



Luis Toro Araya

Conductor

Chief Conductor, Orquesta Sinfónica de Concepción

Luis Toro Araya opened the current season conducting the Gürzenich Orchestra Cologne and the WDR Symphony Orchestra at the Cologne Philharmonie for the German Conducting Award, where he was awarded Second Prize. In the 2025/26 season, he enters his second year as Chief Conductor of the Orquesta Sinfónica de Concepción, one of Latin America's leading orchestras.

His guest conducting engagements include prestigious ensembles such as the Dresden Philharmonic, Spanish Radio and Television Symphony (RTVE) Orchestra, Orchestre de Picardie, Lithuanian State Symphony Orchestra, Chilean National Symphony Orchestra, National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland, and the LA Philharmonic; in 2026, he also returned to the Gran Teatre del Liceu for *Manon Lescaut*.

Previously, he served as Assistant Conductor of the Spanish National Orchestra, working closely with its Chief and Artistic Director, David Afkham, and leading the orchestra to great acclaim at the La Rioja Festival. His international profile was further strengthened in 2023 when he was awarded the Dudamel Fellowship, through which he assisted conductors Gustavo Dudamel, Susanna Mälkki, and Zubin Mehta.

A recipient of numerous accolades, Toro Araya won both the Opera and Audience Awards at the International Conducting Competition in Rotterdam (ICCR) in 2022. That same year, he also received awards at the International Conducting Competition of

Liège and was a finalist in 2021 for the Herbert von Karajan Young Conductors Award, conducting the Camerata Salzburg during the Salzburg Festival's 100th anniversary.

Critics have consistently highlighted Toro Araya's maturity beyond his years, praising both his technical command and expressive depth: "Unquestionably, a masterclass in musicality, delivered with dazzling conducting technique... a performance of lasting distinction" (Círculo de Críticos de Arte).

Cellesche Zeitung noted: "Toro Araya proved himself a young maestro who, with complete composure, held together the threads of the musical discourse while allowing the musicians great freedom. His conducting resembled that of a seasoned veteran rather than that of a 27-year-old substitute." *The Spy Editor* emphasised his rapport with audiences: "The orchestra was unleashed [by Toro Araya]. It was a polished and assured interpretation, imbued with genuine emotional depth, stillness, and calm. The entire hall was in the palm of his hand, hanging on every gesture."

Born in San Vicente de Tagua Tagua, Toro Araya studied violin at the Universidad de Chile and became a member of the Chilean National Symphony Orchestra. In 2015, he began his conducting studies with Leonid Grin and later pursued further studies at the Franz Liszt University of Music Weimar under Professor Nicolás Pasquet and at the Zurich University of the Arts with Professor Johannes Schlaefli. He has participated in masterclasses with Bernard Haitink, Paavo Järvi, and Larry Rachleff.