

## **Gabriel Betancur, French Horn (Colombia)**

He won the Third Prize at the International Brass Competition in Timisoara (Romania) in 2011. That same year he became a scholar of the prestigious Huygens Scholarship Programme for international students with excellent level, after a selection process carried out by the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science that included all careers and universities in Holland.

After obtaining his Master's degree in French Horn from the University of Antioquia in Medellín (2009), he won the scholarship "Young Talented Artists" (ICETEX, 2009) and the scholarship of Colfuturo (2010) for studies abroad. He moved to the Conservatory of Maastricht (Holland), where he studied with the prestigious teacher Will Sanders, graduating as a horn player "cum laude" by unanimous decision of the jury (2010) and culminating his masters "cum laude" in 2012. He has taken master classes with renowned horn players such as Herman Baumann, Erich Penzel, Marcel Sobol, Alessio Allegrini and Marie Luise Neunecker.

He has performed as soloist for Radio 4 of Holland and the European Cultural Channel "Brava", as well as with the Orchestra of the Timisoara Opera, Conservatorium Maastricht Orchestra, Symphony Orchestra of Venezuela, Orchestra of the Teatro del Maule, Symphony Orchestra of Rancagua, Philharmonic Orchestra of Cali, Symphony Orchestra of the University EAFIT, Philharmonic Orchestra of Medellín and Symphonic Band of Pereira. He has also participated in the XI International Music Festival in Tarragona (Spain), III Seminar with the Wood Quintet of the Berlin Philharmonic, the International Festival of French Horn of Manizales (Colombia) and the International Festival CORNOMBIA. He was the founder of the Orquesta Sinfónica Infantil y Juvenil de Medellín, in which he performed as the first horn, making several national and international tours.

For three consecutive years he was Principal Horn in the Schlossfestspiele Zwingenberg Orchestra (Germany), and has held the same position in the Tiroler Symphonieorchester (Austria), Symfonieorkest Vlaanderen (Belgium), Nederlands Symfonieorkest (Holland), Young Generation Orchestra (Germany), Junges Klangforum Mitte Europa, Dutch horn ensemble "Flexible Horn", Philharmonic Orchestra of Medellín, Symphonic Orchestra of Colombia, Maderato Wind Quintet, Orchestra of Latin American Youth, Orchestra of the State of Zulia, Orchestra of the Bolivarian Countries CAF, Symphonic Orchestra Eafit and Symphonic Band of the University of Antioquia.

He has played under the baton of maestros such as Claudio Abbado, Andrés Orozco Estrada, Gustavo Dudamel, Bram Sniekers, Karsten Husch, Klaus Eisenmann, Jan Hofmann, Christoph Altstaedt, Francesco Belli, Francisco Rettig and Rodolfo Saglimbeni.

In 2001, the Mayor's Office of Medellín recognized him as "Ambassador of Peace for Young Talents". He currently serves as Principal Horn of the Medellín Philharmonic Orchestra and is a professor at EAFIT University and the Pontifical Bolivarian University of Bogota, as well as a trainer and professor of Iberacademy - Academia Filarmónica Iberoamericana (Iberacademy - Ibero-American Philharmonic Academy).