

Marco A. Garcia De Paz (ES)

Graduated in violin and chamber music from the Oviedo Conservatory, at present he holds a tenure position at the Conservatory of Gijón. As a violinist, he regularly collaborates with several Asturian professional symphonic orchestras. He holds several distinctions for his work, including the *Ángel Muñiz Toca* award from Oviedo's Town Council and first prize at the *Certamen Jóvenes Solistas del Principado de Asturias*.

Apart from his career as a violinist, he has sound training in choral music, too. His first steps were taken at Covadonga's Choir School in Asturias and at the Cathedral's Schola Cantorum in León. He attended courses organised by the Basque Choral Association under J. Duijck, where he eventually got his degree as a conductor. He is currently completing his studies at the Musikene Higher School of Music (Basque Country) with G. Baltés.

Marco Antonio conducts El León de Oro choir since its foundation in 1996, touring Europe, Morocco and the USA. With this choir he has got a number of outstanding awards becoming absolute champion choir on two occasions at the Spanish National Choral Contest in 2003 and 2006. He received the prize for best conductor at the 28th International May Choir Competition (Varna, Bulgaria, 2005) and at the 9th International Choir Contest of Flanders-Maasmechelen (Belgium, 2007). He has been invited as a guest conductor by several choirs, and commissioned to carry out workshops and clinic sessions on choral music.

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