

Concert Programme

HOMAGE TO J. SOROLLA

One hundred years since his passing



Joaquín Sorolla

Sira Hernández, pianist and composer

TO J. SOROLLA

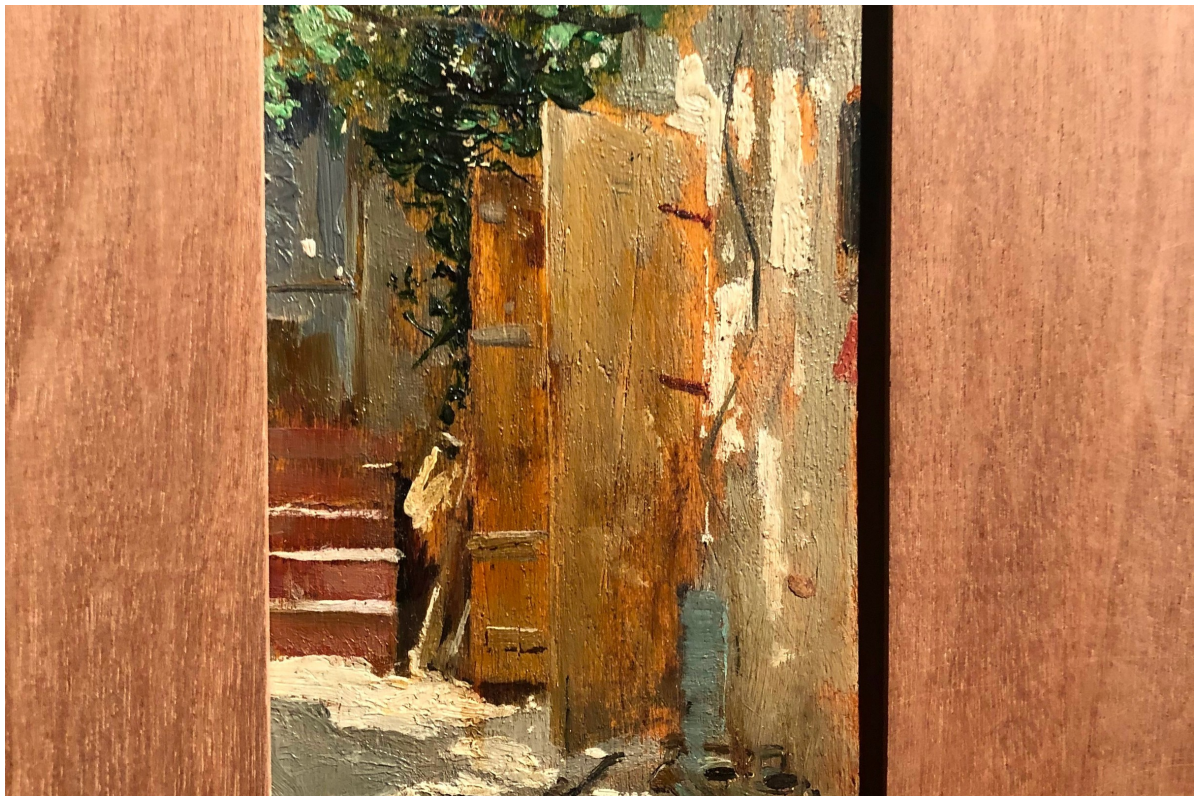
One hundred years since his passing

Commemorating the centennial of the passing of the great Valencia-born painter Joaquín Sorolla, we are honoured to present this programme inspired by his extraordinary work, in which light plays a unique role, illuminating the everyday moments of the artist's life and reflecting the style of an epoch.

The music of I. Albéniz and F. Mompou also take us into that new world, where light and sonority breathe in hitherto unexpected ways.

Sorolla and the composers whose works we have selected frequently stayed in Paris, which undoubtedly triggered and inspired their appreciation of new artistic worlds that reflect a new sensitivity and way of conceiving art.

I have taken the liberty of offering as part of the programme my "Momentos Musicales-Impresiones", the result of contemplation and perception of those day-to-day moments that illuminate us—if only for a moment—and allow us to comprehend everything else.



PROGRAMME

► I. Albéniz:

From “Espagne” (Souvenirs) (1897)

- *Prélude*
- *Asturias*

From “Rêves”. (1891–1892)

- *Berceuse*

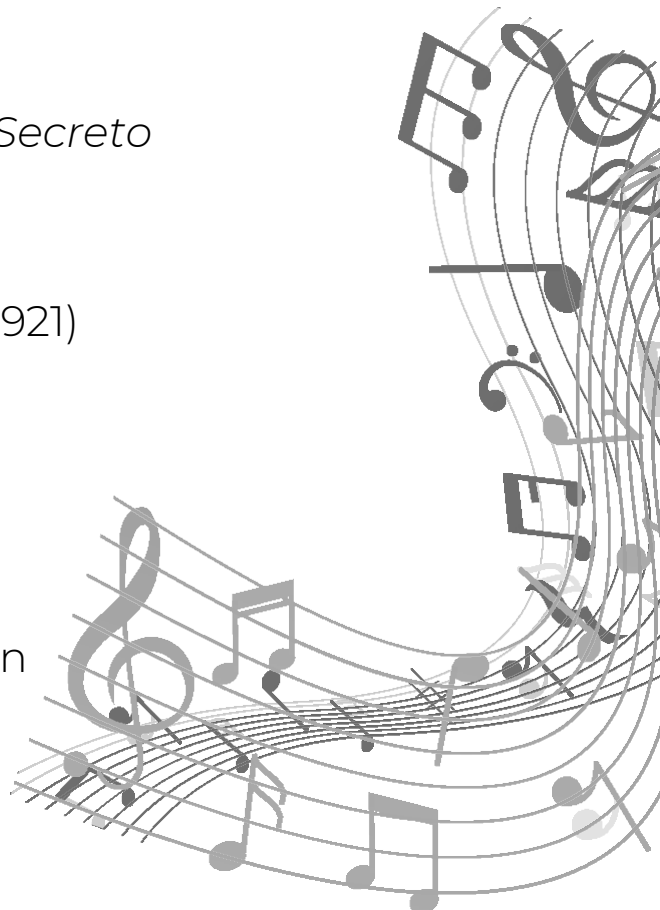
► F. Mompou:

“Impresiones Íntimas” (1911)

- *I Lento cantabile espressivo*
- *II Andante*
- *III Gracioso*
- *IV Agitato*
- *Pajaro Triste*
- *La barca*
- *Cuna (berceuse) Secreto*
- *Gitano*

“Scènes d’Enfants”. (1921)

- *Cris dans la rue*
- *Jeux sur la place*
- *Jeu 2*
- *Jeu 3*
- *Jeune fille au jardin*



► **S. Hernández:**

“Moments musicals - Impressions” (2020–2022)

- *Hope-New Year*
- *Mother*
- *Serena*
- *Winter*
- *Easter Bells*



J. SOROLLA

SIRA HERNÁNDEZ

Pianist and Composer



©Margarida Gual - Steinway & Sons piano - Courtesy of Jorquera Pianos

Sira Hernández, born in Barcelona, made her artistic debut at 16 years of age at the auditorium of the G. Verdi Conservatory of Turin (Italy). She undertook her musical studies there under the guidance of acclaimed pianist Remo Remoli, a disciple of Arturo Bendetti Michelangeli, and of Felice Quaranta, who was the conservatory's director at the time, as well as a famed composer and pianist.

Having completed her studies in Turin, she returned to Barcelona where she perfected her piano studies at the Marshall Academy under the instruction of the superb pianist Alicia de Larrocha. Between 1993 and 1994, she studied counterpoint, fugue and composition with Manuel Oltra, furthering the studies she had begun with Felice Quaranta in Turin, and went on to study improvisation at the Catalan School of Music (ESMUC) with the prestigious teacher Emilio Molina and at the Reina Sofía School of Music.

She has participated as a performer and composer in different international concerts and festivals, including the Peralada and Santa Florentina festivals, at the Palau de la Música Catalana concert hall, at the Barcelona Auditorium and at art centres such as La Caixa Foundation in Catalonia, the landmark La Pedrera building in Barcelona, the Santa Monica Arts Cultural Centre in Barcelona, the Conde Duque and CentroCentro cultural centres in Madrid, the Nights at the Royal Alcázar concerts in Seville and the Pompeu Fabra University in Barcelona.

Her recordings of the works of composers such as D. Scarlatti, J.S. Bach, F. Chopin, I. Albéniz and M. Oltra have met with great praise, and expert music critics have acclaimed her recordings of “Música Callada” by F. Mompou and of selected works by “Padre” Antonio Soler. Her recordings and performances are frequently heard in the programming of domestic and international radio broadcasters.

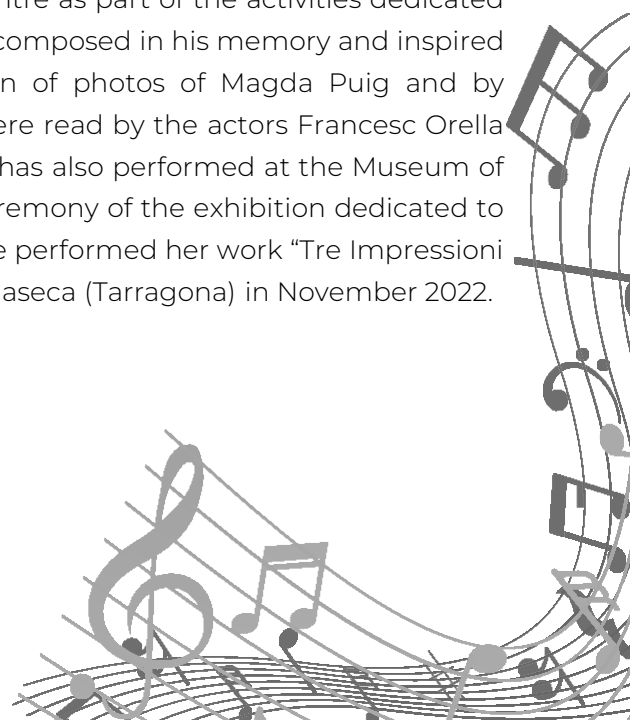
In addition to her performances, Sira Hernández has collaborated in and helped to create several artistic projects, working as a composer with dancers, actors, poets and fine artists and offering recitals and performances in which music engages in dialogue with other art forms.

She has refined her knowledge of composition with her work “Iniciación a la Sombra”, inspired by the verses of Ángel Crespo; through her close collaboration with Pablo Arán, principal dancer of the Pina Bausch Wüpperthal Tanztheater Company; and in her projects with fine artist Stella Rahola and actor Manuel Galiana, among others. Following this path, at the Akademia Theater of Barcelona in 2017, she premiered her own piano compositions in the work “L'altra voce” of Italian director and choreographer Moreno Bernardi, which is inspired by the works of the great Italian poet Alda Merini. Her career as a composer gelled from this point onward, and she premiered in 2019 “Fantasía para piano”, at the request of Italian artist Sara Conforti for her performance at the Gli Acrobati art gallery in Turin. In June 2019, she premiered “Don't Forget About That” in commemoration of the Italian writer Primo Levi as part of the activities celebrating the centennial of his birth, with the collaboration of the Studi Primo Levi Centre in Turin (Italy).

As a composer, Sira Hernández has earned a solid reputation for her anthologies “Initiation to the Shadow” for Naxos and “Tre Impressioni, sulla Divina commedia” for Sony Classical.

She consolidated her international presence with “Initiation to the Shadow”. Her work “Tres impresiones sobre la Divina Comedia” was the fifth best-selling CD released by Naxos in May 2020. The CD, dedicated to Dante as part of the activities honouring the 700th anniversary of his passing, premiered on 25 March at the National Library of Spain, and the performance was rebroadcast through the channels of the library and those associated with the celebration of Dante Day.

Sira Hernández recently gave a recital at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts of San Fernando in Madrid. She has also performed at museum of the El Born cultural centre as part of the activities dedicated to the Italian writer Primo Levi, giving two recitals of her work composed in his memory and inspired by his texts. The recital was accompanied by the projection of photos of Magda Puig and by theatrical narration of some extracts from his books, which were read by the actors Francesc Orella and Cristina Gordana under the direction of Judith Pujol. She has also performed at the Museum of Contemporary Art of Ibiza, she is to take part in the closing ceremony of the exhibition dedicated to Dante Alighieri organised by the FUNDOS Foundation, and she performed her work “Tre Impressioni sulla Divina Commedia” at the Josep Carreras Auditorium of Vilaseca (Tarragona) in November 2022.



Her awarded works include the Sony Classical CD “Tre Impressioni sulla Divina Commedia”, which was chosen as the best composition and best performance at the prestigious Global Music Awards in September. The prestigious journal 440 Clàssica chose this work as one of the 10 best CDs released in 2022.



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VIDEOCLIPS



Provided to YouTube by The Orchard Enterprises
Espagne (souvenirs) · Isaac Albéniz · Sira Hernández
Albéniz: Champagne, L'Automne, Rêves, Les Saisons,
Espagne © 2007 La Mâ de Guido

[Watch video](#)





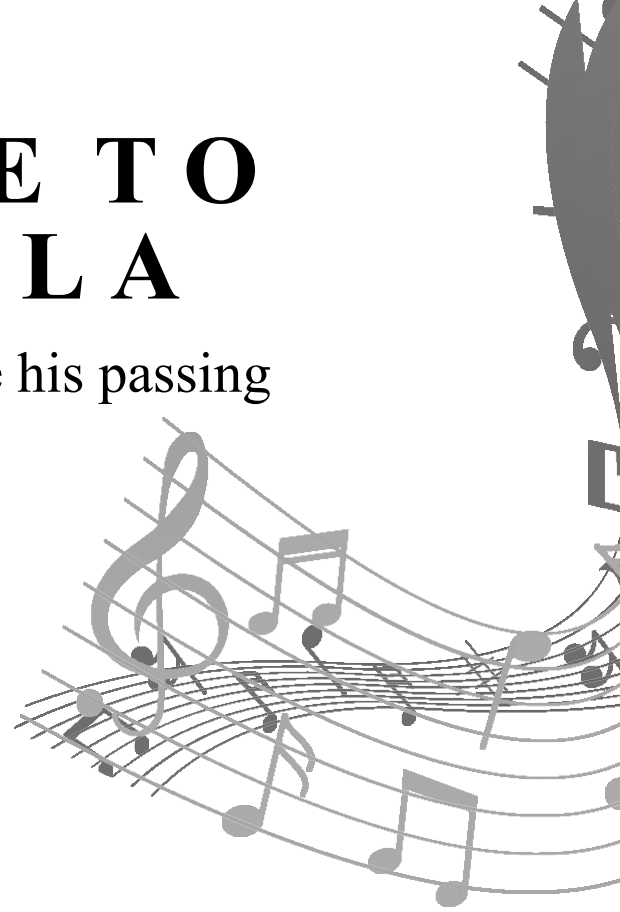
“She is a composer whose mastery is reflected by the tireless pursuit to hone her intensely original and personal style, far removed from the complacency of fads, and she is also a gifted pianist with exceptional sensitivity and skill”.

ENRICO FUBINI



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