

A really true musician...He has virtuosity, expressiveness, clarity, and above all a big sound range. It was amazing to realize the amount of sound environments he can create with his peculiar way of playing.

Maria João Pires



ÁLVARO CORTEZ

Italy, Spain & Portugal

After being awarded in the major competitions such as "Jeju International Competition" in South Korea and "Universal Marimba Competition" in Belgium, Alvaro Cortez is now Artist in Residence with at Antwerp Camerata during the next two seasons.

Besides that, he also have his debut with the Philharmonique de Liege, Belgium; Peru National Orchestra, Peru; Orquestra do Norte, Portugal; Orquestra das Beiras, Portugal; Chile National Orchestra, Chile; Costa Rica National Orchestra, Costa Rica and Brussels Philharmonic, Belgium.

He Will also be present in "Theatro Circo" and "Casa das Artes" halls in Portugal; "Bozar", "Flagey", and "Queen Elizabeth Hall" in Belgium, "Vatroslav Lisinsky Concert Hall" in Croatia and "Gran Teatre del Liceu" in Barcelona. Collaborations with Isabel Romero, Martin Grubinger.

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Solo percussion with orchestra

“Sieidi Concerto” – Khalevi Aho
“Frozen in Time” - Avner Dorman
“Eternal Rhythm” – Avner Dorman
“Percussion Concerto” – Jennifer Higdon
“Percussion Concerto” – Carlos Dias (new commission)
“Speaking Drums” – Peter Eötvös
“Percussion Concerto – Incantations” - Einojuhani Rautavaara
“Focs d'artifici” – Ferran Cruixent

Solo Marimba with orchestra

“Double Concerto for two Marimbas and orchestra” – Daniel Davies (new commission)
“Marimba Concerto” – E. Koppel
“Marimba Concerto” - E. Sejournee
“Marimba Concerto” – R. Loeson (new commission)
“Prism Rapsody” – Keiko Abe
“Double Concerto Universal” – Ludwig Albert
“Concerto For Marimba” - Roumen Boyadjiev
“Marimba Concerto” – Jorge Sarmientos
“2 Concerto” – Sergei Rachmaninoff (version for two marimbas)

chamber groups/string orchestras

“Double Concerto for two Marimbas and orchestra” – Daniel Davies (new commission)
“Marimba Concerto” – E. Koppel
“Marimba Concerto” - E. Sejournee
“Marimba Concerto” – R. Loeson (new commission)

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ÁLVARO CORTEZ

Applauded for his broad musical range and innate ability to draw out new sounds, Álvaro Cortez is a pioneer in the global percussion stage. Combining meticulous technique, musical intelligence and a sense of lightness, his unique performances are imbued with energy, passion and power that resonate with all types of audiences.

“Free Interpretation, Superb Originality, Special Playing. All the melodic and rhythmic aspects came out in a way that not even I thought could be possible.”

Aver Dorman on Álvaro Cortez's recording of *Frozen in time* percussion concerto.

Described by world-renowned pianist Maria João Pires as ***“Irreverent, Brilliant, Ambitious”***, Álvaro Cortez has collected several awards at global percussion competitions including *Concorso Musicale Europeo* in Italy, *Universal Marimba Competition* in Belgium, and *Jeju International Music Competition* in South Korea.

As solo percussionist Álvaro regularly performs at festivals throughout Europe, Asia and South America such as: Festival Percursos da Música, Braga Music Festival, Antwerp Music Festival, Lisbon Music Festival, Korean Percussion Festival, Yamaha Festival, Honda Music Festival, Desingel Music Festival, Klara Music Festival, Patagonia Percussion Festival and Belgium Music Days.

Álvaro Cortez & Isabel Romero will be present at Sintra International Music Festival, Teatro Circo, Casa das Artes, Teatro Viriato, Centro Cultural Olga Cadaval, Casa da Música, Centro Cultural Vila Flor, Teatro Diogo Bernardes, Teatro Sá de Miranda, Teatro Aveirense, Teatro Figueira da Foz, Altice Fórum Braga, and Teatro Municipal da Guarda.

New chamber music Collaborations with Pavel Gomziakov, Maria Joao Pires, Julien Brocal are scheduled in Spain, Portugal, Belgium.

Regarding his solo activity with orchestra he's frequently invited to play with the Antwerp Camerata, Orquestra do Norte, Orquestra Classica do Centro, Jeju Philharmonic Orchestra, Braga Gulbenkian Orchestra, Valles Symphony Orchestra, Porto Symphony Orchestra, National Orchestra of Peru, Medellin Orchestra and Brussels Philharmonic.

In addition, he worked with conductors including Jacomo Bairos, Garcia Barrios, Nicholas Kok, Christian Lindberg, Edo de Waart, Paavo Jarvi, Esa-Pekka Salonen, David Navarro Turres, Pedro Neves, Jaume Santoja, Kirill Karabits and Vassily Petrenko

Next season highlight brings his residency at Antwerp Camerata, where will be premiered two new Percussion Concertos, his debut at (Palau de la Musica Catalana in Barcelona), his return with Brussels Philharmonic and his (recording with NAXOS).

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Outside of performing, Álvaro has been invited to be assistant professor at Aveiro university in Portugal and to be Yamaha Artist.

Álvaro Cortez started his musical training in 2008 aged 14 at Calouste Gulbenkian Music Conservatory in Braga, Portugal. Despite his late start, his mentors Helena Viera and Hugo Pereira immediately noticed his potential. And at 16, only two years after his first lesson, he played Rimsky-Korsakov's *Flight of the Bumblebee* with the Conservatory Orchestra. The following year, aged 17, he performed Emmanuel Séjourné's *Marimba Concerto* with Orquestra do Norte, his first professional solo.

His mentors are Nuno Aroso (Portugal), Ludwig Albert (Belgium), Manolo Martinez (Spain) and Jean Geoffroy (France).

Awards:

- **6th prize – Universal Marimba Competition – Belgium 2017**
- **Sabian prize – Universal Marimba Competition – Belgium 2017**
- **Talent prize – Universal Marimba Competition – Belgium 2017**
- **Talent prize – Honda Musical Competition – Japan 2018**
- **2nd prize – International Marimba Competition (PAS) – Greece 2014**
- **3th prize – Prémio Jovens Músicos – Portugal 2013**
- **1st prize – Concorso Musicale europeo – Italy 2014**
- **3th prize – Jeju International Competition – South Korea 2016**
- **European Soloist (CEJ) – European Youth Capital 2012**

[“Frozen in Time”](#) - Avner Dorman

*I found Álvaro Cortez's video of my percussion concerto “Frozen in Time” on YouTube by coincidence and was really struck by the musicality of the interpretation of the performance. In fact, I was so impressed with it that I shared it on my facebook page! It is a very original interpretation of the piece, both by the percussionist and the pianist - an interpretation I like very much. It is very musical and expressive. The rhythmic aspects of the piece come to life in unique way with a lot of sensitivity. **Avner Dorman***

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