

BIG AND SMALL PERCUSSIONS: PIANO AND CASTANETS

Belén Cabanes, dance and castanets

Marina Rodríguez Brià, piano



The two artists offer this concert with a desire to introduce the exceptional fusion of the piano, the Spanish dance, and the virtuoso castanets within the framework of classical music.

They are the successors of the art of José de Udaeta, with whom they offered over forty performances on important European stages, as Berlin Opera Unter den Linden or Aalto Opera Essen, among others. They won the prix “Premio de la Crítica” in the Flamenco Festival of Jerez 2004.

In April 2019 they have been invited to take part in the events to honour maestro José de Udaeta.

The two performers bring the audience closer to the sound of castanets of different materials, shapes, and periods. Through a varied repertoire consisting of Spanish and Classical music, Flamenco contemporary dance and rhythmic texts specially created for the different musical pieces, they have the will to share the sound possibilities of the piano with this small and so rare instrument. With a small yet sonorous percussion instrument as the castanets and the embracing sound of the piano, they have created a programme that welcomes different styles, freely following a tradition—the clicking of castanets.

Works by Granados, Clementi, Antoni Soler, Albéniz, Flotats, Falla, Malats, Scarlatti, Bach.



Castanets always sound familiar, but we are often unaware of the secrets surrounding their own world and history. Closely linked to the spheres of music and dance, they are one of most ancient percussion instruments. With a peculiar sound, they are able to express a wide range of rhythms and colours, and distinguished maestros such as José de Udaeta raised them to the status of solo instrument. Belén Cabanes and Marina Rodríguez worked with him, and they both offer us an opportunity to discover new sonorities in a compilation of works from different authors and times.

(Music Museum of Barcelona, 2015)

Videos:

Sitges. Festival DONA-Art en femení, 2020- Flotats: <https://youtu.be/Tj3HujN6EVw>

Sitges. Festival DONA-Art en femení, 2020- Clementi: <https://youtu.be/7h3FQfoI2DY>

Institut del Teatre de Barcelona, 2019- Soler: <https://youtu.be/SyHJo6iW-wE>

Museu de la Música de Barcelona- Haydn: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZxzXtsZCN8Y>

Teatre Principal de Vilanova- Albéniz: <https://youtu.be/mZ6y9MDRYUk>

Press

Marina Rodríguez and Belén Cabanes captivated and delighted the audience gathered in the gardens of the Casino Prado Suburensa ... the piano and castanets concert was one of the shows that sold out.

... The previous contributions and explanations made sense of a show that grew to wrap the souls of all present. "

(Isidre Roset and Juan. L'Eco de Sitges, 10 September 2020)

BELÉN CABANES & MARINA RODRÍGUEZ: „PÁJAROS DE MARFIL“

Die kleinen Kastagnetten aus Elfenbein, die sie von José de Udaeta als Geschenk bekam, inspirierten Belén Cabanes zu diesem ungewöhnlichen Abend. Kleine Vögelchen, die hinter einem durchbrochenen Bühnenvorhang flattern, beginnen das Spiel und damit eine Reise durch viele Musik- und Seelenlandschaften. Auch Lachen ist erlaubt, selten genug im Flamenco. Marina Rodríguez begleitet am Flügel das virtuose Spiel der Belén Cabanes, die das Publikum mit ihren Kastagnetten in verschiedenste Klangwelten und mit Fächer, Federboa und Spielfreude in eine zauberhafte Welt entführt.

(Suzanne Zellinger, ¡Anda! Zeitschrift für Flamenco 120, 2015)

"[...] Udaeta displays a splendid performance, along with two overwhelming figures: the classical and flamenco dancer and castanet performer from Vilanova i la Geltrú, Belén Cabanes, and the pianist from Sant Vicenç de Castellet, Marina Rodríguez. They were both over brimming with talent at the Catalan National Theatre, TNC."

(The Secret of the Castanet with José de Udaeta). Teatre Nacional de Catalunya, Barcelona - La Vanguardia, Barcelona, 22/6/2000. Marjolijn van der Meer)

JOINT BIOGRAPHY

Belén Cabanes, dance & castanets

Marina Rodríguez Brià, piano

The two members of the company have a great personal and artistic experience and a long-shared career.

From 1999 to 2005, they were partners of the great dancer and concert castanets, José de Udaeta, in the shows *The Secret of the castanets* and *Spanish Caprice*. With him, they performed in very important concert halls and opera houses of Germany, as: *Würth Museum* in Schwäbisch Hall, *Festivals of Ludwigsburg* 1999 and 2002, *Aalto Opera* in Essen, *Opera of Berlin Staatsoper Unter den Linden* and *Opera of Stuttgart Staatstheater*.

They have also performed at the *National Theatre of Catalonia*, at the *Expo 2000* in Hanover, *Teatro Libero Palermo*, the *Philharmonic Society of Bilbao*, *Palau de la Música* in Valencia, *Teatro Principal de Burgos*, *Floriade 2002* in Holland, *Festival Porta Ferrada* in Sant Feliu de Guixols 2001 and 2002, *Isaac Albéniz Camprodon Festival 2002*, *Cultural Center of the Caixa de Terrassa* 2003 and 2004, among others. With *The Secret of the castanets* in 2004 were awarded the prestigious Critics Award of the *Flamenco Festival* of Jerez. In 2002, they recorded this repertoire for the program *Nydia* by Catalonia Television, Channel 33.

Belén Cabanes and Marina Rodríguez have acted in other concerts, such as the *Palau de la Música* in Barcelona, at the Conservatoire of Manresa, the *Cultural Nights* of St. Pere Sallavinera (Barcelona), the *Grafenegg Festival* (Austria), the *Flamenco Festival* of Düsseldorf or in the *Nikolaisaal* of Potsdam (Germany).

In 2004 they founded the trio *Anima Nua*, along with cellist Anna Mora, who have acted in the *Pau Casals Auditorium* of El Vendrell, the *Cercle del Liceu* in Barcelona, the *Teatro Metropol* in Tarragona, or the *Principal Theatre* of Burgos. In 2010 they performed at the *Cervantes Institute* in Madrid as part of the festival "Ellas crean".

On 31 July 2011, the two artists have released their new show "Ivory Birds".

In 2015 they have presented "Big and small percussions: Keys and Castanets", with original historical instruments in the Music Museum of Barcelona.



Of note is the recital offered as part of the acts of homage to José de Udaeta by the City Council of Sant Pere de Ribes on April 7, 2019 in the old church of Ribes. On September 6, 2020 they performed at the *Festival Dona, Art en femení* in the gardens of the Casino Prado in Sitges.





Fotos: Museo de la Música de Barcelona

INDIVIDUAL BIOGRAPHY

Belén Cabanes, dance & castanets

Belén Cabanes was born in Vilanova i la Geltrú and trained in Barcelona under Rosa García and Enrique Burgos. In 1991 she qualified at the *Real Conservatorio de Danza y Música de Madrid* and obtained the *Revàlida Superior del Mètode de Castanyoles de Concert d'Emma Maleras* for castanet-playing.

From 1992 to 1995 she danced with the Ballet Teatro Español de Rafael Aguilar, playing the role of Bernarda Alba in the production "Rango". In March 1992 she premiered with the same company at the Teatro Lírico Nacional de la Zarzuela in Madrid alongside prestigious sopranos Teresa Berganza and María Bayo.

In 1996 she joined the harp duo Gioccarpa with Janet Paulus and Elisabeth Colard (Orquesta Sinfónica de Euskadi) as concert musician and dancer. That same year she also collaborated in the recording of Tanganera by guitarist Víctor Valls as "foot and castanet percussionist" and subsequently performed at its Barcelona premiere at the Luz de Gas venue and also performed at the Sant Cugat Catalan Poetry Festival under the direction of Lluís Homar in collaboration with poets Alex Susanna and Marta Pessarrodona.

In 1997 she jointly created the Flamenco Camerata with guitarist Andreas María Germek and Flamenco singer José Parrondo and toured extensively with the group in Germany and Austria.

Subsequently, she joined the contemporary Flamenco "2D1" Company under the direction of Juan Carlos Lérida and performed at L'Espai in Barcelona and the Sitges International Festival (2002). She was awarded the prize for "**Best Dancer**" at the "*IX Certamen Coreogràfic de Danza Espanyola y Flamenco de Madrid*" for the choreography "Costumbre" (Custom), which was also awarded second prize in the choreography section.

She has continuously performed with the legendary castanet-player **José de Udaeta** since 1999 in his acclaimed show *El secret de la castanyola* (*The secret of the castanet*).

She jointly created the "**Castanyola Contemporània**" show together with guitarist Andreas María Germek.

In 2006 participates as a musician recording the CDs "Tanganera", by the guitarist Victor Valls. Belen also participates recording the CD dedicated to the Spanish composer Enric Granados. Those CDs are part of an educational collection of Bellaterra Music Productions.

Classical for Castanets "**Anima Nua**", with Anna Mora and Marina Rodríguez, by castanets, has appeared among other places in the Teatro Principal de Burgos, Tarragona Metropol Theatre, Cercle del Liceu in Barcelona, the

International Music Festival in the Monastery of Sant Cugat and headquarters of the Cervantes Institute in Madrid.

In March 2011 she plays in **Musikverein in Viena**, with the Tonkünstlerschester, conducted by Andrés Orozco and introducing the orchestrated version of the show "Flowers Time".

In 2014 she was invited to the great Classical Music Festival GMMF in South Korea. Belen played with the great cello player, internationally well-known Lluís Claret.

She has been invited for many years to teach workshops in several European schools. She has also danced in many Dance Festivals all over the continent.

In 2015 gets the diploma of Superior Degree in Dance Pedagogy from the School of Dance of the Theatre Institute of Barcelona. Since 2003 she is a professor in the Dance Conservatory "**Institut del Teatre de Barcelona**".

In February 2018 she was an invited artist in the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics (South Korea). In November that year, she was the driving force of the Tribute to José de Udaeta and Emma Maleras, presented by the MAE (Museum of the Performing Arts) at the Institut del Teatre de Barcelona.

In 2020 she begins a new adventure with "Jazztanyoles" with the great jazz pianist Elisabet Raspall. In July she participated as a performer and witness of the last years of the artistic life of José de Udaeta, in a museum and interpretation center project in the Castle of Sant Pere de Ribes, where José de Udaeta lived his last 50 years. Also, in 2020, she collaborated in the show "La Galeria", by the young creator and dancer José Maldonado with a castanet show for the 2021 Jerez Festival.

www.belencabanes.cat



MARINA RODRÍGUEZ BRIÀ, PIANO

Marina Rodríguez Brià was born in Sant Vicenç de Castellet (Barcelona) and studied at the *Conservatori Superior Municipal de Música* of Barcelona, the *Conservatoire National de Musique, Danse et Art Dramatique* of Perpignan, and the *Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona*, and holds a degree in Music and in French Philology. She has broadened her studies with different international courses and has been awarded several prizes in piano, chamber music, and poetry contests.

She has performed in concert halls such as the *Staatsoper Unter den Linden* (Berlin), *Laeiszhalle* in Hamburg, *The Sage* auditorium in Gateshead (England), *Nikolaisaal* in Potsdam, *L'Auditori* of Barcelona, Opera of Stuttgart, *Teatros del Canal* in Madrid, *Palau de la Música* of Barcelona and Valencia, *Aalto Opera* in Essen, *Casa da Musica* in Oporto, *Teatro Gran Rex* in Buenos Aires, *Teatro Universidad de Chile* in Santiago de Chile, *Instituto Cervantes* and *Fundación March* in Madrid, and at the international festivals of Grafenegg (Austria), Düsseldorf, Expo-Hannover, Ludwigsburg, *Festival Chopin* of Valldemossa, and the *Gaudí 2nd World Congress*, among others.

She has collaborated with the following orchestras: *Orquestra Simfònica de Barcelona* (OBC), *Filharmonia de Cambra*, *Orquestra del Teatre Lliure*, *Orquestra de cambra catalana*, and *Orquestra de cambra de la Simfònica Europea*.

Together with Joan Josep Gutiérrez, she forms a piano duet including music from the 18th to the 21th century, with performances at numerous concert series and national and international festivals in Spain, Germany, and Colombia. Together with baritone Jerzy Artysz, she has performed at different festivals with a repertoire of Polish and German *lied*.

From 1999 to 2005, she was part of the live show *El Secret de la Castanyola* with José de Udaeta and Belén Cabanes, being noteworthy their performances at prestigious opera theatres and halls in Germany, Netherlands, Italy, and Spain.

She has created several live shows such as *Girasons* (comissioned by *L'Auditori* of Barcelona and selected at *Festival Teatralia*), *Le vaisseau-piano ou la Reine des Fictions*, and *L'habitació de les joguines*, and the commented concerts *Viatjant amb el piano al cap*, *Concert de piano amb sorpreses musicals*, and *Spanish Piano Music*, among others.

She has recorded on several occasions for *Radio Nacional*, *Catalunya Ràdio*, *Catalunya Música*, *TV3*, *Canal 33*, *TV1*, *TV2*, *Südwest Rundfunk*, *RAI*, and *Radio France*. She has published more than ten albums with works of Russian composers, Romantic dances for piano duet, Spanish music for piano solo, and a monographic album of Albéniz, among others. She is a pianist but also a connoisseur of the historical pianoforte, instrument with which she also records and gives concerts.

Scholar of composer Muzio Clementi, she has recorded two albums with works by this author, the latest one —Clementi on a Clementi & Co. square

piano. Ultramarina Creations, Barcelona, 2015— being performed on an original Clementi pianoforte of 1824. She has given the lecture “Clementi, músic i constructor” at the Music Museum of Barcelona. At the University of Barcelona, she has given the courses “Un viatge musical amb Clementi” (2016) and “El naixement del piano romàntic” (2019) within the course series Gaudir UB and has coordinated two summer courses in relation with this topic within the series Els Juliols at the same university.

In 2017, she was invited to the United States to participate in the conference of the Historical Keyboard Society of North America, playing the opening concert and giving a lecture-recital. She has also given concerts of Spanish music in Columbia (South Carolina). She has actively participated at the events of the *Jornada Clementi* 2017 at the Institut d’Estudis Catalans and the Music Museum of Barcelona, as well as at the exhibition *Muzio Clementi, The Father of the Pianoforte* (of which she was the curator) at the Palau de la Música within the framework of the Maria Canals International Music Competition of Barcelona 2018. She is a founding member of the Muzio Clementi Association of Barcelona.

With Montserrat Gascón, in 2018 they premiered the recital *Voices of Wood and Crystal* with a fortepiano and a crystal flute, both original instruments from the 19th century, in the framework of the 19th Early Music Festival Tiana Antica. In the same year she premiered the piano recital *Clementi & Friends* at the Royal Artistic Cercle in Barcelona. She has published her poetry book “Soc una projecció pòstuma” at Ultramarina Creations (2018).

In 2019 she has been invited at the Geelvinck International Fortepiano Festival in Holland, where she has given several solo piano recitals and a lecture-recital at the Sixth International Geelvinck Fortepiano Symposium.

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