Wixell and Gösta Winberg also enhanced his singing development.

After he completed his studies at the Stockholm University of Arts, Mario Diaz had his first engagement at the Royal Dramatic Theatre, where he was able to demonstrate his acting talent under the direction of Ingmar Bergman. Then his international singing career started.

He was thus given the opportunity to work with well-known conductors such as Zubin Mehta, Carlo Franci, Bruno Rigacci, Sixten Ehrling and Siegfried Köhler. Prof. Diaz gained valuable experience by taking part in productions by directors such as August Everding or Folke Abinius.

Mario Diaz has a special, personal relationship to bel canto and verismo. His favourite roles, which brought him particular success include Rodolfo („La Bohème“), Don José („Carmen“), Canio/Pagliaccio („Pagliacci“), Luigi („Il Tabarro“), Cavaradossi („Tosca“), Moritz („Adriana Lecouvreur“), Don Carlo, Otello and Andrea Chénier.

In October 2009 Mario Diaz was appointed as professor for solo singing at the Mozarteum University Salzburg. He also served as International Affairs Officer, ASEA-Uninet and Eurasia Pacific Uninet Coordinator and Board member.

For several years Mario Diaz has been working regularly as an associate professor at the International Summer Academy of the Mozarteum Salzburg and has been conducting his own master class "Salisburgengis Opera et Oratorio Due Mondi" in the main building in Salzburg.

In addition to his teaching activities at the Mozarteum University Salzburg, Mario Diaz has been running the "CANTA" singing studio and has been passing on to the next generations his knowledge based on the Italian school with a special focus on bel canto and his experience on the big stages with renown maestros.