

BANDA MUNICIPAL DE BARCELONA

BARCELONA SYMPHONIC BAND

SALVADOR BROTONS conductor

2017 WASBE CONFERENCE

21st JULY

TIVOLIVREDENBURG-UTRECHT

Concert in collaboration

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ramon llull
Catalaanse Taal en Cultuur

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1925. Strauss conducted the Banda Municipal de Barcelona

The **Banda Municipal de Barcelona** is one of the oldest musical institutions in the city. It was set up by Barcelona City Council in 1886, and ever since then, it has been continuously active in the music scene. In its more than 130 years of history, the Band has stuck to the principles that inspired its creation: to popularize the music of the great composers and to offer first-rate performances. In the early years of the 20th century, it became one of the leading musical ensembles in Europe under the baton of the Barcelona-born Joan Lamote de Grigon, who arranged and adapted for symphonic band works by Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Wagner and Richard Strauss, who conducted the band himself in 1925.

The **Banda Municipal de Barcelona** has risen to meet new challenges by performing the canon of the repertoire for band, commissioning new works and collaborating with artists and performers from a wide range of disciplines: educational programmes, dance, circus and video art.

Since 2007 the Band has been resident at L'Auditori de Barcelona, where it performs a regular season of concerts and develops projects with national and international performers and ensembles. The Catalan composer and conductor Salvador Brotons has been the band's principal conductor since 2008.

PROGRAMME

JULY 2017

FRIDAY 21st | 04:00 p.m.

Tivolivredenburg-Utrecht

2017 WASBE Conference Utrecht

Salvador Brotons conductor

- 1 / **JOAN LAMOTE DE GRIGNON** · Barcelona 1872-1949
Scherzo sobre un tema popular català
(Scherzo about a popular Catalan theme) (1915) 8'
- 2 / **EDUARD TOLDRÀ** · Vilanova i la Geltrú 1895 - Barcelona 1962
Empúries. Sardana lliure (Free composition about a Catalan dance) (1926)
Transcribed by Joan Lamote de Grignon 7'
- 3 / **JOAQUIM SERRA I COROMINAS** · Peralada 1907 - Barcelona 1957
Puigsoliu. Symphonic poem (1957)
Transcribed by Joan Alfonso 8'
- 4 / **MANUEL OLTRA** · València 1922 - Barcelona 2015
Montmagastre. A little symphonic scene (1970)
Transcribed by Jordi León 7'
- 5 / **AGUSTÍ BORGUNYÓ** · Sabadell, 1894 - Barcelona, 1967
L'aplec. Peasant celebration (1956)
Transcribed by Joan Lluís Moraleda 9'

INTERMISSION

- 6 / **XAVIER MONTSALVATGE** · Girona, 1912 - Barcelona, 2002
Music for a Sunday (1984) 10'
I. Fanfare II. The Llofriú chotis (traditional spanish dance) III. The Poble Sec polka
- 7 / **SALVADOR BROTONS** · Barcelona 1959
Symphony No. 6 "Concise", op. 122 (2011) 26'
I. Frontal II. Procession III. Scherzo IV. Passacaglia V. Finale

PROGRAMME NOTES

David Puertas Esteve

As an institution, the Banda Municipal de Barcelona is central to the understanding of Catalan music over the past 100 years. It has always gone above and beyond its simple role of programming concerts and participating in local official events: it has contributed to the dissemination of music in a country with very few symphonic orchestras and where promoting the international repertoire – both classical and contemporary – has often proved an uphill task. The Band has always rejected elitism and targeted all kinds of audiences, playing the best classical, romantic, contemporary and traditional scores in history, regardless of whether they were originally composed for band or arranged for such an ensemble. Thus aiming at popularity as well as quality, under the baton of great conductors and with an increasingly large repertoire, the Band has fulfilled its role by entertaining audiences and committing itself to supporting Catalan composers, who have thus had many of their symphonic works premiered by an outstanding instrumental ensemble.

The person responsible for the success of the Banda Municipal de Barcelona was Joan Lamote de Grignon who became its music director in 1914. He undertook a major overhaul of the Band along professional lines, increased its staff to 85 musicians and stamped it with an artistic personality that turned it into an internationally-acclaimed ensemble. One of the unique features of the Band – affecting the two families of wind instruments – was the addition of a section of shawms, which consisted of one *tible* (wood) and two *tenores* (brass), typical Catalan instruments whose distinctive timbre could be used for classical compositions with notable success. The addition of these shawms served two separate purposes: on the one hand, in Catalan compositions in which they were played as solo instruments, they provided a unique sound often associated with intangible values – dance, tradition, celebration, Catalan identity – and, on the other hand, their sharp, bright timbre balanced the opaqueness of the single reed instruments (clarinets and saxophones) thus helping to create a more luminous sound. Lamote de Grignon was a great orchestrator and, from the point of view of timbre, when he resorted to the tenora or the in his arrangements of symphonic music (such as the finale of Beethoven's *Fifth* or in Wagner's *Tannhäuser* overture) his aim was not to make the international repertoire sound "more Catalan", but to achieve the orchestral brightness he could not get with the usual band instruments.



The compositions in today's programme provide a diverse sample of 20th-century Catalan music, with seven of our best composers and arrangements that feature traditional Catalan instruments: the already-mentioned tible and tenora and the *flabiol* (a fipple flute usually played to the beating of a small drum), which was added to the Band in the late 1970s. The first composition is a *Scherzo* by Joan Lamote de Grignon who was not only a great orchestrator, but also an outstanding composer, with dozens of works, amongst which one of the highlights is this "musical joke" (1897) based on a Catalan folk song, *La filadora* (The Weaver), arranged for band around 1920.

We follow this with Eduard Toldrà, conductor, violinist and composer, who founded the Orquestra Municipal de Barcelona in 1944 and served as its music director until his death. His oeuvre consists of a hundred compositions, including an opera, two string quartets, several dozen songs and over thirty *sardanes* (the traditional Catalan dance). We will hear a *sardana* originally scored for symphony orchestra and arranged for band by Lamote de Grignon himself.

Joaquim Serra is also one of the most eminent Catalan composers of the first half of the 20th century. Most of his works were written for *cobla*, the music ensemble that usually accompanies the *sardana*. A *cobla* normally consists of one *flabiol*, two *tibles*, two *tenores*, two trumpets, a trombone, two *fiscorns* and a double bass. Joaquim Serra was one of the first composers who wrote works for *cobla* other than *sardanes*. In this respect, *Puigsoliu* is one of his most outstanding compositions. It was premiered at the Palau de la Música Catalana in Barcelona on the very same day he died.

Manuel Oltra is one of the best-loved composers in Catalonia because, in addition to his work as a composer and arranger, he has taught composition to more than two generations of Catalan musicians. His music is sophisticated and delicate, always straightforward, never speculative. *Montmagastre* dates from 1970. Originally composed for *cobla*, it was arranged for band by Oltra's former student Jordi León, oboist and *flabiolaire* with the BMB.



Agusti Borgunyó was one of the thousands of Catalans that left their country in search of a better life at the beginning of the 20th century. He settled in New York City where he worked as an instrumentalist and arranger for a radio station. At the same time, he kept composing music on commission or by inspiration. Many of these works – which were never performed in his lifetime – have been recovered over the past few years. *L'aplec* was originally written for a large symphony orchestra, and it has been arranged for band by Joan Lluís Moraleda.

Xavier Montsalvatge is one of the most internationally-renowned Catalan composers. He became famous in the 1950s with his "Caribbean" music, such as his *Cinco canciones negras* or his *Cuarteto indiano*, and he remained active as a composer until his death (most of his works were composed when he was over 60 years old). His *Música per a un diumenge* (Music for a Sunday) was commissioned by the Barcelona Municipal Band. It is a festive piece, where Montsalvatge used the same theme he had used in his *Fanfarria para la alegría de la paz*, written to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the accession to the Spanish throne of King Juan Carlos I and premiered by Mstislav Rostropovich.

Salvador Brotons has been the music director of the Banda Municipal de Barcelona since 2008, but he has also developed an intense artistic career as a composer that has led him to have his works premiered all over the world. His oeuvre includes nearly 150 works from all kinds of musical genres. His *Simfonia núm. 6 "Concisa"* was commissioned by the Banda Simfònica Lira Castellonera that premiered it in 2012 in the Certamen Internacional de Bandes de València where it was awarded the third prize in the Section of Honour. According to the composer himself, the music in this work is straightforward, with sound explosions and a constant, intense rhythm – an unabashed tribute to the band's sound at its purest.



SALVADOR BROTONS

conductor and composer



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As a composer, he has written more than 150 works, mainly for orchestra and chamber ensembles. He has been awarded numerous prizes, including the Premio Orquesta Nacional de España (1977), the Premi Jove d'Or (1980), the Premi Ciutat de Barcelona (1983 and 1986), the Southeastern Composers League Award (1986), the Madison University Flute Choir Composition Award (1987) and the Premio Reina Sofía de Composición (1991). Many of his compositions have been published and recorded both in Europe and in the USA.

In Spain he has been music director of the Orquestra Simfònica de Balears Ciutat de Palma (1997-2001; 2009-2013) and the Orquestra Simfònica del Vallès (1997-2002). Since 1991 he has been music director of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra (WA). He is the current music director of the Barcelona Municipal Band. He has served as guest conductor with orchestras in Israel, Germany, China, Belgium, Korea, France, Italy, Mexico, the USA and Spain. He currently combines a busy schedule as a conductor with the composition of works commissioned by all kinds of patrons.

BANDA MUNICIPAL DE BARCELONA

SALVADOR BROTONS CONDUCTOR

CLARINET Àngel Errea, principal / José Miguel Micó, soloist / Natàlia Zanón, soloist / Joana Altadill / Valeria Conti / Joan Estellés / Victòria González / Montserrat Margalef / Manuel Martínez / José Joaquín Sánchez / Antonio Santos / Javier Olmeda / Sergi Rodrigo / Joan Tormo / Javier Vilaplana, E flat clarinet / Martí Guasteví, alto clarinet / José Vicente Montesinos, bass clarinet **SAXOPHONE** Juana Palop, soprano / Dani Molina, alto soloist / Marta Romero, alto / Armand Franco, tenor / José Jaime Rivera, tenor / David Abad, tenor / Joan Soler, baritone / Àlex Pons, bass **FLUTE** Manuel Reyes, soloist / Carme Arrufat / Josep Maria Llorens, piccolo **OBOE** Pilar Bosque, soloist / Jordi León / Aitor Llímerà, english horn **BASSOON** Xavier Cerverà, soloist / Daniel Ortuño / Laura Guasteví, contrabassoon **FLABIOI** Jordi León, soloist **TIBLE** Armand Franco, soloist **TENORA** Jordi Figaró **FRENCH HORN** Oleguer Bertran / Carles Lizondo / Manuel Montesinos / Josep Miquel Rozalén / Miguel Zapata **TRUMPET / FLUGELHORN** Jesús Munuera, soloist / Patricio Soler, soloist / Maurici Albàs / Santiago Gozálbex / Jesús Pascual / José Joaquín Salvador / Ignacio Martínez **TROMBONE** Emili Bayarri, soloist / Eduard Font / Francesc Ivars / Francisco Palacios, bass **EUPHONIUM** Rubén Zuriaga, soloist / David Pantín **TUBA** Antonio Chelvi, soloist / Francisco Javier Molina **TIMPANI** Ferran Carceller **PERCUSSION** Mateu Caballé, soloist / Mario Garcia / Rubén Lajara / Miquel Vich **DOUBLE BASS** Antoni Cubedo / Agustín Aparici **HARP** Laura Boschetti **GENERAL MANAGER** Joan Xicola **COORDINATOR** Susanna Gamisel **PERSONAL MANAGER** Josep Miquel Rozalén **LIBRARIAN** Àlex Fernández

