

Concert Proposal at the Crypt of Sagrada Familia for July 23rd and 24th, 2024

A Musical Journey in the heart of Sagrada Familia

Marta Mathéu, soprano - Mireia Farrés, trumpet - Juan de la Rubia, organ

Introduction

This exclusive concert proposal unveils a diverse repertoire for the Crypt of the Sagrada Familia, weaving through different musical eras, all resonating around the famous Cavaillé-Coll organ (1896), a centerpiece within the Crypt. Complementing this majestic instrument are two others that beautifully harmonize with it: the voice and the trumpet.

Immersed in the intimate ambiance of the Crypt, far removed from the bustling crowds of tourists, attendees will be enveloped in an hour-long musical journey, allowing them to experience the harmonious blend of historical reverence and artistic excellence.

Guided by the expertise of three brilliant musicians—Marta Mathéu, Mireia Farrés, and Juan de la Rubia—attendees will immerse themselves in an array of sonorities emanating from the organ, showcased through various instrumental combinations. Amidst the sacred ambience of the Sagrada Familia's heart, and alongside the resting place of Antoni Gaudí, this concert promises a unique musical journey, enriching the soul with music in one of Barcelona's most treasured locations.

Program

The program will encompass music spanning from Gregorian chants to 20th-century compositions, with a particular emphasis on Baroque music (Händel, Bach and Scarlatti) and pieces inspired by the serene ambiance of the crypt and the influential presence of Antoni Gaudí. Each musical selection has been carefully curated to resonate within the Sagrada Familia's Crypt while honoring the architectural brilliance and spiritual aura encapsulated within this hallowed space.



Marta Mathéu, soprano

In the last years, Marta Mathéu has catapulted as a reference lyric voice. She performs naturally and accurately the opera, lied and oratorio repertoire, the three primordial pillars of her career. Her growing presence in the opera stages have led her perform very distinct characters, such as Norma (*Liceu*, 2022) and Berta (*Il barbiere di Siviglia*, Menorca, 2021). La Contessa from *Le nozze di Figaro*, Donna Anna (*Don Giovanni*), Liù (*Turandot*) and Mimì (*La Bohème*) are some of the characters of her repertoire.

Her interpretations of Bach under the conducting of Jordi Savall have been lauded in various European theatres (for example, the Philharmonie de Paris). She has sung together with Javier Camarena, Sondra Radvanovsky and Ludovic Tézier, and in the symphonic and oratorio fields she has performed with great conductors such as Gustavo Dudamel, Victor Pablo Pérez, Rinaldo Alessandrini, Antoni Ros Marbà, Neville Marriner and Fabio Biondi.

Marta Mathéu has received lessons from Ana Luisa Chova, Montserrat Caballé, Elena Obraztsova and Wolfram Rieger and she has performed on the most acclaimed theatres of the world, including the Palau de la Música Catalana, the Teatro Real, the Liceu de Barcelona, the Philharmonie de Paris and the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam. She was awarded in the contest Concurs Tenor Viñas for her interpretation of Mozart. She has also been awarded by Juventudes Musicales de España and in the international contests Manuel Ausensi and Montserrat Caballé (Audience Award). Marta Mathéu has made several recordings and since 2014 she is singing teacher at the Conservatori del Liceu.

Mireia Farrés, trumpet



She studied at the New England Conservatory in Boston, where she was an outstanding student of maestro Charles Schlueter.

At a very young age she began her experience as an instrumentalist with the JONC (Youth National Orchestra of Catalonia), continued as solo trumpet with the Granada Symphony Orchestra (2001-2004), until obtaining the position of solo trumpet with the OBC (Orquestra Ciudad de Barcelona).

Her brilliant and emotional interpretations have often led her to perform as a soloist with other formations such as the Barcelona Symphony, the Graffeneg Festival Orchestra, the Rostock Symphony Orchestra, the National Orchestra of Andorra, the Granada Symphony Orchestra, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra of Galicia, the Prague Symphony Orchestra, the Salvador de Bahía Symphony Orchestra, the Vienna Chamber Orchestra and the Gioorquesta, among others. She has also played with Christian Zaccharias, Jaime Martín, Yuja Wang, Marta Argerich, Rosa Torres Pardo...

She has been a professor at the Mallorca Higher Conservatory of Music and the Granollers Conservatory and currently works as a teacher at the ESMUC (Higher School of Music of Catalonia).

Juan de la Rubia, organ



Juan de la Rubia is titular organist of the Basilica of the Sagrada Família in Barcelona. His artistic education unfolded across various European capitals, mentored by prominent teachers including Óscar Candendo, Wolfgang Seifen, Michel Bouvard, and Montserrat Torrent. He also received teachings from Olivier Latry and Ton Koopman. The extraordinary awards upon completion of his studies, as well as top prizes in the Permanent Competition of Juventudes Musicales de España and the Primer Palau award, significantly influenced the start of his career.

His active soloist work has enabled him to perform on renowned stages in over thirty countries worldwide such as Palau de la Música Catalana, Auditorio Nacional de Música in Madrid, Konzerthaus in Berlin, Gewandhaus in Leipzig, Elbphilharmonie in Hamburg, Auditorium of Maison de Radio France in Paris, Mariinsky Theatre, and Philharmonia in St. Petersburg. He has also performed in renowned cathedrals including those in Cologne, Berlin, Westminster, Vienna, Geneva, Bogotá, Mexico City, Tunis, and at the church of Saint-Sulpice in Paris.

De la Rubia has taken on soloist and conductor roles alongside orchestras like the Spanish National Orchestra, RTVE Orchestra, ORCAM, the Symphony Orchestras of Galicia, Bilbao, Principado de Asturias, Castilla y León, and the Bogotá Philharmonic Orchestra, among other prominent ensembles.

He is a member of the Reial Acadèmia de Belles Arts de Sant Jordi and Professor at the Escola Superior de Música de Catalunya, and he regularly offers masterclasses in the cities of Budapest, Stuttgart and Rome.