

ALBERT GUINOVART

BIOGRAPHY

The composer and pianist Albert Guinovart is the exceptional heir of the extraordinary cultural renaissance that emerged so powerfully in early twentieth-century Catalonia. It led to the birth of new aesthetic foundations, firmly built upon great European culture and drawing upon popular sources and inherited tradition.

His prolific work includes the composition of two operas, a ballet, an extensive catalogue of symphonic works and a no less important production of chamber repertoire, the piano being a constant feature of his work from the beginning of his career to the present. His works have been premiered in prestigious concert halls around the world by leading performers, orchestras and conductors of recognized international prestige.

Albert Guinovart represents the perfect synchrony of his own different facets, especially composition, orchestration and teaching, and as the established performer that he has proven to be, both through great classical and romantic repertoire and extensive pianistic catalogue.

He is the composer of two operas, *Atzar* and *Alba Eterna*, a ballet, *Terra Baixa*, and six musicals, works endorsed by two Max awards for best music and three Butaca awards for best composer, in particular *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 premiers, fragments of *Mar i Cel* or *Flor de Nit* can still be heard on the streets of Barcelona, sung by an adoring audience.

His orchestral works, full of tremendous strength and vitality, such as *El Lament de la Terra* (commissioned by the Barcelona Symphony Orchestra and premiered by Roberto Minczuk), *El Somni de Gaudí* (commissioned by the Castile and León Symphony Orchestra and conducted at its premiere by Vasily Petrenko), the *three concertos for piano*, the *Claroscuro concert for percussion, piano and strings* or *L'amor i el foc*, evoke their profound universal message without forgetting their sonic roots. They also reveal a delicate art of orchestration that can also be heard in their debt to religious music in works such as *Réquiem*, *Te Deum* and the award-winning *Gloria*.

Albert Guinovart also has an important catalogue of chamber works, amongst which *Les Aventures de Monsieur Jules Verne* for brass and piano ensemble, sonatas for flute and saxophone, the *Mirall Trençat* trio for violin, horn and piano and the *Kepler Quartet* stand out. The latter work is already considered a repertoire piece amongst chamber ensembles. His work for piano emerged from the visual greatness of Mompou and Montsalvatge and has evolved into its own discourse that offers us a whole catalogue of essential works, such as *Nocturn (for Pilar Bayona)*, *Retrats de Barcelona*, *Nocturn for Chloé*, *Fantasia-Evocació*, *Skyshadows* or the work that has already become a point of reference, *Valses Poéticos*.

His compositions and arrangements, both orchestral and chamber music, have been premiered by leading international 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, together with prestigious orchestras such as the Sydney Festival Orchestra, Gürzenich Orchestra Cologne, Opéra Orchestre National Montpellier, Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra, Orchestre National du Capitole de Toulouse, Saint Petersburg Academic Symphony Orchestra, Israel Chamber Orchestra, Franz Liszt Chamber Orchestra of Budapest, Barcelona Symphony Orchestra and National Orchestra of Catalonia, Madrid Symphony Orchestra and Castile and León Symphony Orchestra, amongst others.

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As a performer, Albert Guinovart has given concerts in which he performs his own compositions, as well as the great repertoire, in numerous recitals in the most prestigious concert halls in Europe, America, Japan and Australia. It is not difficult to find him in important and renowned concert series and he has left us with unforgettable moments in the recitals that he has given all over the world, together with Victòria de los Ángeles.

There are numerous works that he has recorded to date (over sixty), many of them released by prestigious record labels such as EMI, DECCA, Harmonía Mundi or SONY Classical and drawing both from repertoire on which he is an authority (Joaquín Turina, Enric Granados, Isaac Albéniz and Joaquín Rodrigo), and his own compositions.

Albert Guinovart's relationship with the creative sound world of his generation has led him to compose original music for cinema, with successful results such as *El llarg hivern*, or his orchestration of the Oscar-winning soundtrack of *The Artist*. His theme songs for the television series *Nissaga de Poder*, *Laberint d'ombres*, *Mirall Trencat* and *El Cor de la Ciutat* are also well known.

In 2003 and 2013, Albert Guinovart was commissioned to compose the official music for the World Swimming Championships held in Barcelona.

The following was written about Albert Guinovart's latest work for Sony Classical:

"The music of Albert Guinovart makes us forget the recklessness with which we face the unknown. With Albert, we find ourselves at home, in beautiful Barcelona, in that part of Barcelona to be found inside each and every one of us. His music challenges the thunder of the storm, turning it into colour, and when it is difficult for us to attain that joy, we but need to recall a Guinovart melody to smile once again: his music can be found where all beauty and nobility reside."



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