

Dr. Jean Montès



Haitian conductor Dr. Jean Montès inspires musicians and audiences with a commanding and sensitive artistic presence on the podium.

An accomplished conductor, educator, clinician, lecturer, and performer, Dr. Jean Montès is passionate about challenging and stimulating audiences and musicians alike. He is the Director of Orchestral Studies and Coordinator of Strings at Loyola University in New Orleans, Louisiana where he conducts orchestral ensembles and teaches conducting and string pedagogy courses for music education majors. In addition to his responsibilities at Loyola University, Montès is the Music Director of The Greater New Orleans Youth Orchestras (GNOYO) where he conducts the Symphony Orchestra which he lead in their Carnegie Hall debut and their recent France Tour.

Montès has held orchestral leadership positions at Virginia Commonwealth University, St. Ambrose University, the University of Iowa, and with the Waynesboro Symphony Orchestra, the Bay Youth Orchestras of Virginia, and the Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphonies.

Growing up in Port-Au-Prince, Haiti, Montès studied the cello at the Holy Trinity School of Music. He left Haiti after winning a full scholarship to pursue his bachelor's degree in cello performance at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, PA. He then received an assistantship at the University of Akron in Ohio where he also earned his masters in music education. He completed his Doctorate of Musical Arts in orchestral conducting at the University of Iowa under the tutelage of Dr. William LaRue Jones. His dissertation topic is An Annotated Translation from French to English of the History of Music in Haiti. He is presently focusing his research on the performance and promotion of orchestral works by Haitian composers.

A musician and conductor who enthusiastically promotes music of all world cultures, Dr. Montès is in constant demand as a conductor, clinician, judge and lecturer with orchestras and schools at all levels throughout the country. His unique approach to repertoire selection and rehearsal techniques enables him to connect, to be effective and admired by audiences and musicians of all ages. Notable appearances include guest conducting the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra, the Virginia Symphony Orchestra, The Richmond Symphony Orchestra, and the Cedar Rapids Symphony Orchestra, All State Honors Orchestra Conductor in Wisconsin and Illinois, giving clinics in Las Vegas and at the Midwest Clinic and performances of Mozart's The Magic Flute with the VCU Opera Theatre. He enjoys collaborating with organizations representing the full spectrum of the arts. Montès led an orchestra in a sold out performance of Prokofiev's Romeo and Juliet Ballet in collaboration with the Metropolitan



Ballet project in the Twin Cities. Additionally, he was appointed by the mayor of Minneapolis to serve as the 2004 Co-Chair of Minneapolis Mosaic, a summer project which celebrates and showcases the talents of over 150 culturally diverse artistic and performance groups from the Minneapolis area. Montès led the creation and the first performance of the Minneapolis Mosaic Symphony Orchestra at Orchestra Hall in Minneapolis on July 9th, 2004. The orchestra was made of musicians from the Twin Cities metro area bringing together professional, teachers, community and student musicians creating this fascinating, true mosaic of an orchestra. The performance featured the world premiere of Mosaic: Cedar and Lake composed by Carry John Franklin. Upcoming guest conducting engagements will take him to cities such as Las Vegas, Minneapolis, Richmond, Stafford county and Florida.

A talented cellist and orchestral musician in his own right, Montès has performed recitals at the Lawrence University Conservatory, in Haiti, and with the Fox Valley, Green Bay, Johnstown and Altoona Symphonies. He also worked as a cello specialist at the Lawrence University Arts Academy and coached youth orchestra cello and viola sections and chamber music in New York, Connecticut, Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa, Oregon, Minnesota, Florida and Virginia.

Montès' experience goes beyond the stage, as he is passionate about education and spent four years in the Fox Valley Area School District (Wisconsin) teaching K-12 strings and conducting multiple ensembles. He spends his summers teaching strings and directing ensembles at summer music festivals in the U.S. and at the Holy Trinity Music Camp in Haiti where he has been the Assistant Director.

Dr. Montès and his wife, Sarah, reside in New Orleans with their sons, Jaz Léonard and Soley Mica, both of whom Montès considers to be his proudest achievements. In his spare time, Montès enjoys playing chamber music with friends, and sports such as soccer, squash, badminton, biking and ping-pong. Truly an artist, musician, and conductor who embraces the cultural and artistic diversity of the world, he is one who brings the highest level of dedication and enthusiasm to his life profession and to all those he serves.

“As a conductor, I believe that in order to have harmony in this world, all we need is peace, love, and music. This is easier said than done. However I aim in all my musical collaborations to encourage all artists to be, first and foremost, sensitive human beings and secondly, sensitive musicians. It is an honor to serve in this profession and to help the world be a better place one note at a time.”



M. L. D.

Pétion - Ville 29 Mars 1999.

à Monsieur Jean Montès
Violoncelliste et chef d'orchestre
Kaukauna, Wisconsin (U.S.A)
Orch. Philharmonique S^{te} trinité (Haïti)

Mon cher Jean,

Avant ton retour aux Etats-Unis, je tiens à te renouveler
mes félicitations très sincères.

ton passage parmi nous a été une Révélation.
Si j'ai eu grand plaisir à tenir les quelques mesures
inscrites pour le piano dans le Hoe-Down de A. Copland
que tu as dirigé avec tant de Bonheur et de Brio,
j'ai également partagé l'admiration et la joie
de tes musiciens qui se sont surpassés à jouer
sous ta Direction.

L'Excellence de tes performances aux 2 Concerts des 27 et 28
Mars derniers ayant révélé une discipline de travail remarquable
soutenue par ton Charisme, ton Dynamisme Chaleureux et,
l'Expression vibrante de tes gestes de "Conducteur" ont soulevé
l'enthousiasme du public venu nombreux t'applaudir.

tu portes en toi mon cher Jean, "l'étoffe" d'un Grand Chef -
d'Orchestre. Nul doute que tu parviendras à une brillante
Carrière qui, je le souhaite, te fera reconnaître un jour,
comme le "Bernstein des temps futurs".

Hommage et Merci à S^{te} trinité de nous avoir donné l'occasion
de découvrir l'artiste de grand talent que tu es.

Encore Bravo! et tous mes vœux de succès

Micheline Laudun Dent

Diplômée du Conservatoire National de Musique de Paris et de
l'Ecole de Haut Perfectionnement Musical Marguerite Long Jacques Thibaud

Dr. Jean Montès



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