

SNOW OWL

JUAN GARCIA-HERREROS



SELECTED CREDITS

BEST BASS PLAYER IN THE WORLD (2019)

SOLOIST FOR THE WORLD OF HANS ZIMMER (since 2018)

TRIPLE GOLD AT GLOBAL MUSIC AWARDS (2016)

LATIN GRAMMY ® NOMINATION (2014)

BIOGRAPHY

'The Best Bass Player In The World'? You'd be forgiven for assuming that it would be impossible to select a single bassist for that title – and yet that's exactly what the readers of Bass Player and Bass Guitar magazines did in 2019, when they voted Juan García-Herreros, also known by his indigenous name 'Snow Owl', to the top of their annual Best Bassist poll.

Dig deeper into Snow Owl's incredible career, though, and you begin to understand why these devotees of the bass guitar chose him for this ultimate honour. This Colombia-born, US-raised, Austria-resident world traveller has been nominated for a Latin Grammy®, he's played the world's biggest arenas, multiple Grammy® winning artists and Oscar® winning composers have collaborated with him on a regular basis and as a composer, he has been honoured with numerous prestigious awards. These include three Gold Medals of the Global Music Awards in 2016 for World Jazz, Best Album and Best New Release. He's also a film director, with his projects selected by international film festivals such as the Music Video Underground in Los Angeles, the Austrian Film Festival and the Film Festival in Cannes.

All this has come from Juan's drive to succeed, as becomes evident when you learn about his personal history. Born in Bogotá, Colombia, his first musical studies began with the flute at the age of nine, after moving to New York City to escape the drug cartel war in his home country. His family relocated to Dunedin, Florida where he attended middle school and discovered the electric bass – and although his family was unable to afford private lessons, his passion for learning took over, pushing him to become a self-taught musician.

Juan's yearning to study music was so strong that his high school teacher recognised his ambition and gave him the key to the classroom where the instrument was stored. The budding bassist would sneak into the school at night, through a window that the teacher left open for him, to spend hours practicing until his fingers were bleeding, before attending his classes again in the morning.

The rewards for all this effort began to amass when, aged 16, he began to teach Music Theory and Jazz Performance at Dunedin High School in Florida. He studied acoustic bass in order to join the symphonic band in school, which paid off when he was accepted as part of the Tampa Bay Symphony, at just 17

years of age. At the same time, he competed in New Orleans during the Berklee College of Music Scholarship Tour and received one of Berklee's coveted awards, enabling him to attend the prestigious school in Boston. His instructors included the world-renowned bass gurus Bruce Gertz, Joe Santerre, Rich Appleman and Oscar Stagnaro.

Aged 21, Juan returned to New York City to pursue a professional music career. Surrounded by a diversity of musical styles, Juan was able to adapt his playing to all music formats – whether jazz, pop, funk, salsa, rock, classical, metal or avant-garde – without compromising the integrity of his own, unique sound. Performances with artists as diverse as Elton John and Christina Aguilera soon established his reputation and in 2004 he relocated to Vienna, Austria, to begin a new phase of his career as a soloist and musical director. It was also in the heart of this historical city that Juan's lifelong dream of studying orchestral works from the great European composers came to fruition.

A few years later he was asked to join Tomek Productions' annual 'Hollywood in Vienna' Film Music Gala. Within 8 editions of the prestigious event Juan collaborated with award winning composers, conductors and artists such as Hans Zimmer, Lalo Schifrin, James Horner, Randy Newman, James Newton Howard, Alexandre Desplat, David Newman, Al Jarreau, Lisa Gerrard and Vienna's Radio Symphony Orchestra. The Gala is regularly featured on worldwide television and has been viewed over 100 million times on Youtube alone.

In recent years Snow Owl has elevated his musical endeavours to the level of international philanthropy. His 2014 Latin Grammy® nomination in the category of Best Latin Jazz Album had never been previously achieved either by an electric bass player or a Colombian world/jazz musician. In 2016 he brought Austria and Colombia a triple gold medal at the Global Music Awards for Best World Jazz, Best Album and Best New Release.

Now in his prime as a composer and performer, Snow Owl has released a sequence of albums dedicated to raising awareness in his home country, the most recent of which, 'The Blue Road', has been hailed as a masterpiece in the media and by fans around the globe. He has also taken up the electric bass role with none other than Hollywood film music composer Hans Zimmer in the ongoing World Of Hans Zimmer symphonic arena tour, one of the world's most prestigious events.

So – 'The Best Bass Player In The World'? Looks like those magazine readers knew what they were talking about...

ALBUM CREDITS

The World of Hans Zimmer (2019)

Sony Classical

Hollywood in Vienna "The World of James Horner" (2016)

Varèse Sarabande Records

Art of Contrabass Guitar (2010)

written, performed & produced by Snow Owl
Inner Circle Music Europe

The Blue Road (2016)

written, performed and produced by Snow Owl
Inner Circle Music Europe

Normas (2014)

written, performed & produced by Snow Owl
Inner Circle Music Europe

Snow Owl Quartet (2006)

written & performed by Snow Owl
produced by Quinton Records

FILM CREDITS

She Became A Thousand Birds (2017)

written, produced & directed by Juan García-Herreros

THEATRE CREDITS

Anatomy Of A Knucklehead (2000)

directed by Edwin Lee Gibson
music by Snow Owl

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

2019

Best Bass Player In The World, as voted online by readers of *Bass Player* and *Bass Guitar* magazines.

2018

Soloist for 'The World of Hans Zimmer' - ongoing symphonic concert tour

2017

The UK's *Bass Guitar* magazine selected Snow Owl as one of the 82 most influential electric bassists in the history of the instrument.

Selected as a quarter finalist by the *Music Video Underground Festival* and honoured with a *Gold Award* by the *International Independent Film Awards* for his animated short film of the song 'She Became A Thousand Birds'. The short film is an homage to Omayra Sanchez and all of the victims from the 1985 volcanic tragedy of Armero in Colombia. The film sets out to inspire a dialogue about the necessity for countries to have disaster prevention installed in high-risk regions.

2016

Wins the first *Global Music Awards* for Austria and Colombia in the category of *Instrumental Music*; three gold medals in the categories of *World Jazz*, *Best Album* and *Best New Release*.

2014

Latin Grammy® nomination in the category of *Best Latin Jazz Album*

2013

The book *...Und Dann War Alles Anders* by Brigitte Lendl tells the stories of the 39 most successful immigrants into Austria; García-Herreros is among them.

Cover story, *Bass Musician* magazine.

2011

Joint winner of the *Austrian World Music Award*.

2010

Second album 'Art Of Contrabass Guitar' selected as *Latin Jazz CD Of The Year* by O's Place Jazz Newsletter and was ranked #7 in the Grammy® nominations.

2009

Selected as a *Projekt Xchange Ambassador* to represent Colombia and his integration as an artist in Austrian society. Austrian president Dr. Heinz Fischer personally thanked and congratulated him during the opening ceremonies at Vienna's Hofburg Palace.

2008-2012

Selected by a jury to become part of the faculty for the Jazz Institute of the University of Music and Performing Arts in Austria. He was the first Colombian to be honoured with such an academic position in Austria.

2006

Best Jazz Artist Award from Jazz First, a cooperation between Jazzzeit Magazine, Quinton Records and Erste Bank.

Critics' Choice Award by Bayrischer Rundfunk, Germany.