

Andrés Alén Rodríguez Pianist, composer, arranger, teacher.

Havana, Cuba, October 7, 1950. He began his music studies with his father, Osvaldo Alén, an important interpreter of Cuban and international music. At only 11 years old, he began his artistic career with concerts in which he played his own compositions at the Chamber Music Society of Havana, which earned him the title of Honorary Member of said institution. He studied at the National School of Art in Havana, and completed his studies by obtaining a scholarship through an entrance exam to study at the Tchaikovsky Conservatory in Moscow (Russia) with maestro Lev Nikolaeivich Vlasenko, graduating in 1976.

As a pianist-concertist he has played concerts and recitals, as a soloist in important halls and theaters in Cuba, Poland, Russia, Ukraine, Germany, Czechoslovakia, India, Colombia, Argentina, Bolivia and Spain.

His musical interest is not limited to the field of concert music, being also an outstanding interpreter of Cuban popular music and jazz. In this field, he has been a pianist and composer for the group of trumpeter Arturo Sandoval and for "Perspectiva" of Latin Jazz, among others, performing at the main Jazz Festivals in Europe and Latin America: Ronnie Scotts in London, Cuasimodo in Berlin, North Sea Festival, Trinidad and Tobago PamJazz Festival, Jazz Plaza Festival, Havana, etc. He has played with such important figures as Dizzy Gillespie, Hilario Durán, among others.

As a composer, his catalogue includes works for chamber music, symphonic music, choral music, piano music, music for children and modern popular music.

Among the various awards and distinctions he has received, his highlights include:

- Nomination for the 2001 Latin Grammy Award for his CD "Andres Alén Pianoforte", which includes a large part of his work for piano.
- Cubadisco Award for best soloist for his CD "Chopin: 4 ballads and 3 nocturnes."
- Pedagogical Merit Medal awarded by the Cuban Ministry of Higher Education for his teaching work
- "Alejo Carpentier" Medal awarded by the Cuban Ministry of Culture for his artistic career.
- He is a Full Professor and founder of the Higher Institute of Art in Havana.
- His musical work is performed and recorded by musicians in many countries and 7 Doctoral Theses have been written on the importance and quality of his musical creation for the Piano, the Saxophone, and the choirs.

He has taught international courses on modern Cuban music for North American students at the National School of Music, in the disciplines of Piano, Chamber Music, Harmony, Arrangement and Orchestration, Latin Jazz and Cuban Popular Music. He has been invited to teach at Stanford University, the University of Florida and at the College of Charleston, South Carolina, United States; at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, United Kingdom; and at the Rhythmic Conservatory in Copenhagen.

He currently lives in Spain, continuing his work as a composer, concert pianist and jazz pianist.

He works as a professor at the Escuela de Música Creativa, Universidad Alfonso X El Sabio, and at the Escuela Superior de Música Forum Musicae, all in Madrid.