

## RAMÓN LAZKANO

Composer

Ramon Lazkano (Donostia-San Sebastián, 1968) studied composition in San Sebastian, Paris and Montreal. He received a First Prize of Composition at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique in Paris, a DEA in 20th Century Music and Musicology at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales and a PhD in Contemporary Creation Research at the University of the Basque Country. He has been awarded the Prince Pierre de Monaco Foundation Prize, the Georges Bizet Prize of the French Academy of Fine Arts, the Leonard Bernstein-Jerusalem Prize, the Colegio de España Award and the Musika Bulegoa Prize of the Basque Bureau of Music twice. The recording of his piano music by Alfonso Gómez for Kairos was awarded the Grand Prix du Disque of the Académie Charles Cros.

La Main gauche, his opera after Jean Echenoz's novel Ravel, focuses on the mental imprisonment and the loss of the linguistic functions during Ravel's last years. Written for three voices and a chamber orchestra, commissioned by Festival Ravel and Ensemble Intercontemporain, the staged premiere conducted by Pierre Bleuse took place in October 2025 at the Paris Philharmonie. Other recent highlights include Mare Marginis, a piano concerto commissioned by Radio France, Euskadiko Orkestra and WDR for Alexandre Tharaud, where the dialogues and the dramatic display are set in two mirroring versions with differently sized orchestras, with the premieres conducted by Robert Trevino with the Euskadiko Orkestra and Sylvain Cambreling with the WDR Orchester ; Préludes, a series of 19 chamber music pieces intertwined with Chopin's opus 28, written for the Ensemble Cairn and premiered in Spain, France, Switzerland, Germany and Hungary (as of January 2026), with a cd by bastille musique released in September 2025, and Ziaboga for 29 musicians, commissioned by Ensemble Intercontemporain and conducted by Matthias Pintscher at its premiere in 2019. Actual sound residue as well as the obsolescence of the tools as a reflector of the fossilization of the musical memories are the main ideas found in recent works such as Irarki commissioned by the Witten Musiktage, A Glitch at the Edge for the Grossman Ensemble in Chicago, Zilarbizi for saxophonist Don-Paul Kahl and Irarki 3 commissioned by the Köln Philharmonie for the Trio Catch.

Between 2001 and 2011, Ramon Lazkano worked on Igeltsoen Laborategia (Laboratory of Chalks), a large collection of chamber music pieces divided into various cycles, which echo sculptor Jorge Oteiza's "experimental laboratory" and more particularly the concept of chalk as a matter of inscription, erosion and memory linked to childhood. The aesthetic purpose of the Laboratory led to Mugarri (2010), commissioned by the Spanish Association of Symphony Orchestras and conductor Ernest Martínez-Izquierdo. The pieces of the Laboratory were premiered in Austria, Germany, Poland, Mexico, France and Spain; the ensemble recherche in Frankfurt, Ensemble 2e2m in Paris, Ars Musica in Brussels and Monday Evening Concerts in Los Angeles programmed portrait concerts of it, and two monographical cd's were recorded by ensemble re-



cherche and Smash ensemble. His latter works pay new attention to architecture and duration as in Lurralde, written for the Quatuor Diotima, and adopt engaged texts by Rosa Luxemburg in Eine Ehrenpflicht and Edmond Jabès in Ceux à Qui - written for the Neue Vocalsolisten Stuttgart and getting its US premiere with Ensemble Talea in New York in 2016. In 2016, the Festival d'Automne à Paris offered a portrait in several concerts and premiered Ravel (Scènes).

Lazkano's music has been conducted by Robert Trevino, Sylvain Cambreling, Peter Eötvös, Matthias Pintscher, Tito Ceccherini, Lawrence Foster, Baldur Brönnimann, Ernest Martínez Izquierdo, Brad Lubman, Peter Rundel, Johannes Kalitzke, Pascal Rophé, Manuel Nawri, Josep Pons, Jean-François Heisser (among others) and performed by the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra, WDR Symphony Orchestra, Budapest Festival Orchestra, Basque National Orchestra, Orchestra della RAI a Torino, Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, Hermitage Orchestra, National Orchestra of Spain, Bilbao Orkestra Sinfonikoa, Russian National Orchestra, Orchestre Philharmonique de Monte Carlo, and the ensembles Intercontemporain, recherche, Musikfabrik, Talea, l'Instant Donné, Neue Vocalsolisten, Diotima, Wiener Collage, Cairn, Ictus, Taller Sonoro, Kuraia, Mosaik, Grossman, Smash, Synchronos, 2e2m, Feedback, Sigma, Wiener Collage, Sinkro, Vertixe Sonora, Sigma Project, etc.

Among the festivals: Focus, Takefu, Festival Ravel, Wittener Musiktage, Musik der Zeit, Festival d'Automne à Paris, Éclat, Monday Evening Concerts Los Angeles, Biennale Venezia, Ars Musica, Musica Viva, Unerhörte Musikreihe, Mixtur, Ensem, Festival Hispano Mexicano Puentes, Impuls, Salzburg Biennale, Ultraschall Berlin, Festival Internacional de Monterrey, Warsaw Autumn, Moscow Autumn, Printemps des Arts Monte-Carlo, Musica Strasbourg, Présences Radio France, LA Philharmonic Green Umbrella New Music Series... Lazkano has been involved in several educational projects as well, developing young people's sensitivity to contemporary musical expression.

Ramon Lazkano is a member of the Musical Council of Monaco, was in residence with the Joven Orquesta Nacional de España, the Musica Festival in Strasbourg, the Ensemble 2e2m in Paris and the Civitella-Ranieri Foundation, and is a former fellow of the Spanish Royal Academy and the French Academy Villa Medici in Rome. Lazkano currently holds a composition and orchestration professor position at the Music Academy of the Basque Country Musikene. He programmed the contemporary music series of the Quincena Musical festival in San Sebastián (2003-2015), is an active member and a former president of the Basque Association of Composers Musikagileak and has been invited to give masterclasses and seminars in many international academies such as the Peter Eötvös Foundation, Royal Academy in London, Cornell University in New York, CNSM in Paris, Hochschule für Musik in Berlin, Freiburg, Graz and Frankfurt, Synthetis Summer Course in Poland, Académie Ravel in Saint-Jean de Luz, Festival Mixtur in Barcelona, etc.