

69 Granada Festival

June 25 | July 26, 2020

17 fex

Festival Extensión

51 Manuel de Falla
Courses

THE 69 GRANADA FESTIVAL WILL COME TRUE IN 2020

- The **69th edition of the Granada Festival** will take place **from June 25 to July 26, 2020** and will open with **Mozart's *Requiem*** by the **Orquesta y Coro Ciudad de Granada** as a **tribute to the victims of the Covid-19 pandemic**. The **proceeds collected** for this concert, which will take place in the Cathedral of Granada, will be **donated to Cáritas Diocesana and the Food Bank of Granada**. This concert is co-produced with the **Archbishopric of Granada**, and the **"la Caixa" Foundation**, which is carrying out intense social work with people who have been left unprotected due to the current pandemic.

- **The 69th Granada Festival of 2020** spans **32 days** - one of the longest editions in its history – including a total of **70 performances, 44 in the framework of the central programme** and another **26** in the traditional **FEX programme**.

- A total of **136 pieces have been programmed**, without counting those of the flamenco **performances** and the FEX, of which **40 will be by Beethoven (30%)**, 12 by F. Liszt, 7 by W.A. Mozart and J.S. Bach, 6 by Debussy, among many other composers. For the first time in the history of the Festival, the **Complete Symphonies and Concertos for an instrument by Beethoven will be presented**, in addition to Liszt's brilliant transcriptions of his symphonies by five Spanish pianists: **Ituarte, Negrín, E. Fernández, Garvayo and Somarriba**. From the **Ancient, Renaissance and Baroque periods, 46 works** will be offered ranging from the **13th century to the beginning of the 18th century**.

- **Spanish music** will be magnificently represented with **35 works** by some of the most significant composers from the end of the 19th century and a good part of the 20th, whose works have been inspired by the city of Granada and in particular by the Alhambra (Albéniz, Granados, Falla, Barrios, Moreno Torroba, etc.) and **19 works** are part of the **Spanish Golden Age**, which include the *Officium Defunctorum* by T.L. de Victoria and the *Misa de Bomba* by the Granada-born composer Pedro Bermúdez. There will be **two absolute premieres** by **Alfredo Aracil**, one of them commissioned by the Festival.

- Of the **77 artists** scheduled, **60 are from Spain (72%)** and **17 are visiting from abroad (28%)**. The 5 symphonic-choral ensembles are Spanish. There will be **three dance companies: Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo**, and the Spanish **Compañía Nacional de Danza** directed by **Joaquín de Luz**, and the **Compañía Antonio Najarro**, in addition to **Marea Danza**, within the framework of the Children's Festival. *Gugurumbé*, a performance combining dance, flamenco and Ancient music, created by **Fahmi Alqhai** and Antonio Ruz, will be premiered at the Festival, with the voices of **Rocío Márquez** and **Núria Rial**, and the dancers **Mónica Iglesias** and **Ellavied Alonso**.

- Some important international artists will be presented at the Festival for the first time, such as the German conductor **Thomas Hengelbrock**, the baritone **Carlos Álvarez**, the soprano **Katharina Konradi**, the tenors **Ian Bostridge** and **Xabier Anduaga**, the pianists **Krystian Zimerman**, **Igor Levit**, **Christopher Park** and **Enriqueta Somarriba**, the violinist **Fabio Biondi**, the cellists **Iagoba Fanlo** and **Adolfo Gutiérrez**, the flamenco singer **Niño de Elche** and the baroque ensembles **MUSICA ALcheMICA** and **Vandalia**.

- Four Spanish symphony orchestras: **Orquesta Ciudad de Granada** (Miguel Ángel Gómez-Martínez and Krystian Zimerman), **Orquesta Nacional de España** (David Afkham), **Orquesta de la Comunitat Valenciana** (Thomas Hengelbrock) and **Orquesta Sinfónica de Galicia** (Dima Slobodeniouk and Juanjo Mena) will offer the **Nine Complete Beethoven Symphonies**.

- The brilliant Polish pianist **Krystian Zimerman** will play and conduct **Beethoven's 5 Piano Concertos** for the first time in his career and will perform as conductor of the **Orquesta Ciudad de Granada** in three concerts throughout the Festival.

- Three extraordinary Russian pianists will come to the Festival: **Grigory Sokolov**, who will return to the Manuel de Falla Auditorium, **Elisabeth Leonskaja** who will play Mozart's *Concerto no. 20 in D minor* with the Orquesta Nacional de España (Josep Pons), and **Igor Levit** who will debut in Granada in a recital in the Patio de los Arrayanes with the **last three Sonatas by Beethoven**, whose complete pieces he had planned to offer this summer at the Salzburg and Lucerne Festivals.

- Today's great piano lady, **Martha Argerich**, returns to Granada 41 years later to present the audience with the penultimate *Sonata for Violin and Piano no. 8* together with the French violinist **Renaud Capuçon** (on his third visit to Granada).

– To be highlighted the incorporation of the renowned Argentinian pianist and conductor **Daniel Barenboim** to the Festival, after having announced the programme of the present edition, whose desire has been to be present in Granada this year with a charity recital on behalf of the Red Cross. Daniel Barenboim, who made his debut at the Festival 40 years ago, offered his last solo recital since 35 years ago (1985).

- The **5 Sonatas for Cello and Piano** will be played by **Adolfo Gutiérrez** and **Christopher Park**, and the Complete **Beethoven Symphonies** in **Franz Liszt's** piano transcriptions by five Spanish pianists: **Eduardo Fernández**, **Javier Negrín**, **Miguel Ituarte**, **Juan Carlos Garvayo** and **Enriqueta Somarriba**.

- The traditional **Manuel de Falla Courses** are maintained almost in their entirety, although this year they will be held partly in **July** and during the **autumn**. The traditional **Photography Workshop** will be scheduled from July 9 to 26 and from July 13 to 17 the first meeting of the **Baroque Academy of the Granada Festival** will take place.

- The **Digital Granada Festival** will be filmed in some magical places in Granada with six exceptional soloists: guitarists Pepe Romero and Cañizares; the flamenco singer Rocío Márquez, the Huelva-born pianist Javier Perianes, the Catalan viola da gamba player and conductor Jordi Savall and the violinist Fabio Biondi. These concerts can only be followed in streaming through the Festival web portal and by some Spanish or European televisions that will connect to our signal.

- On **June 16** the Festival **tickets will be put on sale** through the usual channels.

- **The cost budget of the current edition amounts to 2,532,585 euros which, compared to 3,307,435 euros in the previous edition, represents a reduction of 774,850 euros (23.4%)**
- **This first programme advance release could be modified.**

The new edition of the 69th Granada Festival of 2020, which has had to be organised in just under 15 days, will span 32 days –one of the longest editions in its history–, including a total of 70 performances, 44 of them within the framework of the central programme and another 26 within the FEX; in addition to the traditional Manuel de Falla Courses, which in the end have been maintained almost in their entirety, although this year they will last until the autumn for calendar reasons. The Fex, although it has had to adapt to the special circumstances of this edition, continues for another year offering a wide variety in its proposals: the children will have their encounter with *El Jardín del Viento*, and with other shows open to all audiences such as *Áureo*, *Espera*, or *Só*. There will be several chamber performances, and flamenco will be present with artists such as **Los Aurora**, **Duquende** or **LaboratoriA Flamenco**, and of course, dance, with **Daniel Doña** and **Full Time Company**, among others. Tributes will be paid to the figures of Juan-Alfonso García and Federico García Lorca and we will be present, as always, in several towns of the Granada province.

A total of **136 pieces have been programmed**, without counting those of the flamenco performances and the FEX, of which **40 will be by Beethoven (30%)**, 12 by F. Liszt, 7 by W.A. Mozart and J.S. Bach, 6 by Debussy, among many other composers. For the first time in the history of the Festival, the **Complete Symphonies and Concertos for an instrument by Beethoven will be presented**, in addition to Liszt's brilliant transcriptions of his symphonies by five Spanish pianists: **Ituarte**, **Negrín**, **E. Fernández**, **Garvayo** and **Somarriba**. From the **Ancient, Renaissance and Baroque periods, 46 works** will be offered **ranging from the 13th century to the beginning of the 18th century**.

Of the **77 artists** scheduled, **60 are from Spain (72%)** and **17 are visiting from abroad (28%)**. The 5 symphonic-choral ensembles are Spanish. And three dance companies **Les Ballets de Ballets de Monte-Carlo** and the Spanish **Compañía Nacional de Danza** and **Compañía Antonio Najarro**; in addition to the performances of **Marea Danza**, within the framework of the Children's Festival. *Gugurumbé*, a performance combining dance, flamenco and Ancient music, created by **Fahmi Alqhai** and Antonio Ruz, will be premiered at the Festival, with the voices of **Rocío Márquez** and **Núria Rial**, and the dancers **Mónica Iglesias** and **Ellavied Alonso**.

Spanish music will be magnificently represented with 35 works by some of the most outstanding composers of the end of the 19th century and a part of the 20th, whose works have been inspired by the city of Granada and in particular the Alhambra (Albéniz, Granados, Falla, Moreno Torroba, etc.); and for the polyphony of the Spanish Golden Age with an all-time masterpiece such as the *Officium Defunctorum* by T.L. de Victoria (**Tenebrae**), along with other of his works, and some illustrious contemporaries such as Alonso Lobo, the Sevillian Francisco Guerrero, by whom a selection of his *Canciones y villanescas espirituales* will be heard, or the Granada-born Pedro Bermúdez, who had a remarkable success in America, listening, in an incomparable venue like the Royal Chapel, to his superb *Misa de Bomba*, parody of the well-known "ensalada" *La Bomba* by Mateo Flecha the Elder (**Vandalia**).

But naturally the great protagonist of this year will be Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827), who becomes the backbone of the Festival who will be commemorating the 250th anniversary of his birth. For the first time in the Festival history his complete *Symphonies* and *Concertos* will be

presented in just one and the same edition, with the exception of his *Triple Concerto*, in addition to the brilliant piano transcriptions that Franz Liszt made of his nine *Symphonies* and that will be performed by five renowned Spanish pianists.

The five *Piano Concertos* will be in the fingers of the legendary Polish pianist **Krystian Zimerman**, who has not been a regular in recent years in international concert halls. It will be his Festival debut and he will perform and conduct the great Beethoven legacy from the piano, for the first time in his extraordinary career. The fact that he has accepted this invitation, conducting the **Orquesta Ciudad de Granada**, is an act of generosity on his part and an added value to turn this comprehensive piano visions into one of the great events of the Festival.

The *Violin Concerto* will be in the hands of the young violinist from Granada, **María Dueñas**, in her symphonic debut at the Festival, together with the **Orquesta Sinfónica de Galicia**, conducted by **Juanjo Mena**. The Galician orchestra will offer a second program with its lead conductor (**Dima Slobodeniouk**) with *Symphonies 1* and *3*. The series will be completed by the **Orquesta Nacional de España** (**David Afkham**) and *Symphonies 2* and *5*; the **Orquesta de la Comunitat Valenciana** (**Thomas Hengelbrock**) with *Symphonies 6* and *8* and the **Orquesta Ciudad de Granada** (**Miguel Ángel Gómez-Martínez**) who will officially open the Festival with a participatory, popular and charitable *Ninth*, which had already been programmed, but now it will be done as a tribute to the Spanish health workers who have fought unstoppably against the perverse effects of the coronavirus outbreak.

The prestigious Russian pianist **Igor Levit**, for whom it will also be his first time in the Festival, will offer a very special recital at the Patio de los Arrayanes with the last three *Sonatas* by Beethoven, whose complete works he had scheduled to play this summer at the Festivals of Salzburg and Lucerne. And we will still be able to enjoy yet another Complete Works, the one formed by the five *Sonatas for Cello and Piano*, served here by one of the most renowned Spanish cellists, **Adolfo Gutiérrez**, who will be accompanied by the young German pianist **Christopher Park**. Today's great piano lady, the Argentine **Martha Argerich**, who returns to Granada after a 41-year parenthesis, will offer the penultimate *Sonata for Violin and Piano no. 8* together with the virtuous French violinist **Renaud Capuçon** (on his third visit to Granada), in addition to the second *Sonatas* by Schumann and Prokofiev, as travelling companions in a unique programme in the beautiful setting of the Palace of Charles V. The cycle will be completed by the chamber music section with another not-to-miss event: listening to one of his last quartets (in this case *op. 132* and *op. 135*) in the bows of the versatile **Quiroga Quartet**.

The great Argentinian pianist **Daniel Barenboim** will be present in this edition of the Granada Festival and will offer a charity recital including Beethoven's *Sonata number 31 op. 110* and the *Diabelli Variations, op. 120*. The money raised from this charity concert will be assigned to the Red Cross to help those affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

In addition to the Bonn-born genius –and Johann Sebastian Bach–, another of the great composers whom the audience will often be presented with this year will be W.A. Mozart, who will open the Festival with his poignant *Requiem*, in the Cathedral of Granada, as a tribute to the victims of the Covid-19 pandemic, with the Orquesta y Coro Ciudad de Granada, conducted by **Andrea Marcon**, who will complete his artistic tenure with this sacred concert, and a stellar vocal quartet made up with the german soprano **Katharina Konradi** and the Spanish singers **Carlos Mena** (countertenor), **Xabier Anduaga** (tenor) and **Carlos Álvarez** (bass-baritone). The concert will be co-produced by the Archbishopric of Granada and the “la Caixa” Foundation. The proceeds from this charity concert will go to Cáritas Diocesana and the Food Bank of Granada.

Four piano works will be in the hands of two other great Russian pianists who are already a living legend of the instrument: **Grigory Sokolov**, in his expected recital already scheduled at the Manuel de Falla Auditorium, and **Elisabeth Leonskaja**, who joins the new programme with the *Concerto no. 20 in D minor*, framed by *Symphonies 27 and 40*, in the Palacio de Carlos V with the Orquesta Nacional de España and the maestro Josep Pons.

Among other outstanding artists, the refined English tenor **Ian Bostridge** (Schubert's *Winterreise*) will also come to Granada this year, accompanied by **Igor Levit**; the young and fine French pianist **Bertrand Chamayou**; Basque cellist **Iagoba Fanlo**, who will premiere two works by Alfredo Aracil, as well as two enormous flamenco singers, **Miguel Poveda** and **Carmen Linares**, along with a breaker and transgressor **Niño de Elche**, who awakens so many mixed passions among flamenco lovers.

On the dates between the opening concert with Mozart's *Requiem*, on June 25 at the Cathedral, and the participatory, popular and charitable *Ninth* that will take place at the Palace of Carlos V on July 9, we will exceptionally present a singular cycle called *Digital Granada Festival* on the dates in which the previous edition of the Festival should have taken place, in some magical places in Granada and the Alhambra with six exceptional soloists who really need no introduction: the Spanish guitarists **Pepe Romero** and **Cañizares**; the Andalusian flamenco singer **Rocío Márquez**, the Huelva-born pianist **Javier Perianes**, the Catalan viola de gamba player and conductor **Jordi Savall** and the Italian violinist **Fabio Biondi**. These concerts can only be enjoyed via streaming through the Festival web portal and by some Spanish or European televisions that will connect to our signal.

In short, 17 out of the 44 concerts scheduled will be dedicated to Beethoven. Thus, the Granada Festival will pay a tribute to the figure and work of the author of *Fidelio*, especially in a year which has seen that the vast majority of programmed projects around the world were cancelled. We will therefore have a festival (# *Beethoven2020*), within the Festival, which will be served by some of his most illustrious performers, as well as a handful of young musicians, who will open the doors of the future wide open for a little fresh air.

Granada, June 1, 2020

For more information, request for interviews and request for photos, please contact:



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