



ORQUESTA SINFONICA DEL ESTADO DE MEXICO

On August 27, 1971, under the initiative of Enrique Bádiz Campbell and the government of the State of Mexico, the Symphonic Orchestra (OSEM) of this state was founded, with the purpose of spreading music as an art as a means of creating union and identity among the citizens of the state. Located in the city of Toluca, and having as its home hall the Sala Felipe Villanueva, the Orchestra has been characterized since the start by its endeavor to carry its message to all the municipalities of the state, to all corners of the country. It was also the first institution of its kind to visit the 16 political divisions of the Federal District. Soon it was giving concerts in the main settings of the capital of the country, from the Bellas Artes theater and National Auditorium to the Sala Nezahualcoyotls, as well as other halls in the outlying areas such as the San Benito Abad theater of the Centro Escolar del Lago in the municipality of Cuautitlán, which, in spite of its location, 40 kilometers from the center of the city, seems to be destined to become the favorite hall for the metropolitan public, not only from the area, because of its admirable acoustic conditions and the comfort of the hall.

In 2000 the OSEM performed at the Fourth Festival of the Historic Center of Campeche and the following year the Orchestral Festival organized by the Nacional Council for Culture and Arts. For 6 years the orchestra has carried out a Festival in Valle de Bravo, in the state of Mexico, showing through it how excellent art can be when it is the result of a joint effort of the living forces of the country. In 1975 the OSEM made its first tour to the United States, returning continuously for three years starting in 1979, playing in the most important cities. In 2002 it toured for the first time in Germany and returning to Europe in 2003 and 2005.

Between 1983 and 1985 the orchestra was under the direction of maestro Manuel Suarez, and later, until 1989 Eduardo Diaz Muñoz.

The promotion of new musical talents, which has been an objective of the orchestra since its beginnings, has given fruits not only in the many talents developed within it, from which forty excellent soloist have evolved, but also in the discovery and encouragement of young performers, through the

“International Henryk Szeryng Violin Contest” begun in 1992, which, in the four times it has been held, has enjoyed the presence of the most notable aspiring violinist of the world and has rewarded a dozen of them.

Through the thirty three years of its existence, the Symphonic Orchestra of the State of Mexico has hosted innumerable guest directors and soloist chosen from the most outstanding in the world. It would take too long to mention them all.

The recordings of the OSEM cover the broadest range of any Mexican orchestra. Within them special mention can be made of the recordings dedicated to the works of Verdi and Rossini, Mexican and Spanish music, with the works of Isaac Albéniz, Joaquin Rodrigo, Manuel M. Ponce and Carlos Chavez standing out, but most of all the integral series of the symphonies of Beethoven, Schumann, Brahms and Tchaikovsky.

Both, the orchestra and its artistic director have repeatedly received the Annual Award from the Mexican Union of Chroniclers of Theater and Music given for its 25th anniversary, by the First Festival of Classical Music in 1996 with the participation of other orchestras in the country, as well as for its promotion of musical activities in Mexico.

A significant accomplishment of the OSEM helped by the Trust Foundation has been the institutionalization the Festival Valle de Bravo year after year, since 1997. Concerts of this Festival take place in this lovely town in Valle de Bravo as well as in the theater of Bellas Artes in Mexico City, the most important national setting. In 2003 the OSEM realized a European Tour performing in Spain, Poland, Germany and France. In 2005 this orchestra traveled to Paris, France and offered two concerts, one in Sala Gaveau and the other in Theater Mogador with an extraordinary success. In September 2005 the OSEM traveled to the Popular Republic of China to offer six concerts in the most important cities of this country including Changsha, Shanghai, Shenyang, Harbin and Beijing

As the third millennium begins, the Symphonic Orchestra of the State of Mexico and its Director, Enrique Batiz, enjoy well deserved fame as the most important musical group of the country, and the institution holds high the flag of quality, founded in love of its labor and the ceaseless search for excellence.