



*poems*  
without words

ALBERT GUINOVART

*A Tribute to Alicia de Larrocha*

JUNE 22, 2023

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CARNEGIE HALL

881 7th Avenue, NY 10019, Nueva York.

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The composer and pianist Albert Guinovart presents "**Poems Without Words**", his fifth monographic work published by Sony Classical and his second highly anticipated monographic work for solo piano in which he performs his own compositions.

Albert Guinovart is an exceptional heir to the extraordinary cultural renaissance that emerged with great force in early 20th century Catalonia, resulting in the birth of new aesthetic foundations, always with a view to the great European culture without renouncing popular sources and inherited tradition.

His admired and prolific work includes the composition of two operas, a ballet, a numerous catalog of symphonic works and no less important production of chamber repertoire, with the piano being a constant that has accompanied him from the beginning of his career to the present. Precisely, "*Nocturn a Chloè*" with more than half a million listens on Spotify clearly reflects the success of his piano repertoire and the admiration that the public feels for his works.

"*Poems Without Words*" was born in a period of time when our lives were driven by fear and sadness, moments in which Guinovart wanted to give us rays of hope and confidence in a better future, publishing a piece on his social media every day so that we could feel accompanied. These pieces, which are collected in twenty-four wonderful preludes, comforted us, gave us strength, and reminded us that beauty was more necessary than ever in those difficult times.

"*Poems Without Words*" also includes new works that add to his magnificent Nocturnes, Retratos, and Noveletas, and for the first time, it features a recording of his compositions based on poems by Emily Dickinson. According to Juan Ángel Vela del Campo's account of Albert Guinovart's new work, "*the five piano poems by the composer, based on texts by Emily Dickinson, are the crown jewel of this new delivery by Guinovart. Two great sensitivities from different historical periods come together in a poetic-musical dialogue as suggestive as it is emotional. Guinovart transcends not only musical boundaries but also literary and poetic ones on this occasion. Five pieces, around three minutes each, with music for eternity.*"

"*Poems Without Words*" will be presented on June 22 at one of the most prestigious and emblematic venues in the world, Carnegie Hall in New York. The concert, dedicated to the memory of Alicia de Larrocha, with whom Albert Guinovart maintained a close professional and admiration relationship, will also include works that the pianist performed in recitals around the world, such as the "*Valses Poéticos*" by Granados or the "*Danzas Fantásticas*" by Turina, as well as a U.S premiere by Guinovart himself, "*Nocturn a Alicia*," dedicated to the remembered Alicia de Larrocha.

"*Albert Guinovart's music makes us forget the temerity with which we face the unknown. With Albert, we find ourselves at home, in beautiful Barcelona, in that portion of Barcelona that we all carry within us. His music defies the thunder of the storm, turning it into color, and when it is difficult to reach happiness, we just have to remember a melody by Guinovart to smile again because his music is where all beauty and nobility rest.*"

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PROGRAM

*Enrique Granados (1867 -1916)*

Allegro de Concierto Op. 46  
Valses Poéticos

*Joaquín Turina (1882-1949)*

Tres Danzas Fantásticas, Op. 22  
I. Exaltación  
II. Ensueño  
III. Orgía

*Albert Guinovart (1962 -)*

Valses Poéticos  
24 preludes (selection)  
Nocturne 'Tribute to Alicia'  
3 Poems by Emily Dickinson  
Arlecchino



Albert Guinovart represents the perfect synchronization between his different facets, standing out in composition, orchestration, teaching, and the consolidated performer he has shown to be, both in the great classical and romantic repertoire and in his extensive piano catalog.

Albert is the composer of two operas, *Atzar* and *Alba Eterna*, a ballet *Terra Baixa*, and six musicals, endorsed by two Max awards for best music and three Butaca awards for best composer. Highlights include *Mar i Cel*, *Flor de Nit*, *Gaudí*, and *La Vampira del Raval*. The success of his musicals is such that thirty years after some of their premieres, fragments of *Mar i Cel* or *Flor de Nit* can still be heard sung by an unconditional audience in the streets of Barcelona.

His orchestral works of enormous strength and vitality, such as *El Lament de la Terra* (commissioned by the OBC and premiered by Roberto Minczuk), *El Somni de Gaudí* (commissioned by the OSCyL and premiered under the direction of Vasily Petrenko), the *Three Piano Concertos*, "*Claroscuro*" *Concerto for Percussion, Piano, and Strings*, or *L'amor i el foc*, evoke his deep universal message without renouncing to the sound roots and show us a delicate art of orchestration that can also be heard in his look towards religious music in works such as *Requiem*, *Te Deum*, and the award-winning *Gloria*.

His compositions and arrangements, both orchestral and chamber music, have been premiered by international leading figures such as Plácido Domingo, Gustavo Dudamel, Christopher Hogwood, Vasily Petrenko, Lawrence Foster, Franz Paul Decker, Edmon Colomer, Enrique Diemecke, Daniel Cohen, James Laughram, Josep Pons, Neville Marriner, Phillipe Entremont, or Gianandrea Noseda, alongside prestigious orchestras such as Sydney Festival Orchestra, Gürzenich Orchester-Kölner Philharmoniker, Orchestre Nationale de Montpellier, Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra, Orchestre Nationale de Toulouse, The State Academy Symphonic Orchestra of St. Petersburg, Israel Chamber Orchestra, Franz Liszt of Budapest, Orquestra Simfònica de Barcelona i Nacional de Catalunya, Orquesta Sinfónica de Madrid, and Orquesta Sinfónica de Castilla y León, among others.

On the recording front, there are numerous titles that he has recorded to date, over sixty titles, many of them released by prestigious record labels such as EMI, DECCA, Harmonía Mundi, or SONY Classical, both from the repertoire of which he is a reference, Joaquín Turina, Enric Granados, Isaac Albéniz, Joaquín Rodrigo, as well as his own compositions. Among his most recent laurels is the transformation into a recording of his opera *Alba Eterna*, a two-act tragedy about beauty and the passage of time. In mid-2022, Sony Classical released this work - which after *Atzar* was Guinovart's second opera - recorded by the Franz Schubert Philharmonia and conducted by Tomàs Grau. Two hours in length for this musical work, which was premiered in Reus in 2009, recorded in 2016 with four lead singers (soprano Martha Mathéu, mezzo-soprano Anna Alàs, tenor Marc Sala, and baritone Josep-Ramon Olivé) and, after a delay in post-production forced by the health emergency, turned into a recording and released in the early post-pandemic spring. A work that, like the entire sound universe created by Guinovart, highlights its delicacy and enormous beauty.

In 2023 the composer and pianist presents *Poems Without Words*, the fifth monographic work published by Sony Classical and his second long-awaited monographic work for solo piano in which he performs his own compositions.

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## CONTACT

[javier.briongos@miottaemoliere.com](mailto:javier.briongos@miottaemoliere.com)

[rafael.miotta@miottaemoliere.com](mailto:rafael.miotta@miottaemoliere.com)

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