

12th November 2008

Banda Sinfónica Portuguesa

I was a guest of the Banda Sinfónica Portuguesa (BSP) 4 – 9 November 2008. During that time I directed a masterclass for conductors organised by the BSP in collaboration with the Banda da Região Militar do Norte, in which 13 active participants from Portugal and Brazil took part. I also conducted rehearsals and a final concert with the BSP itself in the Casa da Musica in Porto.

The Banda Sinfónica Portuguesa is a prestigious organisation of the highest calibre, bringing together dedicated young professional musicians and music students to play symphonic music for winds and percussion under the expert leadership of their artistic director, Maestro Francisco Ferreira. The BSP contributes significantly to the cultural life not only of its home city, Porto, but of Portugal as a whole. It must be counted as the leading force among wind orchestras in Portugal, striving to achieve the highest professional standards of performance. The BSP is also responsible for the first performances of many significant compositions in Portugal and engages guest artists of international renown. This wealth of activity is due not least to the inspiration and commitment of Maestro Ferreira, the orchestra's founder-conductor.

It was a great joy and an honour for me to work with the Banda Sinfónica Portuguesa. The 75 wonderful young musicians dedicate their free time to attend the rehearsals and concerts. They are excellent instrumentalists who together form an orchestra with a standard which is on a par with the very finest symphonic wind orchestras in Europe. They compare favourably with similar organisations in the USA and Asia, and without a doubt the BSP belongs in the top category of wind orchestras and ensembles on an international level. I am convinced that they will achieve even higher goals in the years to come, given the chance to work together on a regular basis.



Douglas Bostock

Principal Conductor Aarau Symphony Orchestra (CH)
Principal Guest Conductor Tokyo Kosei Wind Orchestra (J)
Principal Guest Conductor Czech Chamber Philharmonic (CZ)
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