

Sira Hernández

Born in Barcelona, Sira Hernández, made her debut at 16 in the auditorium of the G. Verdi conservatory, Turin (Italy). This was the same conservatory where she studied music under the renowned pianist, Remo Remoli, a disciple of Arturo Benedetti Michelangeli, and Felice Quaranta, at that time the conservatory's director, as well as an eminent composer and pianist.

Following her studies in Turin, she returned to Barcelona and perfected her piano technique and command of Spanish repertoire at the Marshall Academy, where she took classes with the great pianist, Alicia de Larrocha. From 1993-1994, she studied counterpoint, fugue and composition with Manuel Oltra, broadening the studies she had begun with Felice Quaranta in Turin. She then studied improvisation with the prestigious Emilio Molina at the Catalonia College of Music (ESMUC) and at the Reina Sofía College of Music.

She has participated as a performer and composer in different international concert and festival seasons as well as important cultural ceremonies and events. These include the Peralada and Santa Florentina festivals, the Palau de la Música Catalana in Barcelona, the Barcelona Auditorium, the Toledo Classical Music Festival, the Ibiza International Music Festival, foundations and art centres such as La Caixa Foundation in Catalunya, the Pedrera Foundation in Barcelona, the Eina Foundation, the Santa Mònica Arts Cultural Centre in Barcelona, the Conde Duque Cultural Centre and CentroCentro in Madrid, the Nights in the Royal Alcázar Season in Seville, Pompeu Fabra University in Barcelona, and conservatories, art galleries and theatres.

Her recordings and recitals can usually be heard on leading Spanish and international radio stations (RNE, Radio Clásica, Cadena Ser, Catalunya Música or BBC Music, amongst others.)

Her recordings of composers such as D. Scarlatti, J. S. Bach, F. Chopin and I. Albéniz for the 'Ars Harmónica' label, and her recording of works by J.S. Bach in 2000 on the 250th anniversary of his death, generated particular interest.

In 2003, she released a CD with music by Manuel Oltra for the 'Columna Música' label and in 2007 and 2011 released on the 'La màde Guido' labels virtually known works by the composer Isaac Albéniz, as well as '**Nocturnes**', thirteen pieces on the history of the nocturne form from J. Field to M. Blancafort. In 2014, she recorded Silent Music by F. Mompou for 'Solfa Recordings' and subsequently 12 sonatas by Padre Antonio Soler. Both works were acclaimed by specialist music criticism.

She has taught on courses organized by Turin Town Hall, at the Marshall Academy in Barcelona under the supervision of Alicia de Larrocha, and at different schools and conservatories in Italy and Catalonia.

In addition to her activity as a performer of classical music and pianist, Sira Hernández has taken part in and contributed to different artistic projects as a composer, together with dancers, actors, poets and visual artists, in recitals and shows in which music dialogues with other arts.

In 2014, she premiered the '**Initiation to the Shadows**' show, which was inspired by the poetry of Ángel Crespo, at the Santa Mònica Cultural Arts Centre in Barcelona. She took the show the following year to the Ellas Crean Festival at the Conde Duque Cultural Centre in Madrid.

In collaboration with the dancer from the Pina Bausch Wüpperthal Tanztheater company, Pablo Arán, the visual artist Stella Rahola and the actor Manuel Galiana, amongst others, Sira Hernandez moved further into composition. This led her in 2017 to premiere her own music written for piano in the L'altra voce show at Barcelona's Teatre Akademia, under the Italian director and choreographer, Moreno Bernardi. The show took its inspiration from the work of the great Italian poet, Alda Merini.

In 2019, she premiered another work for piano, "**Fantasia for Piano**", this time at the request of the Italian artist, Sara Conforti, for her performance at the Gli Acrobati Gallery in Turin. In June 2019, she composed and premiered the work for piano, "**Don't Forget About That**", in memory of the Italian writer Primo Levi on the centenary of his birth and in collaboration with the Primo Levi Studies Centre in Turin.

These collaborations, where Sira Hernández displays her most creative side through the improvisation and composition of her own works, have led to her latest recording for the Naxos label, as part of the "Musics from Spain" series: '**Initiation to the Shadows**'. This work has enjoyed major worldwide success and was the sixth-highest selling CD on Naxos in May 2020.

In mid-2020, Sira Hernandez began a new project, "**Three Impressions of the Divine Comedy**" a tribute to the great Italian poet performed in 2021 throughout the world on the 700th anniversary of his death. The work was commissioned by the National Library of Spain for the exhibition about the poet, at the Library on World Poetry Day.

In April 2021 Sira Hernández obtained three nominations in the thirteenth edition of the MIN Awards for Independent Music for her project "**Initiation to the Shadow**" recorded for the Naxos Music Group label. Specifically, Sira Hernández's work has been nominated in the categories of Best Artist, Best Classical Music Album and Best Video Clip.