

Mauricio Paez, (bassoonist) Born in Costa Rica, one of the most versatile Israeli musicians, as a concert artist, chamber music player and a teacher, his students hold positions in many major orchestras including the Berlin Philharmonic.

Mr. Paez is a founding member of the New Israeli Woodwind Quintet, and founder of the Israel Chamber Orchestra Wind Ensemble, holds the principal bassoon position of the Israel Chamber Orchestra. He is the Head of the Wind and Percussion Department at the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance as well as Bassoon Professor at the Buchman-Mehta School of Music Tel Aviv University.

Mr. Paez has appeared as a soloist with the Israel Philharmonic, the Israel Chamber Orchestra, Bogota Philharmonic, the National Symphony Orchestra of Costa Rica, Belgrade Philharmonic, The Israel-Camerata Jerusalem with whom he has toured internationally since 1998.

At the age of 17, he was offered the principal bassoon position at the National Symphony Orchestra of Costa Rica. Since then he has held principal positions with the Israel Sinfonietta, the Israel Camerata-Jerusalem, as Guest Principal with the Israel Philharmonic and for a decade as Principal Bassoonist at the New Israeli Opera (Rishon LeZion Orchestra), playing under the batons of conductors such as Lorin Maazel, Yoel Levy, Valery Gergiev, Zubin Mehta, Claudio Abbado.

As a chamber musician he has collaborated with artists such as Daniel Barenboim, Shlomo Mintz, Guy Braunstein, Maurice Bourgue, Klaus Thunemann, Herman Baumann, Frank Cohen, Robert Levine, Karl-Heinz Steffens, Emanuel Pahud, Bruno Schneider Paez has participated in the Upper Galilee Chamber Music Days-Kfar Blum, Red Sea Festival, Schleswig Holstein, Rolandseck Pro, Jerusalem Classic Winter, Israel Festival, Potsdam Festival, Davos Festival (Switzerland), Rehingau Festival, The Jerusalem International Chamber Music Festival.

From 1993 to 1996 together with Mr. Chaim Taub and Mr. Bernard Greenhouse shared the "Musikalische und Künstlerische Leitung" of the Bahnhof Rolandseck Festival.

In August 2000 he made a recital at the Teatro Colon in Buenos Aires at the 29th Conference of the International Double Reed Society.

He won the 1988 Françoise Shapira Prize, and was a scholarship recipient of the American Israel Cultural Foundation.

His teachers include Prof. Mordecai Rechtman at the Tel Aviv University and Dr. William Dietz at the Costa Rica National Symphony Orchestra Youth Program.

"...A wonderful bassoonist to work with as he possesses complete Control of his instrument..."

Zubin Mehta

"... An exceptional bassoonist"

Jordi Llouet, La Vanguardia, Barcelona

"Beautiful colors, style and wonderful imagination"

Hanoch Ron, Yediot Aharonot, Tel Aviv

"ademas de la valia del fagot, meridiana claridad, excelente conjuncion y bien planificados resaltes expresivos."

Antonio Iglesias, ABC, Madrid