

A man with dark hair and a goatee, wearing a black suit jacket over a black shirt, is seated and holding a light-colored acoustic guitar. He is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background is a large, vibrant abstract painting with splashes of red, blue, yellow, and black on a white base. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the man's face and the guitar.

THE REVIVAL OF THE GUITAR

PIECES OF THE 20TH CENTURY

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1. THE PROPOSAL

At the beginning of the 20th century the revival of the guitar was produced, a fact that has been supported by great musicologists specialized in the instrument such as Angelo Gilardino.

We could say that the “revival” matches the aesthetics of Impressionism and Nationalists prevailing at the time in which a modality is used in accordance with the tuning of instruments by 4ths. This new opportunity to put guitar in the “musical spotlight” makes first-rate composers such as: Manuel de Falla, Joaquín Turina, Antonio José or Vicente Asencio generate a new musical corpus. This corpus is of such importance that in our time period it got named “The golden century” of classical guitar.

During this time a series of performers appeared, such as Andrés Segovia, Miguel Llobet or Regino Sainz de la Maza, who made guitar sound again in the most important concert halls around the world.

The project we are presenting is based on carrying out a concert in which some of the most representative classical guitar works of the 20th century is presented. Each of the works will be presented by the artist, through a brief explanation which will help the audience to get to know the work and the musical style in which it is framed.

2. THE PROGRAMME

Notes to the programme

The proposed programme is formed of musical pieces included in previously named “The Golden century of the Guitar”. The concert will begin with four movements from Suite Platero y yo written by composer Eduardo Sainz de la Maza. These pieces are inspired by the works of the writer Juan Ramón Jiménez, which seek to reflect on places and scenes that the writer recounts in his book through music typical of Impressionism and sounds related to folklore. Afterwards we’ll be able to listen to Mallorca and Granada by Isaac Albéniz. These two works have been transcribed by great guitarists throughout history. For example: the piece named Granada was transcribed by Francisco Tárrega, who is considered one of the most important artists in the history of guitar. Tárrega helped create this new musical situation in the 20th century and was a mentor to a lot of previously named guitarists.

Undoubtedly, the two works of the greatest importance on the concert programme are Sonata by Joaquín Turina and La misma luz de entonces by Marco Smaili. These two works represent two moments in history in which the guitar shows its maximum splendor, using endless instrumental resources that make these works brilliant and of great difficulty. In the case of Turina, it should be emphasized that he uses a more literal language, typical of an excitement of Spanish folklore with rasgueados, guitar finger strumming technique, and melodies extracted in ways typical of flamenco.

On the other hand, La misma luz de entonces by Marco Smaili, is framed in a much more contemporary language, paying tribute to the great jazz pianist Tete Montoliu. Smaili creates, based on his harmonies, full of color, landscapes and melodies of great beauty and strength.

This proposal ensures that the audience can approach the most representative authors and musical pieces, based on the explanations and interpretation of the pieces by the guitarist. The preceding turns the proposal into an educational and experiential concert that provides a double experience for the public.

2. THE PROGRAMME

(Duration 50')

Eduardo Sainz de la Maza (1903-1982)

- Platero y yo [4']
- El Loco (3')
- La Azotea [2']
- La Muerte [3']

Isaac Albéniz (1860-1909)

- Granada Op. 47 (1918) [5']
- Mallorca Op. 202 (1891) [6,5']

Marco Smaili (1967-)

- La misma luz de entonces (11')
- I. Rubato-Allegro Moderato-Molto
libero-Allegro moderato
- II. Improvisatorio
- III. Enérgico

Manuel de Falla (1876-1946)

- Homenaje a Debussy (1920) [3'5]
- Tribute to Debussy (1920) [3'5]

Joaquín Turina (1882-1949)

- Sonata Op.61 (1930) [12']
- I Allegro
- II Andante
- III Allegro Vivo

3. AITOR GARCÍA

"During the years I was teaching Aitor Garcia at ESMUC, I was able to experience a very unusual honesty in his work. His concentration and persistence made him a serious and efficient performer, attentive to the text. Having him later as a colleague at the Barcelona School of Music, I have been able to notice that, over the years, he has become an excellent teacher who achieves magnificent results based on a deep knowledge of technique and music, always respecting the personality of each student"

Àlex Garrobé (Concert player and guitar teacher at ESMUC)

Aitor is a natural guitarist from Barcelona who has a warm sound and subtle expressiveness as his hallmark. Thanks to his way of interpreting music, he manages to keep the listener surrounded by the environment full of timbres and colors. These interpretive nuances come largely from the tradition of the Catalan school of guitar, as among his teachers we can find Àlex Garrobé and Guillem-Pérez Quer.

Aitor has received advice from important guitar soloists such as: Zoran Dukic, Margarita Escarpa, Pavel Steidl, Ricardo Gallén, Aniello Desiderio, among others.

He was invited to develop his soloist work at emblematic places in Barcelona, such as Teatrino del Liceu, el Auditori, el Palau Güell or el Recinto Modernista de la Torre de las Aguas de Barcelona, also in this city. He has participated in international festivals such as the Hersbruck Guitar Festival in Germany, the Vasaros Klavisas muzikiniai pokalbiai or the Kretingale Muzikinis Festivalis in Lithuania. In 2019 he made his debut in China, performing recitals in the city of Beijing.

Apart from all of the above he carries out important educational work, both nationally and internationally. On the one hand he is a member of the teaching staff of the Escola Municipal de Castellar del Vallés, as well as the Chamber Music Summer Course at Castellar de'n Hug, where he has been giving classes since 2014. As for his international teaching work, he has participated in the Masterclasses for students from the Xi'aN and Beijing conservatories in China. He is usually invited to form part of the jury at different international competitions for young performers.

In March 2022, he recorded his first album entitled "Homenajes" under the JSM Records record label in which the Guitarlift brand collaborated on the project.

To learn more about Aitor, be sure to visit his website:

www.aitorgarciaguitar.com

4. VIDEOS



HOMENAJE A DEBUSSY



LA MISMA LUZ DE ENTONCES - I RUBATO

4. VIDEOS



LA MISMA LUZ DE ENTONCES - II IMPROVISATORIO



LA MISMA LUZ DE ENTONCES - III ENÉRGICO

5. CONTACT

AITOR GARCÍA MORATA

WEB: WWW.AITORGARCIAGUITAR.COM

MAIL: CONTACTO@AITORGARCIAGUITAR.COM

FACEBOOK: AITOR GARCÍA MORATA