

Alejandra Urrutia, the new conductor of the Chamber Orchestra of Chile

"There are two essential elements for me as a conductor: musical excellence and to serve the world," says the successor of Juan Pablo Izquierdo and Fernando Rosas. And minister Ottone explains the turn in her leadership.

By Romina de la Sotta Donoso

Just 16 months after her duties as the chief conductor of a professional orchestra - The Sinfónica Provincial of Santa Fe, Argentina - Alejandra Urrutia (1975) has now been appointed as head of the Chamber Orchestra of Chile.

"It is a great honor - I am really grateful for the trust that has been placed in my work and in me personally" says, Urrutia via an email, who will succeed Juan Pablo Izquierdo, winner of the National Music Award, in 2012, after his resignation and the late Fernando Rosas, winner of the National Music Award in 2006.

She has great talent. Undoubtedly, there are others just as talented as her, here in Chile, but undeniably, it is she who is suitable for the stage in which the Chamber Orchestra will live on, with me as the minister. It fits in with the emphasis that we would like to give the orchestra, an associate with educational and formative skills, for her experience with the Youth Orchestra of Curanilahue, "said the Minister of Culture, Ernesto Ottone, who designated the same.

"Two weeks ago, I asked the musicians of the orchestra to hand me a list of nominations, and she is one of the six names they gave me! We were humming the same tune as we agreed on the same!" He reveals. And, moreover, with confidence, he stated that it is already working out with Walter Valdebenito, the director of FOJI, with whom a new project was about to be launched. "We will integrate the Chamber Orchestra along with the Youth Orchestra when extras would be needed so as to give the youth a formative training opportunity that they lack, whenever extras are required, Additionally, we will also present educational programs in municipal schools" clarifies, Urrutia". There are two essential elements for me as a director: musical excellence and to serve the world. The latter is where

the issue of training and creating new audiences also arises. I find it fascinating to start dreaming and visualizing how it will create work ties for example, with FOJI, links in which the Chamber Orchestra of Chile would be the benchmark of musical excellence for all who will listen to them. "

In 2006, Urrutia assumed her role as conductor of the Youth Orchestra of Curanilahue, and in 2009 debuted with the Symphony Orchestra of Antofagasta, to continue thereafter with the Symphony of Universidad of Concepción and the Universidad of La Serena, and the Orchestra Usach. In 2013, she debuted with the Chamber Orchestra of Chile and also became the first woman to lead the National Symphony Orchestra of Chile, a group with which she then performed in Rapa Nui and in the city of Frutillar. In these work collaborations along with Ottone, who was then the director of CEAC, which administers the Symphony.

"I love the fact that, although being a woman, it is great that in Chile, we give room to a change of gender in some more areas which have only been reserved for men," points out, Ottone.

"Starting in January, the integration of the Chamber Orchestra is definite, but, next week there will be a meeting with the orchestra to assemble the 2016 season," anticipates, Ottone.

Alejandra Urrutia: The magazine, "Revista Sábado" chose her as one of the "100 Leaders of 2008" and the local newspaper, "El Mercurio", chose her as one of the "100 Women Leaders of 2013". And she already has the clarity on how to help overcome the administrative crisis in the orchestra: "Music is absolutely related to administration and humanity, and none of these aspects can fail on the global map as to how an orchestra functions. My idea is to lead from the collaboration space, learning to listen, to look at others as equals, and it is only then that relations would remain under the best of terms."