



WIND BAND CLASSICS



CATALAN WIND MUSIC • 2

Amargós • Bertran • Fábregas • Montsalvatge

Jonathan Camps, Double Bass

Barcelona Symphonic Band • Salvador Brotons



Catalan Wind Music • 2: Xavier Montsalvatge (1912–2002)

Joan Albert Amargós (b. 1950) • Elisenda Fàbregas (b. 1955) • Moisès Bertran (b. 1967)

Xavier Montsalvatge:
Música per a un diumenge ('Music for a Sunday')

Xavier Montsalvatge was born in Girona in 1912 and died in Barcelona in 2002. He was one of the most important Catalan composers of the 20th century, and completed around 170 works: symphonies, chamber music, pieces for solo instruments, piano works, operas, *coblas*, ballets, music for bands, choirs, films, and songs. Two of his most internationally well-known works are *Cinco canciones negras* and *Cuarteto Indiano*. In 1998 he was awarded the Tomás Luis de Victoria Iberoamericana Music Prize.

Música per a un diumenge ('Music for a Sunday') was the result of a commission from the Barcelona Symphony Band, and was premiered on 25 November 1984 at the Palau de la Música Catalana, under the direction of Albert Argudo, at the second concert of the season; the concerts took place every fortnight on Sundays at 6pm. The first movement, *Fanfarria* ('Fanfare'), is an energetic and rhythmic fanfare with touches of humour – an element that runs throughout the entire work – with a central section played only by percussion instruments. The following year it was scored for symphony orchestra by the same composer, and, following some slight changes, was renamed *Fanfarria para la alegría de la paz*, in dedication to the ten-year reign of Juan Carlos I of Spain. It was premiered on 25 November 1985 by the Orquesta Sinfónica de Radio Televisión Española (RTVE Symphony Orchestra) under the baton of Mstislav Rostropovich. The second movement, *El xotis de Llofriu* ('The Llofriu Chotis'), is also replete with irony and good humour. Montsalvatge had a link with the Empordà town of Llofriu through his friendship with the writer Josep Pla. Finally, the third movement, *La polka del Poble Sec* ('The Poble Sec Polka'), completes the work with a colourful, festive air.

Joan Albert Amargós:
Jocs temàtics ('Thematic Games')

Joan Albert Amargós was born in Barcelona in 1950. Although he trained as a classical clarinet player, his interests have led him to collaborate with musicians from different genres, including jazz and flamenco, as well as symphonic, experimental and popular music, and singer-songwriters. He is considered one of the most important composers and arrangers in Spain – and the most awarded – as well as the most eclectic. In 2002 he was deservedly awarded the National Prize for Music 'for his ability to synthesise between various musical languages'. In 1984 the Barcelona Symphony Band commissioned him with to write a work, the *Concert popular per a banda*, and for the occasion of the ensemble's 125th anniversary (1886–2011) he was commissioned again, this time resulting in *Jocs temàtics* ('Thematic Games'). As the composer himself says: 'Over these years I've learned a few things about large ensembles and I've had the chance to write on a regular basis for bands and orchestras. Bands really inspire me because of the strength of their brass, the energy they transmit and the power of the wind instruments in general. I wrote a single-movement work, based on the appearance of different themes that gradually come together. Just when you think a theme has played its part and has been abandoned, it suddenly reappears around some corner, where you least expect it. I play with the counterpoint, with the timbres and the dynamic force of the instrumental ensemble. It's a work that shows how I currently write, with this transversal spirit that characterises my life as a musician who draws from different disciplines, and who naturally brings together the multiple influences received.' The work premiered at L'Auditori, Barcelona on 20 February 2011 under the baton of Arturo Tamayo.

Elisenda Fàbregas: Symphony No. 1

Elisenda Fàbregas was born in Terrassa in 1955 and, at just over 20 years of age, went to further her piano and composition studies in the US, where she decided to stay. There, she premiered her first works, and since then has premiered 40 more works around the world. She has taught at various American and Korean universities, and currently resides in Seoul.

The composer has the following to say about the work: 'The Barcelona Symphony Band commissioned me to compose a work through their music director, Salvador Brotons, to whom I have dedicated this dramatic and emotional work. It premiered at L'Auditori, Barcelona on 9 February 2014 under the baton of Korean conductor Youngmin Park.' The first movement begins with the brass as the main protagonist, with a full and generous symphonic texture that contrasts with the chamber music interventions, where the different timbres of the band appear diaphanously. The thematic and rhythmic developments follow one another, creating a highly dramatic piece, despite not having a specific underlying programme. The second movement, entitled *Cançó* ('Song') treats the melody as the protagonist, initially expressed alongside the deeper sounds of the various instrument families. As the composer says: 'it's an intimate piece and has the melodic and expressive characteristics of a Catalan song'. The most lyrical part of the symphony, constructed over a sweet constant balancing, is also the shortest, and contrasts with the third movement, *Scherzo*, which, from the beginning, presents a rhythmic persistence that changes appearance with much originality, with a constant timbral play and an energetic finale. The final movement replicates the grandeur of the first, again with an initial fanfare and symphonic fullness which balances the work and gives it a majestic closure.

Moisès Bertran: A Double Bass Fantasy
for solo bass and wind orchestra

Moisès Bertran was born in Mataró in 1967. In the 1990s he went to the US to further his piano studies and has been touring the world ever since. He has received numerous composition awards, both in Europe and in the US, and since moving to Bogotá he has been director of the Conservatory of the National University of Colombia and the Semana Colombo-Catalana music festival.

A *Double Bass Fantasy* premiered at L'Auditori, Barcelona on 26 February 2014, under the baton of Salvador Brotons and with Jonathan Camps as soloist. According to the composer: 'formally, the work has an arc-like structure with five main sections, A B C B A, where A has an elegiac character; B a marked rhythmic character, and C provides the lyrical element, incisive, which appears time and again with small differential nuances, impregnating us with a somewhat Mediterranean melancholy. There's no need to tell you that I love the melodies ... working with Jonathan Camps has been a very rewarding experience because together we have been able to carry out an important review of the soloist part which, although it is virtuosic and committed, it is completely possible and always has a good sound.'

David Puertas Esteve

Translation: Monday Translation

Música Catalana per a Vents • 2: Xavier Montsalvatge (1912–2002)

Joan Albert Amargós (b. 1950) • Elisenda Fábregas (b. 1955) • Moisès Bertran (b. 1967)

Xavier Montsalvatge: Música per a un diumenge

Xavier Montsalvatge va néixer a Girona l'any 1912 i va morir a Barcelona el 2002. Va ser un dels compositors catalans més importants del segle XX i ens va deixar prop de 170 obres: música simfònica, de cambra, concerts per a instruments solistes, òperes, ballets, música per a banda, per a cor, per a cobla, per a piano, per a pel·lícules i cançons. Dues de les seves obres més difoses internacionalment són les *Cinco canciones negras* i el *Cuarteto Indiano*. L'any 1998 va rebre el Premi Música Iberoamericana Tomás Luis de Victoria.

La *Música per a un diumenge* va ser fruit d'un encàrrec de la Banda Municipal de Barcelona i es va estrenar el 25 de novembre de 1984 al Palau de la Música Catalana, sota la direcció d'Albert Argudo, al segon concert d'aquella temporada que, precisament, celebrava concerts quinzenals els diumenges a les set de la tarda. El primer moviment (*La fanfarria*) és una fanfara enèrgica i rítmica amb tocs de bon humor (un element que és present al llarg de tota l'obra) i amb una secció central interpretada només pels instruments de percussió. L'any següent va ser instrumentada per a orquestra simfònica pel mateix autor i, amb lleugers canvis, retitulada *Fanfarria para la alegría de la paz*, dedicada als deu anys de regnat de Joan Carles I d'Espanya, i estrenada el 25 de novembre de 1985 per l'Orquestra de RTVE sota la direcció de Mstislav Rostropòvitx. El segon moviment (*El xotis de Llofriu*) també és ple d'ironia i bon humor. Montsalvatge va tenir relació amb aquesta població empordanesa a través de la seva amistat amb l'escriptor Josep Pla. Finalment, el tercer moviment (*La polca del Poble Sec*) tanca l'obra amb un aire festiu i ple de color.

Joan Albert Amargós: Jocs temàtics per a banda simfònica

Joan Albert Amargós va néixer a Barcelona l'any 1950. Malgrat la seva formació com a clarinetista clàssic, la seva inquietud l'ha dut a col·laborar amb músics de diferents gèneres, des del jazz al flamenc, passant per la cançó d'autor, la música simfònica, l'experimental o la popular. És reconegut com un dels compositors i arranjadors més rellevants —i més premiats— del país i el més eclèctic: justament va ser guardonat l'any 2002 amb el Premi Nacional de Música "per la seva capacitat de síntesi entre els diversos llenguatges musicals".

L'any 1984 la Banda Municipal de Barcelona li va encarregar una obra, el *Concert popular per a banda*, i en ocasió del 125è aniversari de la Banda (1886-2011) va tornar a fer-li un encàrrec que es va concretar en aquests *Jocs temàtics*. Segons diu el mateix autor: "En aquests anys he après algunes coses sobre les grans formacions i he tingut ocasió d'escriure sovint per a bandes i orquestres. La banda m'inspira molt per la força dels seus metalls, per l'energia que transmet i pel poder dels vents en general. He fet una obra en un sol moviment que es basa en l'aparició de diferents temes que es van combinant entre ells. Quan sembla que un tema ja ha fet el seu paper i ha quedat abandonat, de sobte reapareix per alguna cantonada, per on menys t'ho esperes. Jugo amb el contrapunt, amb els timbres i amb la força dinàmica del conjunt instrumental. És una obra que mostra com escric actualment, amb aquest esperit transversal que caracteritza la meua vida com a músic que beu de diferents disciplines i que suma d'una forma natural les múltiples influències que he anat rebent". L'obra es va estrenar a l'Auditori de Barcelona el 20 de febrer de 2011 sota la direcció d'Arturo Tamayo.

Elisenda Fábregas: Simfonia núm. 1

Elisenda Fábregas va néixer a Terrassa el 1955 i amb poc més de 20 anys va anar a ampliar estudis de piano i composició als Estats Units on es va instal·lar. Allà va estrenar les seves primeres obres i, des d'aleshores, n'ha estrenat una quarantena arreu del món. Ha estat professora en diferents universitats americanes i coreanes i des de fa uns anys viu a Seül.

La mateixa compositora ens presenta l'obra amb aquestes paraules: "La Banda Municipal de Barcelona em va encarregar una composició a través del seu director, Salvador Brotons, a qui he dedicat aquesta obra dramàtica i emocional. Es va estrenar a l'Auditori de Barcelona el 9 de febrer de 2014 sota la direcció del director coreà Youngmin Park." El primer moviment comença amb gran protagonisme dels metalls, amb una textura simfònica plena i generosa que contrasta amb intervencions cambrístiques on els diferents timbres de la banda van apareixent de forma diàfana. Els desenvolupaments temàtics i rítmics se succeeixen tot creant una pàgina de gran dramatisme, malgrat que no hi ha un programa concret subjacent. El segon moviment dona el protagonisme a la melodia —es titula *Cançó*—, exposada inicialment amb les sonoritats més greus de les diferents famílies instrumentals. Tal com diu l'autora, "és una pàgina íntima i té les característiques melòdiques i expressives d'una cançó catalana". La part més lírica de la simfonia, bastida sobre un dolç balanceig constant, és també la més breu i contrasta amb el tercer moviment —*Scherzo*— que, des de l'inici, presenta un obstinat rítmic que va canviant d'aspecte amb molta originalitat, amb un joc tímbric constant i un final enèrgic. L'últim moviment reprèn la grandiositat del primer, altre cop amb una fanfara inicial i amb una plenitud simfònica que equilibra l'obra i la tanca de forma majestuosa.

Moisès Bertran: Fantasia per a contrabaix i orquestra de vents

Moisès Bertran va néixer a Mataró el 1967. Als anys 90 va anar als Estats Units a ampliar els estudis de piano i ja mai no ha parat de voltar pel món. Ha rebut nombrosos premis de composició, tant a Europa com a Amèrica i des de fa uns anys viu a Bogotà, on ha estat director del Conservatori de la Universitat Nacional de Colòmbia i del festival de música "Setmana Colombo-Catalana".

La *Fantasia per a contrabaix* es va estrenar a l'Auditori de Barcelona sota la direcció de Salvador Brotons, amb Jonathan Camps com a solista, el 26 de febrer de 2014. Segons diu el mateix autor, "formalment, l'obra té una estructura en arc amb cinc grans seccions, ABCBA, on A és de caràcter elegíac; B de marcat caràcter rítmic, i C aporta l'element líric, incisiu, que es va presentant un cop i un altre amb petits matisos diferencials, impregnant-nos d'una certa melangia mediterrània. No cal que confessi que sóc un enamorat de les melodies... Treballar amb Jonathan Camps ha estat una feina molt gratificant perquè junts hem pogut fer una revisió important de la part solista que, si bé és virtuosa i compromesa, és del tot possible i sempre de bona sonoritat".

David Puertas Esteve

Jonathan Camps



Jonathan Camps is a member of the Barcelona Symphony Orchestra, teaches at the Escola Superior de Música de Catalunya, is an executive coach with the European School of Coaching, and a D'Addario strings artist. He studied at the Conservatori Municipal de Música de Barcelona, the Konservatorium der Stadt Wien with Andrew Ackerman and in Canada with Gary Karr. He is regularly invited to give masterclasses across Europe, South American and the US. As a concert performer, he has given many double bass and piano recitals worldwide, and has been invited to perform at numerous international festivals with ensembles including the Barcelona Municipal Band, the National Youth Orchestra of Catalonia and the National Symphony Orchestra of Colombia. Many compositions have been written for Camps, including Moisès Bertran's *A Double Bass Fantasy* and Salvador Brotons' *Concerto for Double Bass and Wind Ensemble*, both premiered in Barcelona with the Barcelona Symphonic Band conducted by Salvador Brotons.

Barcelona Symphonic Band (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
Gerard Martínez
Manuel Martínez
José Joaquín Sánchez
Antonio Santos
Maria Cañizares
Ona Cardona
Ximo Tarín
Javier Vilaplana,
E flat clarinet
Martí Guastevi,
Alto clarinet
José Vicente Montesinos,
Bass clarinet
Victor de la Rosa,
Bass clarinet

Saxophone

Joan Soler, Soprano
Daniel Molina, Alto soloist
Marta Romero, Alto
Ernest Orts, Alto
Armand Franco, Tenor
José Jaime Rivera, Tenor
Juana Palop, Baritone
Alejandro Pons, Bass

Flute

Manel Reyes, Soloist
Carme Arrugat
Marina Comas
Josep Ma. Llorens, Piccolo

Oboe

Pilar Bosque, Soloist
Jordi León
Miquel Morellà
Aitor Lliemà, Cor anglais

Bassoon

Xavier Cervera, Soloist
Jordi Moraleda
Laura Guastevi, Contrabassoon

French Horn

Germán Izquierdo, Soloist
Miquel Zapata, Soloist
Manuel Montesinos
Josep Miquel Rozalén
Pilar Leal

Trumpet / Flugelhorn

Jesús Munuera, Soloist
Patricio Soler, Soloist
Santiago Gozálbiz
Jesús Pascual
José Joaquín Salvador
Ignacio Martínez

Trombone

Emilio Bayarri, Soloist
Eduard Font
Francesc Ivars
David Pérez
Francisco Palacios, Bass

Euphonium

Rubén Zuriaga, Soloist
David Pantin

Tuba

Antonio Chelvi, Soloist
Vicenç Navarro
Francisco Javier Molina

Timpani

Rafael Reig, Soloist

Percussion

Mateu Caballé, Soloist
Ferran Armengol
Ferran Carceller
Salvador Soler

Double Bass

Antoni Cubedo, Soloist
Mònica Serra

Harp

Laura Boschetti

Barcelona Symphonic Band (Banda Municipal de Barcelona)



The Barcelona Symphonic Band (Banda Municipal de Barcelona, BMB) was founded as a municipal orchestral ensemble in 1886. It soon became a highly regarded ensemble, and was at the centre of municipal and public life, performing at the 1888 Barcelona Universal Exhibition. Between 1915 and 1939 conductor Ricard Lamote de Grignon oversaw a project carried out with municipal support which vastly raised the standard of the ensemble. It was during this time, in 1925, when Richard Strauss, who was visiting Barcelona, met the band, and invited it to perform in Frankfurt in 1927. Today, under conductor Salvador Brotons, the BMB showcases premieres and performances of works by contemporary composers, as well as original repertoire for symphonic band with the aim of producing a varied and popular programme. The BMB is currently comprised 56 musicians, and produces a concert season at L'Auditori, performs in Barcelona and conducts concerts for schoolchildren. www.auditori.cat/en/about-us-bmb

Salvador Brotons



Salvador Brotons was born in Barcelona. He studied flute with his father, continuing his education additionally in composition and orchestral conducting at the Conservatori Superior de Música de Barcelona. In 1985 he was awarded a Fulbright scholarship and subsequently studied for a doctorate in music at Florida State University. Brotons has written more than 130 works, and has received 16 prizes for composition, including the Premio Nacional de España (1977), the Premi Ciutat de Barcelona (1986) and the Queen Sofia Composition Prize (1991). He has also received numerous commissions and his works have been released on labels such as EMI, Auvidis, Albany Records and Naxos. He has been music director of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra since 1991, and has also been the conductor of the Vallès and Balearic Symphony orchestras. In 2002 he received the Florida State University Alumni Award for his professional achievements. He has been the music director of the Barcelona Symphonic Band since September 2008.

www.salvadorbrotons.org

CATALAN WIND MUSIC • 2

Xavier Montsalvatge (1912–2002)

Música per a un diumenge

(‘Music for a Sunday’) (1983)

9:52

- ❶ **I. Fanfarria** (‘Fanfare’) 2:42
- ❷ **II. El xotis de Llofriu** (‘The Llofriu Chotis’) 3:08
- ❸ **III. La polka del Poble Sec** (‘The Poble Sec Polka’) 4:01

Joan Albert Amargós (b. 1950)

- ❹ **Jocs temàtics** (‘Thematic Games’) (2011) **20:35**

Elisenda Fábregas (b. 1955)

Symphony No. 1 (2013)

20:11

- ❺ **I. Tempo giusto** 6:53
- ❻ **II. Cançó** (‘Song’) 3:31
- ❼ **III. Scherzo** 5:46
- ❽ **IV. Tempo giusto** 3:59

Moisès Bertran (b. 1967)

- ❾ **A Double Bass Fantasy**

for solo bass and wind orchestra (2013)

10:50

WORLD PREMIERE RECORDINGS

Jonathan Camps, Double Bass ❾

Barcelona Symphonic Band

(Banda Municipal de Barcelona)

Salvador Brotons

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After the resounding success of their first volume of *Catalan Wind Music* (Naxos 8.573547), the Barcelona Symphonic Band and Salvador Brotons return with world premiere recordings of works commissioned from award-winning Catalan composers. Xavier Montsalvatges’s colourfully festive *Music for a Sunday* is followed by Joan Albert Amargós’ play on the timbres and dynamic force of wind instruments in *Thematic Games*. Elisenda Fábregas’ dramatic and emotional *First Symphony* contrasts majestic grandeur with the expressiveness of Catalan song, and Moisès Bertran exploits the virtuoso skill of the soloist in his incisive and lyrical *A Double Bass Fantasy*.

**BANDA MUNICIPAL
DE BARCELONA**



www.naxos.com

Playing
Time:
71:37