

The Spanish composer Mauricio Sotelo (1961) studied composition with Francis Burt at the Vienna University of Music, where the official jury unanimously awarded him the Prize of Honor for graduate studies in 1987. He also studied electroacoustic music with Dieter Kaufmann and conducting with Karl Österreicher in Vienna. Subsequently, he honed his skills with the master composer Luigi Nono in Berlin and Venice.

Sotelo has been awarded the Spanish National Music Prize (2001), the Queen Sofia International Prize for Composition (2000), and the Förder Preis of the Foundation Ernst von Siemens (1997), among others, as well as a number of similar prizes in Hamburg (1996), Köln (1992) and Vienna (1989), and the Composition Prizes of SGAE (1989) and the National Youth Orchestra of Spain (1987). His works have been selected for the UNESCO International Composers' Tribune in Paris and have been recognised by international institutions such as the Körber Foundation in Hamburg (1994), the Alban Berg Foundation in Vienna (1987-89) and the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation in Germany (1985-87).

His works are being published since 1991 by the Viennese publisher Universal Edition, and have been premiered in the most prestigious international fora: Salzburg Festivals, Wien Modern Festival, Biennale di Venezia, Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, Munich Biennale, Granada International Festival, Berlin Philharmonic and Konzerthaus, Bonn's Beethovenhaus, Köln Philharmonic, Vienna Musikverein and Vienna Konzerthaus, the Netherlands National Opera, and Antwerpen's de Singel, Suntory Hall in Tokyo, as well as Paris, New York, Madrid's Teatro Real, Barcelona's Gran Teatre del Liceu, Sevilla's Real Maestranza, etc.

As conductor Sotelo has directed in Vienna, Munich, Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Antwerpen, Venice or Madrid, ensembles including the Klangforum Vienna, the Concentus Vocalis, the Ensemble di Venezia, the musikFabrik, the Cordoba Orchestra (with soloists such as Salome Kammer, Marcus Weiss, Roberto Fabbriciani, Yukiko Sugawara, Enrique Morente or Juan Manuel Cañizares).

The composer was invited as lecturer for musical composition by higher Institutions in Austria, Germany, Italy, Japan, Spain and the USA. Mauricio Sotelo is a member of the "High Council of Art Education" of the Spanish Ministry of Education.

Mauricio Sotelo



© photo by Amancio Guillén

Mauricio Sotelo's musical poetics, "an internal architecture formed by the most sophisticated sound organisms, a result of a subtle compositional process" (Susanne Stähr, Munich 1999) has frequently stepped into the vibrant universe of the *Cante Hondo*, always from the perspective of what the author refers to as "microqualities of sound". Sotelo raises the oral tradition status of *flamenco* to a level of "magical craft of memory" in the most pure Giordano Brunean sense, shaping it further into an uncanny spectral architecture of memory.

Along this line, he has worked with *cantaors* such as Enrique Morente, Carmen Linares, Esperanza Fernández, Marina Heredia, Eva Durán, Rafael de Utrera, Pitingo, Arcángel and Miguel Poveda, as well as with musicians like the Indian percussion master Trilok Gurtu or the great flamenco guitarist Cañizares.

The composer's unmistakable, powerful musical language is now well known as 'spectral flamenco'.

The philosopher Emilio Lledó has written, for the notes included with Mauricio Sotelo's CD *In Memoriam José Ángel Valente* a telling text, the last sentences of which read: *Mauricio Sotelo's music is one of the most intense illuminations that the semantics of words can possibly find in the air of sounds. Mauricio was mentioned to me by a genius composer of our time, Luigi Nono, with whom I stayed at the Institut for Advanced Study in Berlin. It was Luigi who asked me if I knew a young Spanish composer who at the time, I grant, was unknown to me. Since then, the admiration I felt for Nono has ever remained bound to Mauricio and his works. The work of two late friends of mine [Luigi Nono and José Ángel Valente] is enhanced, lasts, shines and endures in the prodigious sound universe of Mauricio Sotelo.*