

Mario Ahijado, pianist

Spanish pianist Mario Ahijado made his concerto debut with RTVE Symphony Orchestra and Andrew Gourlay in 2013. Since his debut as soloist, Mario has performed with orchestras including the Medellín Philharmonic Orchestra (Colombia) and Filarmonía Orchestra (Spain). He has performed at venues such as the Auditorio Nacional and Teatro Monumental in Madrid, the Rachmaninov Hall at the Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory, the Grand Theatre of Shandong (China) and the Royal Albert Hall (London).

Ahijado studied at the Royal College of Music for an Artist Diploma and a Master in Performance under Dina Parakhina. He received distinction for his Bachelor of Music at the High Conservatory of Badajoz (Spain) with Ángel Sanzo. Immersed in various musical styles, he holds a Bachelor of Music in Jazz Piano from the University of Évora (Portugal) under the tutelage of Óscar M. De Graça, Filipe Melo and Juan G. Galiardo.

Mario has been awarded prizes in several national and international competitions, including the International Chopin Piano Competition of Granada. The First Prize and Best Pianist Prize at the National “Intercentros Melómano” Competition resulted in invitations from across Spain. An RCM Award Holder, he was kindly supported by a George Stennett Award, an Olive Rees Prize and a Lee Abbey Award.

He has also given piano recitals at music festivals such as the International Festival of Santander, the International Festival of Segovia (MUSEG) or the Spanish Music Festival of Cádiz. His performances have been broadcast on Spanish National Radio (RNE) and Spanish National Television (RTVE).

As a collaborative performer, he has been awarded the First Prize of the International Music Competition “Salzburg and Amsterdam” Grand Prize Virtuoso with the Ahijado-Pagán Piano Duo.

Established in London in 2015, the duo has taken Mario Ahijado alongside pianist Angela Pagan to perform in many venues across Europe such as The Wiener Saal (Salzburg), Blackheath Halls (London) or Sociedad Económica de Amigos del País de Jaén (Spain).

They have also performed in festivals like MusaE or CoLaB, where they showcased the full performance of Tchaikovsky's Ballet Suites for piano four hands alongside dancers. Their latest project features their own transcription of Manuel de Falla's ballets for piano four hands.

An active jazz musician, Mario has also appeared at festivals such as the International Jazz Festival of Badajoz (Spain) and Festa do Jazz do São Luiz (Portugal) bringing his own project *Chopin Nights* on stage; original arrangements on Chopin nocturnes for jazz piano trio.