

## BIOGRAPHY

Juan Manuel Parra is a young Spanish conductor, pianist and musicologist. Born in Málaga (1984), he is one of the most promising conductors on the current music scene in Spain.

Juan Manuel completed his piano studies in Málaga (Spain) under Paula Coronas and José Felipe Díaz. Among the fundamental influences on his musical education have been the Belgian pianist Stephani Cambier and the Ukrainian Anatoli Pouvzon, with whom he studied the classical and romantic repertoire. This enthusiastic young conductor has further expanded his academic training under major figures such as Vladimir Krpan, Ángel Sanzo, Alexander Kandelaki, Claudio Martínez-Menher and Luca Chiantore among others.



Parra studied conducting under Francisco Martín Jaime (Málaga) and Jordi Mora (Barcelona), whilst his knowledge of the opera repertoire was perfected under Miquel Ortega (Barcelona).

Juan Manuel has attended master classes and received guidance from Antonio Ros Marbà (Barcelona), Gianluigi Gelmetti (Siena) and Bruno Aprea (Rome).

From January 2009 to June 2010, Parra taught music at the Barenboim-Said Foundation in Seville (Spain) under the auspices of the EMI project.

Juan Manuel Parra was répétiteur for the Opera Chorus of Málaga during the 2008, 2009 and 2010 seasons for productions including Puccini's *Messa di Gloria*, Leos Janacek's *Jenůfa*, Bizet's *Carmen* and Prokofiev's *Ivan the Terrible*.

In 2014, Parra was selected to study a postgraduate master class in the Escola Superior de Musica de Catalunya (ESMUC, Barcelona).

Juan Manuel was assistant conductor under Abel Korzeniowski for the Cordoba Symphonic Orchestra at the X International Cordoba Film Music Festival, where he conducted the closing concert of this prestigious festival in July 2014.

In February 2015, Parra made his debut in Italy with Verdi's *La Traviata* in Rome's Teatro Italia with students from Santa Cecilia Conservatory.

Throughout his career to date, Juan Manuel Parra has conducted performances and rehearsals with the following orchestras: the National Philharmonic Orchestra of Moldova, the Opera Studio Orchestra, the CSMM Symphony Orchestra, the Vallès Symphony Orchestra, the

Cordoba Symphony Orchestra and the Orchestra della Fondazione Bulgaria Classic from Accademia Chigiana (Siena) among others.

His research in musicology has not only enabled him to undertake different activities in other areas of music such as radio programmes and musical criticism, but also to share his knowledge at numerous conferences and courses.

Juan Manuel Parra is currently conductor of the Acanthus String Orchestra.

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