



FULL BIO:

Charismatic and owner of gestures that communicates his musical ideas in a clear and elegant way, the Brazilian conductor-composer João Rocha has been recognized for his meticulous interpretations, mastery of the score and knowledge of the orchestra's sound. Rocha has performed in front of orchestras such as the University of Kentucky and University of São Paulo (OSUSP) Symphony Orchestras in concerts in which, other than only conducting works from the standard orchestra repertoire, he conducts premieres of his own compositions.

Recent appointments include receiving the commission for his Piano Concerto No.1 and guest conducting in its premiere in front of the University of São Paulo Symphony Orchestra (OSUSP.) Between November and December 2022, Rocha toured the state of São Paulo in Brazil with his chamber music duo, Duo Rocha Gândara. On that occasion, Rocha conducted different chamber groups from the piano in performances of the show "On The Reflection Of Time", in which is formed by orchestrated versions of his vocal compositions.

In 2019 Rocha was one of the three finalists of the Smoky Mountains International Conducting Competition (USA) and winner of the "Eleazar de Carvalho" award for young soloists and conductors (BRA) in 2012. As a composer, Rocha received in 2014 the honorary prize at the "I Panorama of Brazilian Music", in Rio de Janeiro, for his work "Deliramentos...sobre um tema de Guinga" for symphonic orchestra.

Throughout his career, João Rocha has conducted in renowned concert halls such as Carnegie Hall in New York (University of Kentucky Symphony Orchestra - 2019,) as well as the Estates Theater in the city of Prague (Prague Summer Nights Festival Orchestra - 2019.) Between 2018 and 2020 he served as Assistant Conductor of the University of Kentucky Symphony Orchestra, occasions in which he participated in productions of the operas such as "Silent Night" by the American composer Kevin Puts and "Madama Butterfly" by Puccini. On the same way, Rocha has been Assistant Conductor in concerts involving artists such as the violinist Gil Shaham and the Berlin Philharmonic Woodwind Quintet.

Recently, his compositions have been performed and recorded by orchestras such as the University of São Paulo Symphony Orchestra, the Tatuí Conservatory Symphony Orchestra and renowned artists such as the São Paulo Symphony concertmaster and conductor, the violinist Emmanuele Baldinini, bass-baritone Fellipe Oliveira, choir conductor Lincoln Andrade (Ars Nova Choir), duo Aldana-Martino (violin-piano,) among others. In 2022, his works “Post Mortem” for symphony orchestra and “Souvenir” for Violin and Piano were premiered. On the same way, his work “O Último Baile Em Pasárgada” ("Last Ball in Pasargada,) commissioned by SINOS Project, is scheduled to be recorded in the first half of 2023. The premiere of his “Sinfonia de Câmara” is also scheduled for 2023, to be premiered under the conductorship of the composer in front of the Curitiba Chamber Orchestra, as well as his “Requiem” for chamber choir and orchestra will also be conducted by the composer in front of the Amazonas Chamber Orchestra. In December 2023, Rocha will perform as guest conductor of the semi-staged production of the work "Midsummer Night's Dream" with incidental music by Felix Mendelssohn at the closing concert of the series of international concerts by TUCCA in São Paulo capital.

On his social networks, João Rocha ([@joaorocha conductor](#)) keeps a constant dialogue with the video series "Resumo da Ópera" in which he dialogues with his followers, presenting and explaining concepts related to classical music in simple terms for laymen. The project aims to support the idea that, given the right tools, any citizen can approach and be interested in the music performed in concert halls around the world.

Throughout his artistic journey, Rocha has always remained close to the vocal world. Such closeness meant that, both as a conductor and as a composer, Rocha developed a special interest in the world of opera and musical theatre.

João Rocha is Brazilian, born in Santos (SP) and earns a Bachelor's in music by the University of Campinas (UNICAMP,) Rocha won conducting and composition competitions while still a student, as well as he has received the "Prata da Casa" award from the

University of Campinas Orchestra (OSU) for his outstanding performance as a student of Orchestral Conducting. As a scholarship holder of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), he was a guest student at the Hochschule Für Musik and Theater Rostock where he was invited to conduct in a concert of Brazilian colonial period works. Rocha also holds a Master's in Orchestral Conducting from the Conservatory-College of Music at the University of Cincinnati, as well as a Doctorate in Musical Arts (ABD) from the University of Kentucky - both courses completed on full scholarship and teaching assistant position. Rocha received guidance from renowned conductors such as Marin Alsop (USA,) Nicolas Pasquet (Germany,) Neil Thomson (England,) John Nardolillo (USA,) Mark Gibson (USA,) Isaac Karabtchevsky, Roberto Tibiriçá and Fabio Mechetti (Brazil.)

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