

# **Vivian Conejero, D. A.**

*Conductor*

**Dr. Vivian Conejero**  
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## **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

Dr. Vivian Conejero has accepted an invitation to conduct at the 2009 Festival de La Habana (Cuba). Currently, she enjoys an increasingly active career as guest conductor in Europe, where her concerts consistently earn her standing ovations from large audiences. She has led many orchestras, such as the Moscow Symphony Orchestra, the Saint Petersburg Academic State Symphony Orchestra, the Karelia Philharmonic, and the Sochi Symphony Orchestra (Russia); the Donetsk State Philharmonic, the Academic Philharmonic of Kharkiv, and the Ukrainian State Academic Symphony Orchestra (Ukraine); the Symphony Orchestra of Moldova National Philharmonic (Republic of Moldova); the Oltenia State Philharmonic and the State Philharmonic Orchestras of Brasov, Oradea, and Ploiesti (Romania); the Plovdiv State Philharmonic, the Sliven Symphony Orchestra, and the Varna State Philharmonic (Bulgaria); the Hradec Kralove Philharmonic, the West Bohemian Symphony Orchestra, the Bohuslav Martinu Philharmonic, and the Kromeriz Conservatory Orchestra (Czech Republic); and, the Filharmonia Sudecka (Poland).

In Canada, Dr. Conejero conducted at the Scotia Festival of Music (Halifax, Nova Scotia) and for three summers at the Northern Music Festival in Ontario.

In addition to guest conducting the Spokane Symphony Orchestra (WA) at the Festival at Sandpoint, she has worked with the Knoxville Symphony (TN), the Vanderbilt University Orchestra (Nashville, TN), the University of Michigan Orchestra (Ann Arbor, MI), University of Chicago Orchestra (ILL), West Virginia University Orchestra, and various other orchestras in the United States. Early in her career, Dr. Conejero was the founder and Music Director of the Women's Chamber Orchestra of New York.

Conejero's repertory extends from the Baroque period to the 20th century; however, she displays a genuine affinity for the music of the Romantic era. In fact, the topic of her doctoral dissertation at New York University was Tchaikovsky's Manfred Symphony, Op. 58--which she has repeatedly conducted in concert in Bulgaria, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Russia, and Ukraine.

Born in Havana, Cuba, Vivian Conejero has participated in numerous conductor-training programs and masterclasses around the world. The list of her most distinguished teachers in America includes: Gunther Schuller, Gustav Meier, Daniel Lewis, Kenneth Kiesler, Harold Farberman, Michael Charry, Victoria Bond, Kenneth Schermerhorn, Larry Newland, and Paul Vermet. In Europe, she has been privileged to learn from such gifted conductors as Zoltan Bilek, Leonid Korchmar, Ilya Musin, Vassily Sinaisky, Georg Tintner, Kirk Trevor, Frantisek Vajnar, and Otakar Trhlik.

Throughout her academic career, Conejero has been a frequent recipient of scholarships and awards. She holds three degrees in music: a Doctor of Arts in Music Performance (Conducting) from New York University and two degrees from the City University of New York, an M.A. in Musicology from Queens College and a B.A. with a major in Music Theory from Hunter College. She has taken conducting courses through the Extension Divisions of both the Juilliard School of Music and the Mannes College of Music, where her instructors were Vincent La Selva and Amy Kaiser, respectively. Since 1997, Dr. Conejero attends the New York Philharmonic's rehearsals and score-analysis seminars for conductors.

Dr. Conejero has also been noted by the media. She has been featured in the American, Canadian, and European presses as well as on radio and television. Recently, clips from one of her concert were aired on prime-time T.V. news in Kharkov, Ukraine. Her 2002 concert with the Symphony Orchestra of Moldova's National Philharmonic was broadcast on national radio.

Vivian Conejero is to be featured in two upcoming international publications: *Women on the Podium: The Experiences of Professional Women Orchestral Conductors* by Dr. Brydie-Leigh Bartleet and the *Diccionario de las Mujeres Cubanas en la Música*, Alicia Valdés, editor.

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## SELECTED QUOTES

*"...elicited spirited playing from the Spokane orchestra."*

THE SPOKESMAN REVIEW, Spokane, WA, U.S.A.

*"...her podium chemistry is irresistible; her energy and temperament clearly elicited the Spokane Symphony's most exciting results. The audience went wild with enthusiasm in their applause."*

Stefan Kozinski, Associate Conductor  
Spokane Symphony Orchestra, U.S.A.

*"...immer hat sie eine starke Dirigentenerudition bewiesen."*

Radomil Eliska, Music Director  
West Bohemian Symphony Orchestra, Czech Republic

*"I can recommend this remarkable young artist."*

Georg Tintner, Conductor Laureate  
Symphony Nova Scotia, CANADA

*"She conveys in her conducting not only the technical aspects necessary for an orchestra to perform with precision and correctness, but also the music's emotional content and meaning."*

Thomas Conlin, Music Director  
West Virginia Symphony Orchestra, U.S.A.

*"As an interpreter, Vivian Conejero is sensitive to the overall shape and direction of the musical line and phrase as well as to balances, tempo markings and technically challenging sections....I was always impressed by her musical insights and her commanding podium presence."*

Dr. Victoria Bond  
Conductor and Composer

*"...a strong personality always shows vitality and sensitivity in her approach to the music I was impressed by her ability to express her profound emotions and feelings in her conducting."*

Tsung Yeh, Music Director  
South Bend Symphony Orchestra, IN, U.S.A.

*"...an uncommon talent. The fire and passion she exhibits (in controlled ways) on the podium is inspiring to behold. The musicians of the orchestra respond to her quick wit and commanding presence. Perhaps the greatest compliment I can pay her is to say that she does not beat time, she conducts the music."*

John C. Whitney, Music Director  
University of Central Florida Orchestra, U.S.A.

*"The [orchestral] accompaniment was quite sensitive and contributed significantly to the mood."*

THE NUGGET  
North Bay, Ontario, CANADA

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### **SELECTED QUOTES**

(Continued)

*"Her main strength is her intense musical drive "*

Nurhan Arman, Music Director  
Northern Music Festival, Ontario, CANADA

*"I was very moved by her musicality. She is a strong force on the podium, with a deep passion for music that really inspires the musicians who work with her."*

Dr. Antonia J. Wilson, Music Director  
Jefferson Symphony, CO, U.S.A.

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## REPERTORY LIST

**A. Arensky,**

*Variations on a Theme by Tchaikovsky*

**J.S. Bach,**

*Brandenburg Concerti Nos. 2 & 4; Orchestral Suite No.2*

**S. Barber,**

*Adagio for Strings*

**B. Bartok,**

*Divertimento for Strings*

**L. van Beethoven,**

Overtures: *Coriolan, Egmont, Leonore No. 3, Prometheus*;  
Symphonies Nos. 1, 3, 5, 7, 8

**B. Berlioz,**

*Le Corsaire Overture; Symphonie Fantastique*

**G. Bizet,**

*Symphony No.1 in C Major*

**A. Borodin,**

*Symphony No.2 in B Minor*

**J. Brahms,**

Symphonies Nos. 1-4

**B. Britten,**

*Simple Symphony*

**F. Chopin,**

*Piano Concerto No. 1 in E Minor, Op. 11*

**A. Copland,**

*Appalachian Spring Suite; Three Latin American Sketches*

**C. Debussy,**

*La Mer; Prélude à l'Après-Midi d'un Faune*

**A. Dvorak,**

*Othello Overture, Op. 93; Serenade for Strings, Op. 22*;  
*Serenade for Winds, Cello, and Bass, Op. 44; Symphony No. 8*  
*in G Major, Op. 88*

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## REPERTORY LIST

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**E. Elgar,**

*Serenade for Strings in E Minor, Op. 20*

**G. Faure,**

*Nocturne for Strings, Op. 57*

**R. Fleming,**

*"You Name It" Suite*

**E. Grieg,**

*Piano Concerto in A Minor; Holberg Suite for Strings; Peer Gynt: Suites Nos. 1 & 2; Two Elegiac Melodies, Op. 34*

**F. Liszt,**

*Les Preludes*

**G.F. Handel,**

*Concerto Grosso, Op. 6, No. 7*

**F.J. Haydn,**

*Horn Concerto No.2; Symphonies Nos. 28, 42, 44, 45, 49, 55, 103, & 104*

**J.B. de Lully,**

*Six Pieces for Strings*

**G. Mahler,**

*Symphony No. 4*

**F. Mendelssohn,**

*Symphony No.4*

**D. Milhaud,**

*Le Boeuf sur le Toit*

**W.A. Mozart,**

*Adagio and Fugue in C Minor, K. 546; Overtures to La Clemenza di Tito, Don Giovanni, Idomeneo, Flute Concerto No. 2 in D Major, K. 314; Piano Concerti Nos. 9 in E-Flat, K. 271, No. 13 in C Major, K. 415, No. 20 in D Minor, K. 466, No. 21 in C Major, K. 467, & No. 23 in A Major, K. 488; Violin Concerto No. 4 in D Major, K. 218; String Serenade No.13 in G Major, "Eine Kleine Nachtmusik"; Symphonies Nos. 17, 25, 29, 35, 36, 38, and 39*

**J. Offenbach,**

*Les Contes d'Hoffmann: Act IV Entre'acte & "Air d'Antonia"*

**S. Prokofiev,**

*Romeo and Juliet: Suite No. 2*

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## REPERTORY LIST

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**S. Rachmaninov,**

*Piano Concerto No. 2 in C Minor*

**M. Ravel,**

*Ma Mere L'Oye Suite*

**G. Rossini,**

Overtures to *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, *La Gazza Ladra*

**P. de Sarasate,**

*Zigeunerweisen*, Op. 20, for Violin and Orchestra

**F. Schubert,**

Overture to *Rosamunde*; Symphonies Nos. 5, and 8

**R. Schumann,**

Overture to *Manfred*, Op. 115; Symphonies Nos. 1 and 3

**D. Shostakovich,**

*Chamber Symphony*; *Symphony No .5*

**J. Sibelius,**

*Romance in C (for Strings)*, Op. 42; *Symphony No. 1 in E Minor*, Op. 39

**B. Smetana,**

*Sarka* (from *Ma Vlast*)

**J. Strauss,**

*Kaiser Walzer*

**I. Stravinsky,**

*Firebird Suite* (1919 version); *L'Histoire du Soldat*

**P. I. Tchaikovsky,**

Fantasy-Overtures *Hamlet*, *Romeo and Juliet*; *Serenade for Strings*; Symphonies Nos. 4-6 and *Manfred Symphony*, Op. 58; *Variations on a Rococco Theme*

**G. Verdi,**

*La Forza del Destino*: Overture; *Il Trovatore*: "Tacea la notte"; *La Traviata*: "Addio del passato"; *Rigoletto*: Act I, Scene i

**R. Wagner,**

*Siegfried Idyll*; Overtures to *Der Fliegende Hollander*, *Rienzi*, *Tannhauser*; *Tristan und Isolde*: *Prelude and Liebestod*

**C.M. von Weber,**

Overtures to *Der Freischutz*, *Oberon*