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François López-Ferrer, conductor

François López-Ferrer is the assistant conductor of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra and May Festival. He provides artistic support to CSO Music Director Louis Langrée and May Festival Principal Conductor Juanjo Mena, as well as conducting the CSO Young Peoples Concerts. He recently came to international attention after a critically-acclaimed debut with the Verbier Festival Orchestra, jumping in for Iván Fischer and conducting alongside Sir Simon Rattle and Gabor Takacs-Nagy in 2018. The Spanish-American conductor is also Principal Conductor of the Ballet Nacional Chileno and previously served as Associate Conductor of the Orquesta Sinfónica Nacional de Chile.

Internationally in demand as a guest conductor, highlights of López-Ferrer's 20/21 seasons include debuts with the Orquesta Nacional de España, Orquesta Sinfónica de Galicia, Orquesta de Extremadura, Orquesta Filarmónica de Buenos Aires at the prestigious Teatro Colón, Montenegro Symphony Orchestra, Orquesta Sinfónica Verum, and the Orquesta Sinfónica do Paraná, as well numerous re-engagements with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, Orquesta de la Radio Televisión Española, Orquesta Sinfónica de Castilla y León, Orquesta Sinfónica Nacional de Chile (OSNCH), and the Ballet Nacional Chileno. Recent notable engagements include debuts with the Verbier Festival Orchestra, Verbier Festival Chamber Orchestra, Orquesta de la Radio Televisión Española, Orquesta Joven de la Sinfónica de Galicia, Orquesta de Cámara de Chile, Orquesta Clásica de la Universidad de Santiago de Chile, Orquesta Sinfónica Provincial de Rosario, and the Orquesta Sinfónica UNCuyo. As the winner of the inaugural 2015 Neeme Järvi Prize awarded through the MenuhinGstaad Festival, he conducted the Musikkollegium Winterthur in February 2017. This was followed by debut engagements with the Berner Symphonieorchester and the Orquesta Sinfónica de Castilla y León.

As part of the prestigious Verbier Festival, López-Ferrer was an apprentice conductor in its inaugural 2018 Conductor Mentorship Program where he assisted and was mentored by conductors Valery Gergiev, Sir Simon Rattle, Gianandrea Noseda, Christoph Eschenbach, Mikhail Pletnev, Alain Altinoglu, Gábor Takács-Nagy, and Pablo Heras-Casado.

López-Ferrer has participated in masterclasses with Maestri Paavo and Neeme Järvi, Gennady Rozhdestvensky, Bernard Haitink, David Zinman, Leonid Grin, and Mario Venzago, among others. He was previously a member of the prestigious Deutsche Dirigentenforum of the German Music Council and holds a master's degree in Orchestral Conducting from the Haute École de Musique de Lausanne and a Bachelor of Music in Composition from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music.