



Granada, May 2023.- Voice and music are the pretext for supporting the artistic program of the 72 edition of the Granada Festival, that will offer a total of **105** concerts and dance performances, divided into **8 cycles over 31 days**.

Her Majesty Queen Sofia will attend the Palace of Charles V to preside over the extraordinary concert of the Orquesta Ciudad de Granada with Lucas Macías, for the benefit of the Queen Sofia Foundation, in favour of the victims of the earthquake in **Turkey and Syria**.

The legendary North American singer-songwriter **Bob Dylan**, a musical icon for several generations, performs for the first time in the Alhambra venue on his latest European tour, in co-production with *1001 Músicas* and with the support of CaixaBank.

There will be two Residents Artists: **Ton Koopman** and **Giovanni Antonini**.

Johann Sebastian Bach, Gustav Mahler and Gyorgy Ligeti will be the honoured composers of this edition, as well as **Tomás Marco**, as this year's Resident Composer, who will premiere the work commissioned by the Festival: *Ur-Nachtmusik* (Mahleriana 4).

The great artists from Barcelona **Alicia de Larrocha** and **Victoria de los Ángeles** will be honoured on the occasion of the centenary of their births in two concerts, given by the pianist Javier Perianes and the mezzo-soprano Anna Lucia Richter, on July 3 and 4.

40 artists performing for the first time at the Festival, chamber ensembles and national and international orchestras will make their **debut at the Festival**:

- World class conductors such as **Riccardo Chailly, Ton Koopmann, Philippe Herreweghe, Giovanni Antonini, Nicola Luisotti** or **Gustavo Gimeno**.

- Soloists as **Daniil Trifonov, Víkingur Ólafsson, Benjamin Alard** or **Avi Avital**.

- Great voices such as **Angela Gheorghiu, Anna Lucia Richter, Anna Pirozzi, Nadine Sierra, Carlos Álvarez, Jorge de León**, among the most classical, and **Alba Molina** in flamenco.

· Renowned chamber groups such as the **Diotima, Mandelring** and **Armida Quartets**, among the orchestras performing for the first time at the Festival are the **Luxembourg Philharmonic, Orchestra and Choir of the Teatro Real in Madrid, Orchestre des Champs-Élysées, La Cetra Basel, Il Giardino Armonico, the Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra** and **Nereydas**.

· This year two of the most prestigious European dance companies will perform at the Generalife: **Hamburg Ballett John Neumaier** and **Béjart Ballet Lausanne**.

VOCAL UNIVERSES

The human voice is the musical instrument par excellence. Since the beginning of time, human beings have used their voice to communicate, but also to create music, either alone or with a group of people, accompanied by instruments or without them. The history of music is replete with millions of vocal pages, of all possible shapes and forms. Each human voice is different and therefore has a different personality, which is not easy to classify. From the beginnings of the Ambrosian or Milanese chant, born in northern Italy around the 4th century as a liturgical repertoire of monodic chant (with no instrumental accompaniment at all), to the present day, when we use the voice to create music in all imaginable ways possible with the incorporation of digital technologies. Voice, and therefore music, has evolved over more than eighteen centuries in an unpredictable way. Vocal music has always been present in our lives and is part of our cultural heritage, at least in the Western world. Therefore, singing has a fundamental role in musical art, because it is the only instrument capable of integrating words into the lines of a stave.

Well then, the voice and the music is precisely the argument structuring the program of the Granada Festival in its seventy-second edition, if we start counting from 1952, or the hundredth forty-first, if we begin in 1883, which is when the Granada Festival was born *de facto*.

Bob Dylan, a Musical Icon

In addition to the cycle that has been prepared with the generic title of *Vocal Universe*, throughout the program we will be able to listen to vocal music of a very diverse nature created over nearly eleven centuries, from the 11th century to the present day, where rock and pop have occupied a key position among a majority public of the last six decades. Revered worldwide and constantly breaking record sales, these groups and singer-songwriters have taken over the current music scene. And among all of them, the musical poetics of Robert Allen Zimmerman, known worldwide as Bob Dylan, always shone with its own light. This musical icon of several generations, considered the most important singer-songwriter of the last half century, will give an extraordinary concert as a preamble to the Festival, in the Generalife gardens of the Alhambra. It will be a historic concert as Dylan is already a fundamental part of the music history of our time.

Focusing on the main program of the Festival, in the *Singing and Chiming* cycle we will listen to the plainchant that accompanies the Spanish polyphony of Tomás Luis de Victoria, the English polyphony of William Byrd or the Italian polyphony of Monteverdi, performed by

the Joven Coro de Andalucía, conducted by Marco Antonio García de Paz. In this cycle we will be able to disclose rare vocal works from the Spanish Golden Age or the Portuguese Renaissance, as well as from the Italian or Flemish Baroque from the 16th to 18th centuries, with some of the best performers specialized in the interpretation of historical music (Al Ayre Español, Nereydas, Officium Ensemble and Armonía Concertada).

“Solo” Bach, but also Ligeti and Marco

Johann Sebastian Bach will have a very prominent presence in this year's program, not only through the *Solo Bach* cycle but in other concerts throughout the festival. In the six concerts that bring together only pages of the great composer from Eisenach, we will be able to hear for the very first time at the Festival a major sacred work such as the *Saint John Passion*, performed by the legendary Amsterdam Baroque Soloists & Choir and Ton Koopman, who will also perform *The Musical Offering*. The integrals of the Suites for orchestra (Orquesta Barroca de Sevilla with Giovanni Antonini), the Concertos for two, three and four harpsichords (La Ritirata) or the Contrapunctus 14 of *The Art of the Fugue* (Armida Quartet) will be performed, in addition to the popular *Goldberg Variations* thanks to one of today's greatest performers: Benjamin Alard.

Chamber music will have György Ligeti as one of its main protagonists, in commemoration of the centenary of his birth, as well as Tomás Marco as resident composer of this edition of the festival, on his 80th birthday, and from whom we will be listening to up to nine works from different genres and periods. In addition to the works by Ligeti and Marco (Neopercusión and Mario Prisuelos), we will have the opportunity to listen to a monograph by Shostakóvich (Mandelring Quartet from Berlin and Judith Jáuregui) and works by Johannes Brahms (Cosmos Quartet), Béla Bartók (Diotima Quartet) or the premiere in Spain of *Cuatro danzas para cuarteto* by the young Granada-born composer living in Los Angeles, Pedro Osuna.

Palace Concerts and Great Performers

The *Palace Concerts* series presents seven different symphonic programs, six of which are given in the majestic Palace of Charles V and another one in the Manuel de Falla Auditorium (JONDE/Eliahu Inbal). The Luxembourg Philharmonic Orchestra, with its lead conductor Gustavo Gimeno and the virtuoso Chinese pianist Yuja Wang, and the Orchestre des Champs-Élysées de Paris, conducted by one of the fathers of musical interpretation with historicist criteria, Philippe Herreweghe, will be on the stage of the Alhambra for the first time. Likewise, the great Italian maestro Riccardo Chailly will also make his debut in Granada at the head of his orchestra Filarmonica della Scala of Milan. The Orquesta Nacional de España returns with its conductor David Afkham, and will be in charge of the world premiere, commissioned by the Festival, of the Madrid born composer Tomás Marco, *Ur-Nachtmusik (Mahleriana 4)*, which will serve as a complement to the *Mahler Triptych* (symphonies Fifth, Sixth and Seventh) that will be performed by the Luxembourg Philharmonic, the Orquesta Nacional itself and the Orquesta Joven de Andalucía. This youth orchestra comes under the baton of maestro Víctor Pablo Pérez together with the

exceptional Romanian soprano Angela Gheorghiu (she makes her debut at the Festival and has been absent from Spanish stages for twelve years), who will sing a selection of Puccini opera arias as part of an unusual and interesting program in which the popular Italian composer will dialogue with one of his most illustrious contemporaries from Central Europe: Gustav Mahler.

Among the great artists who will perform in different venues of the Festival, it is worth noting the presence of the great Russian virtuoso Daniil Trifonov, who last year was forced to cancel his Granada performance, and the surprising and imaginative Icelandic pianist Víkingur Ólafsson. Igor Levit returns, after his magnificent recital in the 2020 edition with Beethoven's last three sonatas, as well as Javier Perianes, Medal of Honor of the Festival, who will make his recital debut at the Palace of Charles V. These brilliant pianists are joined by the flutist and Italian conductor Giovanni Antonini, who will be the resident artist of this 72 edition together with Ton Koopman. And finally, the great Japanese organist and conductor Masaaki Suzuki who will give a recital on the historic organ of the Church of Santos Justo y Pastor.

The Voice as main character

The *Vocal Universe* cycle, which gives its title to the current edition, opens the Festival with a stage performance including giant puppets (conceived and directed by Enrique Lanz) of *Master Peter's Puppet Show* by Manuel de Falla, a work that this year commemorates the centenary of its premiere at the palace of the Princesse de Polignac in Paris (June 25, 1923). The Orquesta Ciudad de Granada, conducted by Aarón Zapico and three experienced Spanish voices (Alicia Amo, David Alegret and José Antonio López) will be the interpreters that give life to one of the most original stage works of Spanish musical literature of the 20th century. The other opera title that will be performed for the first time at the Alhambra will be Puccini's posthumous lyrical drama, *Turandot*, which will be offered by the resident orchestra and choir of the Teatro Real in Madrid that will travel exceptionally to Granada, under the baton of maestro Nicola Luisotti, main guest conductor of the Madrid orchestra, together with an exceptional cast headed by sopranos Anna Pirozzi and Nadine Sierra and tenor Jorge de León. The lyrical recitals will have voices as suggestive as those of the baritone from Málaga Carlos Álvarez, who will perform at the stage of Carlos V for the first time, together with the soprano from Granada María José Moreno, and the great Polish soprano Magdalena Kožená, who will play the role of *Alcina* by Handel accompanied by the ensemble La Cetra de Basel, under the direction of Andrea Marcon, a conductor well known to the Granada audience. In the Lied genre, the exquisite German soprano Anna Lucia Richter makes her debut in our city together with the pianist Ammiel Bushakevitz; and the most popular Spanish songs will be performed by the Granada soprano Mariola Cantarero, who on this occasion will meet with guitarist José Quevedo 'Bolita', from Jerez de la Frontera, and percussionist Paquito González, from Sanlúcar de Barrameda.

Flamenco once again plays a key role in this third series that has been programmed around the Cante Jondo Contest, which was held last year with enormous success. After the *2021 Prelude*, this year the Festival offers a *Postlude* with seven concerts by renowned artists who gravitate between traditional flamenco singing (Jesús Méndez and Antonio Reyes) and that other more modern and borderline flamenco defended by Alba Molina, Jorge Pardo

or Carlos de Jacoba. In between, we will have the opportunity to listen to two modern really fabulous flamenco singers: Argentina and María Toledo.

Outstanding Dance Companies

Finally, this year two exceptional European companies will be dancing at the Generalife theatre: The Hamburg Ballet, directed by the legendary choreographer John Neumeier after five decades of success at the helm of this prestigious company (his first international tour was precisely to this Festival fifty years ago). The German ballet will bring us in its second visit to Granada one of its most outstanding productions: *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with music by Mendelssohn and Ligeti.

The other company is the Béjart Ballet Lausanne, which is currently directed by Gil Roman, close collaborator of its founder, the brilliant choreographer Maurice Béjart. On its new visit to Granada, the mythical Swiss company brings one of its great milestones, *Ballet for Life*, an iconic work premiered in 1996, choreographed to music by Queen and Mozart and which will be served by around thirty dancers dressed by the well-known Italian fashion designer, Versace. The Ballet Nacional de España, a regular company at the Festival, will stage *La Bella Otero* with Patricia Guerrero as principal guest dancer. The Compañía Nacional de Danza, directed by Joaquín De Luz, will present, in addition to his latest creation (*A tu vera*) and *Heatscape* by Justin Peck, *Apollo*, the successful and first great collaboration of Balanchine and Stravinsky. The dance cycle is completed with the latest show premiered by the Compañía Antonio Najarro, *Querencia*, a journey through the interpretive and aesthetic beauty of the bolero school, stylized dance, traditional dance and flamenco.

Manuel de Falla Courses

The traditional Manuel de Falla Courses, now in their fifty-fourth edition, host the Baroque Academy of the Granada Festival for the fourth consecutive year, directed on this occasion by Carlos Mena. Students and teacher will focus on the study and interpretation of the choral music by J. S. Bach and will give three concerts within the framework of the Festival and the FEX. The commemoration of the centenary of the births of György Ligeti and Lola Flores will be the argumentative pretext of the musical analysis course, and the course *Singing in Spain: Historical Evolution and Theoretical-Practical Analysis* proposes a multidisciplinary journey through the history of the voice in our country. Along with these thematic activities, the traditional photography and inclusive scene workshops, musical pedagogy courses, classical dance, singing, creation of new operas and musical creation for audiovisual media, as well as master classes given by some of the most prestigious interpreters who will perform at the Festival complete the programming of the Manuel de Falla Courses, organized in collaboration with the University of Granada.

And the FEX

The Extension of the Festival, best known as FEX, unfolds one more year through the streets, patios, theatres and squares of the different corners and districts of Granada and its province. On this occasion, the bridges drawn with the main program bring us closer to artists as relevant as the legendary harpsichordist Ton Koopman (who will star in a baroque music and dance show for children), the cellist Josetxu Obregón, the guitarist and flamenco

singer Carlos de Jacoba or the singer Clara Montes. Along with them will perform, among many other groups and artists, the Aliara popular music ensemble, groups from other latitudes, the Banda Municipal de Música de Granada, the rock band from Granada "Apache", Kiné Circus or the Pacific Boychoir Academy, one of the most acclaimed children's choirs, prestigious artists from the United States (winner of a Grammy Award), in addition to the young singers who make up the Festival's Baroque Academy, the students from the "Victoria Eugenia" Higher Conservatory of Music or those who are an active part of the *Youth-in-Dance* project , which is organized in collaboration with the "Reina Sofia" Professional Dance Conservatory. They will all be the protagonists of this twentieth edition of FEX, which, as it has become a tradition, will continue to bet on music in its various genres, contemporary and classical dance, flamenco, circus, shows for the whole family and solidarity and inclusive proposals.

Lastly, it should be noted that, as part of the FEX program, the Festival will, for the first time this year, cross the boundaries of the province of Granada to the Infanta Leonor Theatre in Jaén with a concert by the Joven Orquesta Nacional de España (JONDE), conducted by the great Israeli maestro Elihu Inbal.

General ticket sales online: www.granadafestival.org.

To download artist photographs:

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