

AN ARTIST'S CORNER

featuring

David Rejano



David Rejano is the Principal Trombone of the *Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra* since 2016. Before that, he served as Principal Trombone with the *Orquestra Sinfonica de Navarra* from 2002 to 2007, Principal Trombone with the *Orquestra del Gran Teatro del Liceo de Barcelona* (Barcelona Opera House) from 2007 to 2010, and Principal Trombone with the *Münchener Philharmoniker* from 2010 to 2016.

He has also performed as a guest with the *Berliner Philharmoniker*, *Orchestre National de France*, *Seoul Philharmonic*, *Symphonieorchester des Bayerischen Rundfunks* or the *Orchestre de l'Opéra de Paris*.

David Rejano appears frequently as a soloist at the Festival Européen du Trombone, Concours National de Trombone de France, Sapporo Festival, Summer Brass Festival or the International Trombone Festival, as well as with top orchestras like the Vancouver Symphony or the LAPhil. He frequently

works together with Zubin Mehta, Gustavo Dudamel and Valery Gergiev.

As a sought-after teacher, David gives regularly Masterclasses all over the world, including the Guildhall School of London (England), Conservatoire National Supérieur de Paris (France), New England Conservatory, CSU Northridge, UCLA, USC, Montclair State University (USA), Münchner Musikhochschule (Germany), Landeskonservatorium Innsbruck (Austria), Barenboim-Said Academy (Spain) and the Beijing Central Conservatory of Music (China); as well as coaches youth orchestras as the National Youth Orchestra of Spain, Youth Orchestra of Central America (Guatemala), Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles (YOLA) and the Odeon Jugendorchester (Germany). Mr Rejano is the Trombone Professor at the *Colburn School Conservatory*.

David Rejano (1982) was born in Badajoz /Spain/, and initially studied music at the Conservatory in Madrid. Then he moved to the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse de Paris, with professor Gilles Millière, where he graduated with the "Diplôme de Formation Supérieur - Mention très bien à l'unanimité" and the "Prix Spécial du Jury". He was a member of the European Union Youth Orchestra EUYO- and the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra -WEDO- (with Daniel Barenboim and Pierre Boulez).

David Rejano is a *Bach* Performing Artist.

He is also the Founder and designer of *Rejano Mutes*, a successful brand that has been a revolution in the world of Practice Mutes for brass instruments. He is also the Founder of the recording label *Cid Music Records*, where we can hear him in one of his latest albums "*Everything but Trombone*".

www.davidrejano.com

How old were you when you began playing your instrument? Did you start playing another instrument before your current one?

I started playing when I was 9 years old. I first started playing the euphonium and a year later switched to trombone.

What equipment do you primarily use?

I play on a Bach 42 G. Mouthpiece by Bob Reeves – Brass Ark, my own signature models DR.

What are some of your favorite highlights of your career?

Playing with many great conductors and orchestras, such as Lorin Maazel, Valery Gergiev, Daniel Barenboim, Gustavo Dudamel, and Berliner Philharmoniker, Munich Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic.... So many good memories that it is impossible to pick up just a few.

What are some of your favorite and most influential albums that you have heard?

I am gonna have to go with "The Dark Side of the Moon" by Pink Floyd. And if we are talking about classical music, an album that is stuck in my mind is a recording of Berliner Philharmoniker and Karajan playing Mendelssohn "Hebrides Overture" (Fingal's cave). I remember listening to that recording every day as a kid.

Who inspired you to play your instrument?

My father. He is a double bass player and also a tuba player, and actually he was my first teacher.

What are some of your favorite solos written for another instrument?

Apreggione Sonata by Schubert. I love that piece so much that I had to include it in my solo album.

How have your practice habits changed from when you were a beginner until now?

At some point during my student years, I realized that the facility that I always had to play the instrument wasn't going last forever, and I started digging up into how do I play, how do I do every single thing in my playing. That's the main difference between my habits practicing in the beginning verses now. Now I am a control freak and need to know why everything happens.

Do you like to sing when you practice? Why or why not?

Absolutely! It is not only important, but essential. I only conceive playing my instrument through singing, using my body as the most important part to produce the sound.

What qualities do you think are important for being successful in life?

Success is a very tricky word. For me success is waking up every morning feeling loved by the people you love, being healthy, and, if on top of all that, you can do what you love as a job, what else?

What do you want your legacy to be?

I would like to be remembered as a good guy. As simple as that...

How do you stay motivated? Do you have any tips to help stay motivated?

It is important for all of us to always have goals in mind, no matter if they are big or small. It can be an audition, a recording, preparing a solo recital or whatever. The human mind works better when it has something to work for, I believe...

With whom did you study?

As I mentioned before, my first teacher was my dad. After that, I studied in Madrid with Carlos Gil and in Paris with Gilles Milliere.

Who are some of your musical heroes?

So many! Cecilia Bartoli, Placido Domingo, Jaqueline du Pre, Luciano Pavarotti, Jimi Hendrix, J.J. Johnson, Christian Lindberg, Mark Knopfler, Jascha Heifitz, Barbara Hannigan.... And I could get going!

Discuss your early musical experiences. Why did you pursue music?

My father is the only other musician in my family. Growing up in a musical ambience, music was always part of my life. I ended up pursuing music almost without even noticing it, just as a game.

Do you remember when you decided that you were going to be a professional musician?

This is going to sound funny, but I never thought about being a professional musician. Only when I got my first job at the age of 18, right off my freshman year in college, I told myself: "Well, I guess this is for real".

How much do you practice on a typical day?

It depends on what I have to practice for. For me it doesn't matter how long do you practice. All that matters is how focused and concentrated that practice is. If you are 100% focused on what you are doing, I think nobody needs 4 or 5 hours a day.

Do you have a website? If so, what is the address?

Yes, I do! My personal website is www.davidrejano.com and I have another website for my Practice Mutes Business which is www.rejanomutes.com

What are some of your favorite etude books?

I always loved Bitsch, Gilles Senon, and also Bozza (really tricky one!)

If you could go back in time and give yourself any advice, what would it be?

Keep on going, you are not wasting your time practicing every day!

Who are some of your heroes in life?

Don't want it to sound too cliché, but health workers, first responders, multi-employed single moms and dads, and whoever that fights in a decent way to provide a god like for their beloved ones.

How do you suggest balancing life with music?

Just like everything else. Music is great, but can't take over your whole life because you would be missing a lot of fun things!

What are your feelings about students majoring in music education versus music performance?

If that is what they want, fantastic! The world needs music teachers!

Is anyone else in your family a musician?

My father. Double bass player and tuba player. Mostly jazz music.

What are some of your favorite places that you have performed?

Again, so many. But I will go with Suntory Hall in Tokyo, Musikverein in Vienna, Philharmonie Berlin, Hollywood Bowl.

Do you have any suggestions for working on one's range?

Have a solid foundation and start building from there. Keep the corners solid, and be flexible in the middle of your embouchure.

What are you most proud of in your life?

To be doing what I love the most, together with who I love most which is my wife.

What are your favorite things to do that make you happy?

Walking with my wife, cooking, reading, running, watching series...

Do you practice visualizing yourself performing?

All the time. It is actually a great way to start getting rid of stage stress.

What advice would you give to someone interested in majoring in music in college?

It is not going to be easy and you are going to find a very competitive world (like in any other business actually...), but it is so much worth it...

What are you listening to currently?

I am currently listening a lot to one of my favorite artists, Barbara Hannigan.

Do you have a favorite genre of music?

Opera.

Please list some of your favorite websites for musicians.

www.trombone101.com!

Do you have any tips for preparing for auditions?

Be as strong as you can be in a technical way before approaching auditions repertoire. Only when you don't have to be constantly dealing with technical issues, you can start thinking just about what matters, which is music. Once you have a good and solid version of the repertoire, stick to who you are always.

Do you ever get anxious for a performance? What advice would you give for dealing with nerves?

The best advice I can give is to work so hard that in the end you KNOW that nothing is going to go wrong because you know exactly what to do with every

single note you play, every single breath you take, every phrase you are going to play....And never forget that, in the end, we just do music!

To become a great musician, what are things that you think a young musician should focus on when they practice?

Listen to great musicians. Best thing you can do is learn from the best.

Do you like to read? What are you currently reading?

Reading is like watering your brains. One of the best things we can do. I am currently reading again (for the 3rd or 4th time!) "A Confederacy of Dunces" by John Kennedy Toole, one of the best books ever in my opinion.

What life lessons have you learned through music?

Team work towards the goal of creating something beautiful. Can be applied in so many things in life...

If you couldn't have a career in music, what would you do instead?

I think I would love to be a cook.

Who are your favorite composers?

Beethoven, Richard Strauss, Mozart, Mendelssohn, Mahler....

Do you like to teach? Why or why not?

I love teaching. If I can be of any help and influence somebody through my musical ideas, I am the happiest.

What advice can you share about physical wellness?

Physical wellness affects in a positive way everything you do in life. Walking, running, yoga, ... whatever you can do to stay active is going to put you in a better mood.

What is your favorite food?

This is a tough one, but I am going to go with Japanese food.