

Enrico Chapela, looking for energetic and more interesting music

Mexican composer Enrico Chapela doesn't worry about those who think he's "profaning the holy orchestra" by incorporating metal and rock elements into his music. His only goal is "to create the most energetic and interesting music possible," he explains in an interview with La Razón. A prime example of this vision is his piece "Rotor," which was commissioned by the Minería Symphony Orchestra and recently recorded with the Portland Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Eckart Preu. The work is inspired by the heavy metal rock band Chapela had in his youth and takes up the structure of a song in that style. "It's a very energetic, very rock-like piece, based on the heavy metal rock band I had when I was young, like Metallica and Sepultura," Chapela shared about the work that will be performed on June 15 and 16 by the Mexico City Philharmonic Orchestra.

The version that will be performed is the one he recorded with the Portland Symphony Orchestra, after making some adjustments to the original score. "In the middle section, it rests from that agitation and becomes more contemporary, more concert hall-like and less like the Tianguis del Chopo," Chapela commented. The composer has distinguished himself by not being afraid to incorporate styles that are considered far removed from orchestral music. "When I fell in love with music and decided to become a musician, it was in high school, at the same time that I was studying in the guitar workshop at the Colegio Madrid," he recalled.

Chapela also includes influences from Arabic music in "Rotor," which recall the music he played with a band. He believes that there are still those who resist contemporary orchestral music. "Instrumentalists are suspicious of contemporary music; it's easier to play Beethoven or Mahler," he commented. The program presented by the Mexico City Philharmonic Orchestra this weekend also includes Mozart's "Violin Concerto No. 1," Georgina Derbez's "De las tinieblas la luz," and Beethoven's "Symphony No. 2, Op. 36."

The concert will be conducted by Diego Naser.

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