



HELMUTH REICHEL SILVA
CONDUCTOR



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Helmuth Reichel Silva stands as one of South America's foremost conductors, captivating audiences across the globe with his exceptional musicianship. Internationally acclaimed for his *profound interpretations*, *inspiring temperament*, and *distinctive artistic voice*, his performances are marked by both structural clarity and emotional depth. Praised by the press as “a conductor of the highest level... with an unusually developed ear” and for interpretations shaped by “an exact pulse and exceptional attention to detail” (*El Mercurio*), Reichel Silva is equally recognized for the authenticity and expressive intensity he brings to the stage. His work reflects a strong affinity for the colors and expressive landscapes of the 20th-century repertoire, as well as a deep commitment to contemporary music, especially the work of Chilean and Latin American composers, while maintaining a broad and versatile symphonic profile.

Following his critically acclaimed return to the **Ópera Nacional de Chile** in the **2024/25 season**, where he led works by Bartók, Ravel, and Bernstein with the **Orquesta Filarmónica de Santiago**, Reichel Silva's ongoing collaboration with the orchestra encompasses major symphonic projects, including Beethoven's 9th Symphony, Ravel's *Daphnis et Chloé*, and Stravinsky's *Pétrouchka*. Other highlights include his debut at the **Dresdner Musikfestspiele 2025** and his return to the **Orquesta Sinfónica Nacional de Chile** in the newly opened **Gran Sala Sinfónica Nacional**, as well as his ongoing collaboration with the **Orquesta Sinfónica de La Serena**. In October 2025, Reichel Silva released *Paisaje Urbano*, an album with the Orquesta Sinfónica de La Serena featuring contemporary works by Chilean composers. Recorded under his direction, it marks a milestone in Chile's orchestral landscape, with further volumes of this project already planned.

Reichel Silva's successful work with the **Coro Sinfónico Nacional** earlier this year, including a performance of Debussy's *Nocturnes* with its delicate female choir in the third movement and the premiere of a work by Tomás

Brantmayer, led to his invitation to conduct Mendelssohn's monumental oratorio *Elias* as part of his ongoing collaboration with the **Orquesta Sinfónica Nacional de Chile** in 2026. That year, he will also lead the performance of Lutosławski's masterwork *Concerto for Orchestra* with the same ensemble. In addition, Reichel Silva returns to the **Orquesta Sinfónica Nacional Juvenil** for a series of concerts in October 2026 and will conclude the year by returning to the **Orquesta Sinfónica de La Serena** to **record the second volume** following *Paisaje Urbano*, continuing his commitment to showcasing contemporary works by Chilean composers.

Born in **Santiago de Chile**, Reichel Silva began his musical journey as a violinist at the age of five at the Conservatorio Nacional de Música in Santiago. He later pursued advanced violin studies in Germany, where he built a career as a member of several major opera and symphony orchestras, gaining firsthand insight into orchestral textures, ensemble dynamics, and the nuances of operatic and symphonic repertoire. This extensive experience as a professional violinist profoundly shaped his musical sensibility, providing him with an intimate understanding of orchestral color, balance, and ensemble communication, which now defines his approach to conducting. Reichel Silva then completed his formal conducting training in Germany under the guidance of renowned mentors such as **Mariss Jansons**, **Jonathan Nott**, and **Dennis Russell Davies**. He began his conducting career as a finalist of the **Besançon Conducting Competition** and has since been engaged by orchestras across Asia, Europe, and South America, including the **Tokyo Symphony Orchestra**, **SWR Sinfonieorchester**, **Sinfonieorchester Basel**, **Orchestra Ensemble Kanazawa**, **Orquesta Sinfónica de Castilla y León** and **Stuttgarter Philharmoniker**. In Chile, he is a frequent collaborator with the country's leading orchestras, reinforcing his commitment to both local musical traditions and contemporary repertoire.

Reichel Silva's commitment to **contemporary music** is a defining aspect of





his artistic identity. He collaborates with leading international composers such as *Helmut Lachenmann*, *Pēteris Vasks*, and *Guillaume Connesson*, as well as with the most important contemporary Chilean composers, including *Tomás Brantmayer*, *Miguel Fariás*, and *Tamara Miller*, through world premieres, recordings, and commissioned projects.

Beyond the concert hall, Reichel Silva is a dedicated educator, committed to training the next generation of conductors and musicians. He regularly serves as a visiting professor at international masterclasses, and contributes to the **Fundación de Orquestas Juveniles e Infantiles** and the **Universidad Alberto Hurtado** in Chile, sharing his experience and insights with emerging artists. Since 2020, he has held the position of **Artistic Director and Chief Conductor of the Universitätsorchester Dresden**, where he emphasizes the creative communication of music, fostering a deeper understanding of its cultural and expressive significance. Through these initiatives, Reichel Silva shapes young musicians not only in technical mastery, but also in interpretive insight, artistic sensitivity, and the broader responsibilities of musical leadership.

„A star raises his wings.“

— ONGAKU NO TOMO, JAPAN

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VIDEOS

- https://youtu.be/j_DLRrrVfa0

L. Bernstein: *Symphonic Dances from "West Side Story" Mambo*

Orquesta Filarmónica de Santiago

Teatro Municipal de Santiago - Opera Nacional de Chile

- <https://youtu.be/5APy3heWNGw>

L. van Beethoven: *Symphony Nr. 9 D minor*

Coro Filarmónico Teatro Municipal de Santiago

Orquesta Filarmónica de Santiago

Teatro Municipal de Santiago - Opera Nacional de Chile

- <https://youtu.be/L0aEQzaIrZs>

M. Ravel: *Rapsodie Espagnole - excerpt 4th mov.*

Orquesta Filarmónica de Santiago

Teatro Municipal de Santiago - Opera Nacional de Chile

- https://youtu.be/hScv_Ep0y9Y

B. Bartók: *The Miraculous Mandarin, Suite - excerpt Finale*

Orquesta Filarmónica de Santiago

Teatro Municipal de Santiago - Opera Nacional de Chile



PRESS REVIEWS

(On Stravinsky ,Petrushka')

„The highlight of the night (...) lifted Reichel to a moment of glory. Conducting a work that can easily be compared to a dizzying roller coaster—full of endless rises and falls in rhythm, sonorities, intensities, and such varied melodic eruptions—his baton displayed admirable command and mastery. Always keeping absolute control over a musically complex tapestry, Reichel drew from the orchestra a wide and finely crafted range of responses. The Philharmonic sounded agile and brilliant, as rarely heard. The conductor, hailed as „*King-Reichel,“ remains on the throne of champions.“ (*: Word game in spanish - „Rei/Rey“ stands for „King“)

— Mario Cordova, Las Ultimas Noticias

(On Ravel ,Daphnis et Chloe')

„Reichel's excellent version was strengthened by a magical magnetism that increasingly captivated the audience. Thus, the suggestive beginning—flooded with those ravishing sensualities typical of Ravel's impressionist discourse—revealed a Philharmonic Orchestra that was absolutely skilled and alert, capable of navigating difficult passages toward the exultant finale in which musical paroxysm seemed to know no bounds.“

— Mario Cordova, Las Ultimas Noticias

(On Ravel Piano Concerto G Major)

„Brimming with emotional contrasts, from vertiginous orchestral and keyboard moments to lyrical meditative passages, the interpretation of this piece once again demonstrated the great talent of these two artists. Quinteros stood out with his virtuosic agility and poetic sensibility, while Reichel, on the other hand, conducted with maximum authority through a musical journey of intricate pathways—not unfamiliar to serpentine, tight, and hyperenergized routes. Together, they became one, triumphant.“

— Mario Cordova, Las Ultimas Noticias

(On Bartok ,Miraculous Mandarin‘)

„Helmuth Reichel Silva is a conductor of the highest level. In addition to his profound musical knowledge, he approaches the works he performs from a highly refined personal perspective, without ever giving in to mere effect or self-staging. He is a serious musician with an unusually developed ear, which enables him to conduct the works on this programme in an outstanding manner, building up the most varied rhythms and displaying a timbral tapestry that at times seems inexhaustible. His decisions on tempo, dynamics, articulation and balance were always correct, with surprising precision. The programme began with Béla Bartók's *The Miraculous Mandarin*, a fascinating piece that shows the composer's mastery of Hungarian folk music, colourful orchestration and harmonic innovation. Conducting the orchestra, Reichel Silva was able to create a sense of suspense and tension throughout the work, conveying its restless world of mystery, violence and passion. It is indeed very difficult to achieve a unique and evocative sound from such a complex convergence of textures, and Reichel succeeded. Admirable.“

— Juan Antonio Muñoz El Mercurio

(On Stravinsky ,Le Sacre du Printemps‘)

„His pulse is so exact and his attention to detail so effective, that he made the orchestra sound like never before with this work. (...) His conception is strict, but it leaves a personal mark in the extended silences, full of mystery, in the contrast of tempi, as well as the wellbuilt crescendi, with a dynamic controlled at all times. (...) With a secure leadership, the orchestra played rigorous and inspired. (...) A mature and precise interpretation, a complete success.“

— Gonzalo Saavedra, El Mercurio



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GET IN TOUCH WITH HELMUTH

For inquiries regarding future engagements, concerts, or press opportunities, please feel free to get in touch via the following contact details:

WEBSITE:

helmuthreichelsilva.com

INSTAGRAM:

[instagram.com/hreichelsilva.conductor/](https://www.instagram.com/hreichelsilva.conductor/)

EMAIL:

info@helmuthreichelsilva.com

For inquiries in Asia:

Pacific Concert Management, Inc. Daini
Yamauchi Building 5F, 3-10-11 Minato,
Chuo-ku
Tokyo 104-0043
Japan

Tamaki Nakao +81 3 3552 3831
info@pacific-concert.co.jp
www.pacific-concert.co.jp