

Biography

Alfredo Aracil was born in Madrid, in 1954. He studied music with Cristobal Halffter, Tomás Marco, Carmelo Bernaola, Luis de Pablo and Arturo Tamayo in Madrid, and Karlheinz Stockhausen, Iannis Xenakis, Christian Wolff and Mauricio Kagel in Darmstadt, among others. He holds a PhD in Art History, a field to which he has devoted a significant part of his career.

He worked at RNE (the Spanish public radio), where he was Head of Radio 2 Music Productions Department, delegate to the Experts Group in Serious Music of Euroradio (EBU/UER) and director of various programs and projects. He has organized, coordinated or directed concert series and cultural activities for the Festival de Otoño of the Comunidad de Madrid, the European Broadcasting Union, Instituto Cervantes in Paris, Fundación Albéniz, Museo del Prado, Archivo Manuel de Falla, Loewe Foundation and the Orquesta y Coro Nacionales of Spain. He was, from 1994 to 2001, General Manager of the Granada International Festival of Music and Dance.

Aracil was President of the ISCM Spanish Section (International Society for Contemporary Music), a Board member of the Spanish Society of Musicology (SEdeM), member of the Music Council of the Spanish Ministry of Culture, adviser to the Musical Activities Commission of Patrimonio Nacional, member of the Advisory Commission of Archivo Manuel de Falla, adviser to the Loewe Foundation... For eight years, 1995 to 2002, he was the President of the Jury of the Permanent Contest of Jeunesses Musicales Spain (JME) and from 2004 to 2012 Secretary of the Jury of the Infanta Cristina Piano Competition; he has collaborated also with many other international contests and awards for musical composition or performance, such as the International Rostrum of Composers UNESCO, Prix Italia, Valentino Bucchi Award, Reina Sofía Composition Prize and the Havana International Guitar Contest, among others.

He has been also an associate professor at the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid and guest professor at many other institutions. He has taught courses, seminars and lectures at the Universidad Complutense, Círculo de Bellas Artes de Madrid, Universidad Carlos III, Instituto de Estética y Teoría de las Artes (Aesthetics and Art Theory Institute), Universities of Santiago de Compostela, Oviedo, Granada, Valencia Polytechnic, Guanajuato, Centro Cultural Manuel de Falla in Granada, Menéndez Pelayo International University in Santander, Hispanoamericana of Sta María de la Rábida, Nacional de Educación a Distancia (UNED), Internacional de Andalucía, Escola Superior de Música de Catalunya and the International Composition Courses Villafranca del Bierzo, among others, as well as numerous lectures in Spain, Italy, France, the United Kingdom, Brazil and Mexico.

He had a brief activity as a performer, playing sporadically in 1975 and 76 with some chamber music ensembles. Besides, he founded with Antonio Agúndez, Tomás Garrido, Francisco Guerrero and Pablo Rivière, the Grupo Glosa, a pioneer in Spain in the interpretation of aleatory and indeterminate music.

His compositions have been programmed in series and festivals in the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Belgium, Puerto Rico, Italy, Switzerland, France, Croatia, United Kingdom, Australia, Russia, USA, Germany, Brazil, Mexico, Argentina, Uruguay and Spain. He has received commissions from notable Spanish and European cultural institutions. The Moscow Radio Symphony Orchestra, Minsk Philharmonic, Buenos Aires Sinfónica Nacional, Arnold Schoenberg Chor, Orpheus Quartett, Quatuor Ravel, Ensemble Villa Musica, Xenakis Ensemble, The Hague Percussion Group, Porto Oficina Musical, Ex Novo Ensemble, Solars Vortices, Alternance, Multifonía, Archaeus Ensemble, Kammerensemble Modern der Deutschen Oper Berlin, among others, have performed his music, as well as most of the major Spanish ensembles. He has received in 2015 the Spanish National Award for Music.