



catalonia **is** music



«Music,
this wonderful universal language,
should be a source of communication
between all of mankind»

Pau Casals

CULTURA
CULTURAL TOURISM

In Catalonia, music and passion have always gone together. Their alliance began with the troubadours, evolved in the mediaeval monasteries, crossed the desert after the defeat of the secessionist uprising (*La Guerra dels Segadors* or Reaper's War), recovered with the coming of classical and contemporary music during the time of the 19th century Catalan cultural movement known as the *Renaixença*, flourished on a popular level with habaneras and sardanas, went into exile with Pau Casals after the Civil War, established ties later on during the dictatorship with European folk and re-emerged with the *Nova Cançó* (the New Song), expanded during democracy with Catalan rock and pop, and is now expressed in the electronic rhythms of the Sonar festival.

Welcome to the sounds of Catalonia!



Sephardic troubadours and romancers were already singing about the day-to-day life and sentiments of the Catalans when the County of Barcelona was established. Then came the mediaeval monasteries, the Escolania de Montserrat choir, plainchant with its sacred and profane polyphony during the Renaissance, and later, during the *Renaixença*, Catalan art and language made a recovery and classical music flowered in Catalonia with Albéniz, Mompou and Montsalvatge. These were followed by the cellist Pau Casals and the habanera and the sardana, with their substrate of popular dance and song; a legacy which has been given new life by mixing rhythms and fusing styles... Jazz and Nova Cançó with Serrat, Llach, Raimon, Tete Montoliu... Pop and folk, electronic music, rap and fusion with Estopa, Ojos de Brujo, Gerard Quintana and Els Pets, who draw the crowds now. And electronic rhythms triumph in cosmopolitan Barcelona every year at the numerous international festivals: Sonar, Primavera Sound, Summercase and so on. Today, Catalonia occupies a notable place on the classical and contemporary music scene: composers such as Guinjoan and Amargós, conductors such as Ros Marbà, singers such as Carreras, Aragall, Caballé and De los Ángeles, and institutions such as the Gran Teatre del Liceu, the Palau de la Música or the Orfeó Català confirm this.

Choir in the basilica of Montserrat. Barcelona.



The children's voices of the Escolania de Montserrat choir, the oldest in Europe, are internationally acclaimed. Every day visitors can enjoy their performances of the *Salve* and the *Virolai*.



Jaume Aragall.



Pau Casals.



Jordi Savall.

Antoni Ros Marbà who scored the Catalan national anthem, *Els Segadors*; Frederic Mompou and his reinterpretation of Catalan traditional music; Pau Casals and his *Cant dels Ocells*; the clear, powerful voice of Jaume Aragall; Montserrat Caballé and the record-breaking twenty minutes' ovation at the Barcelona Olympic Games after her duet with Freddie Mercury; the subtle voice of soprano Victoria de los Ángeles; Isaac Albéniz, Robert Gerhard, Enric Granados and his meeting with the impressionists; Eduard Toldrà and Xavier Montsalvatge; Josep Carreras singing for over twelve seasons with the legendary Herbert von Karajan; and Jordi Savall's mastery of the viol. These figures confirm that Catalonia is music.

Montserrat Caballé and Montserrat Martí.



Josep Carreras.



Catala



l'ònia

is music

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Choral, early and religious

They began 600 years ago, in Montserrat, and today the voices of the choirs and the festivals of ancient music continue to resound in historic Catalan buildings. Great musicians reinterpret the classical music composed in the mediaeval monasteries.

The first compilation of ancient Catalan music —containing songs and dances— is the *Llibre Vermell de Montserrat*. It is 600 years old. It is an anonymous collection, and constitutes the cornerstone of early classical music within the lands of the Crown of Catalonia and Aragon. Today, groups such as the **Companyia Elèctrica Dharma** and folk artists perform cover versions and reinterpret the *Llibre Vermell*, confirming its importance as a legacy. The *Cant de la Sibila* and the *Llibre Vermell* are the most authentic examples of a musical fortune safeguarded by the monasteries, havens of culture in the Middle Ages.

Sacred and profane polyphony predominated during the Renaissance and Baroque periods; the *Cançonera del Duc de Calàbria* is an example. The viol player and orchestra conductor **Jordi Savall** focuses his research and creative work on this epoch. With the three groups he has founded with Montserrat Figueras _Hesperion XX, la Capella Reial de Catalunya and Le Concert des Nations_ he has built up a repertory of exceptional quality. Other figures who interpret early Catalan music are the soprano **Montserrat Figueras**, the **Música Reservata** choir and the early music group **Ars Musicae**, all well-known internationally.

Choral singing is one of the most widespread and dynamic musical activities in Catalonia, with a great number of performers and fans. There are choirs in many Catalan towns and cities, with the choir of Montserrat at the forefront. The **Orfeó Català**, Catalonia's national choral society, founded at the end of the 19th century by Lluís Millet and Amadeu Vives, also deserves special mention. The home of the Orfeó and the **Cor de Cambra** is the marvellous Catalan Art Nouveau venue of the **Palau de la Música** de Barcelona (recently enlarged by the architect Òscar Tusquets), with its famous newly restored organ, where organists such as **Anton Mestres** have performed 18th century Catalan organ music.

The Abbey of Montserrat

The children's voices of the Escolania de Montserrat choir are admired internationally. The choir may be seen and heard every day at 1.00 pm and 6.45 pm singing the *Salve* and the *Violai*. The basilica, the image of the Mother of God, the Museum of Montserrat and the whole nature reserve of the Montserrat mountain range also deserve mention.

www.abadiademontserrat.net

Festivals

Sacred Music at Cardona Catalunya Central (April)

www.ajcardona.org

During Holy Week a series of concerts with essentially religious themes are organised in the historical precinct of the collegiate church of the castle of Sant Vicenç de Cardona.

Points of interest: Collegiate Romanesque church and mediaeval castle, currently a "parador nacional" hotel, the old quarter, guided visits to the salt mines (Parc de la Muntanya de Sal).

Festival Internacional de Música Sacra de Tortosa Tortosa, Terres de l'Ebre (April)

www.tortosa.cat

Concerts and auditions in the incomparable surroundings of the cathedral of Tortosa, with performances by choirs and orchestras.

Points of interest: Visits to the town centre and the walled precinct: the castle La Suda, currently a "parador nacional" hotel, Episcopal palace, cathedral of Santa Maria, Reials Col·legis (royal colleges) and Jewish quarter.

www.turismetortosa.com/www.terresdelebre.org

Festival de Música Antiga de Barcelona (May)

www.lacaixa.es/fundacio

The city's historic sites become venues for this festival.

Points of interest: See Barcelona p. 46.

Festival de Musiques Religioses del Món Girona, Costa Brava (June-July)

www.ajuntament.gi/musiquesreligioses

Forum of cultures (Christian, Jewish and Moslem) in today's multicultural reality.

Points of interest: See Girona p. 47.

Festival Internacional de Música de Cantonigròs Catalunya Central (July)

www.fimc.es

Choirs and international dance companies plus a choral singing competition.

Points of interest: Rupit and Tavertet, little villages with mediaeval charm. Country walks to waterfalls in the area, such as La Foradada.

www.lesquirol.cat / www.cantonigros.com
www.osonaturisme.com



Classical and contemporary

Catalan classical and contemporary music is the natural continuation of the country's brilliant mediaeval and Renaissance tradition. Catalonia is a land of composers and exceptional performers.

The priest **Antoni Soler** was a prominent figure in the 18th century. He was a source of inspiration for his contemporaries and is still appreciated by the new generations of performers. After the dark period of the War of Succession and the defeat of the Catalan Segadors, Catalan culture flourished during the 19th in a century cultural revival known as the *Renaixença*. **Francesc Alió**, with his *Cançons Populares Catalanes*, **Enric Morera** and **Jaume Pahissa** are the precursors of a brilliant array of 20th century musicians: **Enric Granados**, **Frederic Mompou**, **Eduard Toldrà**, **Xavier Montsalvatge** and **Isaac Albéniz** are some of the great historical figures on the Catalan classical music scene.

In addition, Catalonia has been receptive to the Schonberg and Berg twelve-tone revolution, to serialism, polytonality, microtonal music, *musique concrète* and Cage's aleatoric music, and continues to create contemporary music. Mention should be made of contemporary figures as important as **Josep Maria Mestres Quadreny** and his *Music Oberta*, **Joaquim Homs**, **Xavier Benguerel**, **Joan Guinjoan**, **Josep Cercós**, **Josep Soler**, **Benet Casablanca**, **Josep Maria Balanyà**, **Mercè Capdevila**, **Anna Bofill Levi**, **Albert Sardà**, **Albert Guinovart** and many others. And two composers linked to Catalonia, **Carles Santos** and **Barbara Held**. The *Orquestra de Cadaqués* and the *Tritó* label are also examples of this creative and innovative activity. Thanks to all of them, Catalan contemporary music is included in the repertoires of the finest international orchestras and most prestigious auditoriums.

Among the performers from Catalonia there are also some brilliant figures, such as **Pau Casals**, the cellist and composer from *El Vendrell*. Special mention should also be made of the pianist **Emili Blasco**, the flautist **Claudi Arimany** and the members of the *Miró Ensemble*, who regularly appear at the most prestigious international venues. As regards orchestras, the *Orquestra Simfònica de Barcelona i Nacional de Catalunya (OBC)* and the *Gran Teatre del Liceu Symphony Orchestra* are the best-known in Catalonia, while among the conductors special mention should be made of **Antoni Ros Marbà** and **Josep Pons**.

Today, the *Auditori de Barcelona* includes contemporary music in its programme and the *ESMUC* provides training in this field for future composers. The Catalan Association of Composers with its series of concerts *Avui Música* is helping to consolidate the creative scene and assure a positive reception from the most demanding of publics.

Festivals

HammerKlavier Barcelona (February-March)

www.opusartis.org

International cycle of piano concerts at the *Ateneu Barcelonès*.

Points of interest: See Barcelona p. 46.

Festival de Música Estiu de Cervera Cervera, Terres de Lleida (July)

www.cat.lleida.com/musica

One of the most important festivals in inland Catalonia, promoted by the *Emili Pujol International Chair of Music*, takes place in the main hall of the old University of Cervera. The main participants are chamber music ensembles and the orchestras attending the *Curs Internacional de Música (International Music Course)* organised by the university.

Points of interest: Old quarter in Cervera, performances of the *Passion Play*, and the old university building. *Aquelarre* (popular festival at end of August) and festivals of the *Santíssim Misteri*.

www.cerverapaeria.com

Festival Internacional de Música Memorial Eduard Casajoana Sant Fruitós del Bages, Catalunya Central (July)

www.festivalsantfruitos.com

Classical music festival in the incomparable rustic setting of the *Mas de Sant Iscle*: concerts organised weekly with the participation of national and international ensembles and soloists.

Points of interest: Monastery of *Sant Benet de Bages*.

www.santfruitos.org

Catalonia has produced some famous names. Perhaps the best known is the cellist and composer **Pau Casals**. The museum in his home in El Vendrell has become a place of homage.



Festival Internacional de Música de Torroella de Montgrí. Torroella de Montgrí, Costa Brava.

**Festival de Música Clàssica
Castell de Santa Florentina**
Canet de Mar, Costa del Maresme
(July-August)

www.santaflorentina.com

The parade ground of the village castle, dating from the 11th century and rebuilt by the architect Domènech i Montaner in the 20th century, is an ideal setting to enjoy the big names from classical music who grace the stage here every summer.

Points of interest: Casa Museu Lluís Domènech i Montaner (Museum-house).

www.canetdemar.org

**Festival Internacional
de la Porta Ferrada**
Sant Feliu de Guíxols, Costa Brava
(July-August)

www.portaferrada.com

This multidisciplinary festival, which has been running for over forty years, takes place at the very heart of the Costa Brava. It combines three cycles at the same time: one devoted to classical music, another to theatre and dance shows, and a third that combines jazz, world music and the best of international pop.

Points of interest: Old quarter with its church and the Porta Ferrada (Iron Gate), the History of Toys Museum.

www.guixols.cat

**Festival Internacional de Música
de Peralada**
Peralada, Costa Brava
(July-August)

www.festivalperalada.com

This is one of the most prestigious festivals, both as regards the international quality of the programming (which brings the finest recitals and top orchestras and operas to its stages) and the impressive beauty of the Gothic and Renaissance surroundings that accommodate the shows every year.

Points of interest: The Peralada Castle and Casino (historical monument including the Romanesque cloister of the convent of Sant Domènec and the old Gothic-style convent of Carme, which now houses the wine museum and the library). Golf, wines and spa. Guided visits: historical monuments, library and centre of the mediaeval village of Peralada, convent of Sant Domènec.

www.peralada.org

Festival de Música Isaac Albéniz Camprodon, Pirineus (July-August)

www.ajcamprodon.com

In 1985, in order to celebrate the 125th anniversary of his birth, Camprodon, Isaac Albéniz's home town, organised the first Isaac Albéniz Festival, which has grown non-stop since then and won the acclaim of public and artists alike.

Points of interest: Old quarter with Romanesque church, the Pont Nou bridge over the river Ter and the Gothic church of Santa Maria.

www.valldecamprodon.org

Festival de Música Clàssica El Convent de Blanes Blanes, Costa Brava (July-August)

www.el-convent.com

The Convent, a 16th century building situated on the headland of Santa Anna with its privileged views of the bay of Blanes, is an ideal venue for listening to live music.

Points of interest: Mar i Murtra botanical gardens, Pinya de Rosa acclimatised gardens (devoted to tropical plants and succulents). International fireworks competition.

www.blanes.net

Festival Jardins de Cap Roig Calella de Palafrugell, Costa Brava (July-August)

<http://festival.caproig.cat/>

This internationally acclaimed festival is organised in the beautiful natural setting of the gardens of Cap Roig. Classical music and opera rub shoulders with jazz and the big international stars of modern music.

Points of interest: Josep Pla route and foundation (centre dedicated to the writer Josep Pla), Museu del Suro (cork museum).

www.palafrugell.net

Concerts on the Cistercian route Tarragona, Costa Daurada Lleida, Terres de Lleida (July-August)

www.larutadelcister.info

Every summer the different Cistercian monasteries in the provinces of Tarragona and Lleida organise a series of classical music concerts which also provide an opportunity to admire their architecture.

Points of interest: See Tarragona and Lleida p. 46-47.

Festival Internacional de Música de Ripoll Ripoll, Pirineus (July-August)

www.ajripoll.org/festivalmusica/default.htm

Concerts and performances in the incomparable setting of Ripoll, which with its historical heritage and monastery is also known as the cradle of Catalonia.

Points of interest: Monastery of Santa Maria de Ripoll and Museum of Ethnography.

Festival Internacional de Música Francesc Viñas Moià, Catalunya Central (July-August)

www.moià.net/paginas/destacats/Fvinyes06/fu lleto-festival.pdf

The Francesc Viñas Festival is a tribute to this illustrious son of Moià. It takes place during the long summer evenings and is open to all the genres, from symphonic music and opera to more personal styles.

Points of interest: Church of Santa Maria de l'Estany and the prehistoric Toll caves.

www.moiànet.com

Festival Internacional de Música de Begur Begur, Costa Brava (July-August)

www.festivaldebegur.com

The Pati de les Escoles Velles is the best venue to enjoy a challenging programme focussed on classical music, although in recent years the festival has found a place for other quality music, such as jazz.

Points of interest: Old quarter, five towers, hilltop castle, local architecture and colonial-style houses. Aiguablava, Sa Tuna and Cap Sa Sal beaches.

www.begur.org

Festival Internacional de Música de Torroella de Montgrí Torroella de Montgrí, Costa Brava (July-August)

www.festivaldetorroella.org

This prestigious festival is held in the old quarter of Torroella, which dates from the 13th and 14th centuries. It brings together the great names from opera singing and classical music and includes cycles dedicated to young performers and jazz.

Points of interest: Gothic Church of Sant Genís, Montgrí castle, old fishermen's quarter in l'Estartit, Palau Solterra art museum, Cobla dels Montgrins music band, l'Estartit water sports centre, horse riding, golf, go-carting, guided outings, Medes Islands marine reserve, diving and snorkelling.

www.torroella.org

Ros Marbà at the Palau de la Música Catalana. Barcelona.



Festival Internacional de Música Pau Casals
El Vendrell, Costa Daurada
(July-August)
www.elvendrell.net

Festival dedicated to the great cellist born in El Vendrell, but the cello is not the only star. The great figures of classical music and international opera grace the stage, although special support is also given to young Catalan performers and composers.

Points of interest: Vil·la Casals-Museu Pau Casals, a museum which reflects the family atmosphere and busy life of the famous cellist. Casa Museu Àngel Guimerà (museum-house). Museu Deu art collection. Fundació Fenosa (dedicated to the sculptor Apel·les Fenosa).
www.paucasals.org

Festival Internacional de Música de Sitges
Sitges, Costa del Garraf
(July-August)
www.sitges.es

Summertime classical music festival with concerts given by different national and international ensembles and soloists.

Points of interest: Old quarter, Church of Sant Bartomeu and Santa Tecla, Museu Cau Ferrat (home and studio of the painter and writer Santiago Rusiñol), Museu Maricel de Mar (which houses art collections dating from the Romanesque period up to the end of the 19th century, the art gallery, and nautical collection of Emerencià Roig), Museu Romàntic Can Llopis (preserved 19th century home, collection of dolls that belonged to the artist Lola Anglada).

Romànic Musicau
Val d'Aran (July-August)
www.aran.org

A cycle of classical music concerts organised for the summer evenings within the unbeatable backdrop of the different Romanesque churches in the Val d'Aran.

Points of interest: Musèu dera Val d'Aran, Fàbrica dera Lan (old textile factory in Viella), Ecomuseu Juan Chikuet (Vilamós)
www.visitpirineus.com

Music Series in the Castles Lleida, Terres de Lleida
(July-September)
www.castellscatalunya.com

A series of concerts aimed at disseminating classical culture and music, with the castles situated in the Catalan counties of the province of Lleida as the venue.

Points of interest: Castles of Montsolís, Montclar, Florejacs, Pallaigues, Vicfred and Mur.
www.lleidatur.com

Festival Internacional de Música de Matadepera
Matadepera, Catalunya Central
(July-September)
www.culturamatadepera.es

A festival that has changed with the times. It was initially dedicated exclusively to classical music, but has opened up more and more to jazz and world music, something that has made the offer even more attractive.

Points of interest: Nature Reserve of Sant Llorenç del Munt and Obac.
www.matadepera.cat

Festival de Música Vila de Llivia
Llivia, Pirineus (August)
www.llivia.org

The Romanesque church of the village of Llivia, an enclave surrounded by French territory in the heart of the Catalan Pyrenees, provides an exceptional venue for a classical music festival.

Points of interest: Llivia museum, located in one of the oldest pharmacies in Europe. Torre Bernat de So (defence tower) and church.

Festival Internacional de Música de Cadaqués
Cadaqués, Costa Brava (August)
www.cadaques.org

One of the oldest music festivals in Catalonia. It enjoys great prestige thanks to its quality programming, which is committed to national and international contemporary composers. Besides the big names from the world of opera and classical music the organisers propose the International Competition for Orchestra Conductors.

Points of interest: Casa Museu Salvador Dalí and Cap de Creus nature reserve.

Festival Internacional de Música de Cambrils
Cambrils, Costa Daurada (August)
www.festivaldecambrils.org

In this coastal town in the province of Tarragona, the beautiful Parc Samà is the main venue for performances by artists, orchestras and dance companies who have been coming to this event every summer for over thirty years.

Points of interest: Parc Samà, water sports including diving, sailing, windsurfing, canoeing and kayaking.
www.turcambrils.info

Concert cycle for Soloists in the Alta Ribagorça
Pont de Suert, Pirineus (August)
www.ribagorca.com

Cycle of classical music concerts held in August in Pont de Suert which brings the best solo performers to this town in Lleida.

Points of interest: Old quarter, Església Nova de l'Assumpció and Església Vella (new and old churches), Palau Abacial (Abbot's palace) and collection of sacred art from Ribagorça.

Figures as important as Joaquim Homs, Xavier Benguerel, Joan Guinjoan, Josep Cercós and Josep Soler have introduced contemporary Catalan music into the repertoires of the finest international orchestras.



Concert in the Church of Santa Maria de Vilabertran.



Rostropovich Concert in Peralada Castle.

Schubert in Vilabertran Vilabertran, Costa Brava (August-September)

www.schubertiadavilabertran.cat

Cycle of concerts dedicated to Franz Schubert, which counts on the presence of the German composer's most outstanding exponents and specialists.

Points of interest: Monastery of Santa Maria de Vilabertran.

Festival de Música de Besalú Besalú, Pirineus (September-October)

www.besalu.cat

Festival dedicated to classical music offering a series of interesting concerts in the mediaeval setting of the county town of Besalú.

Points of interest: Mediaeval area including the 12th century Monastery of Sant Pere, the mediaeval bridge, Romanesque Church of Sant Vicenç, royal curia from the 14th century, gateways on Carrer Tallaferró, Jewish quarter, which conserves a mikvah or bath house, the arcaded main square and church of Sant Julià. Guided visits (day and night time) around mediaeval Besalú.

Festival de Música Felip Pedrell de Tortosa Tortosa, Terres de l'Ebre (October)

www.tortosa.altanet.org

Festival in memory of Felip Pedrell, with a series of recitals and chamber concerts given by young performers.

Points of interest: Guided visits around the old town centre, Renaissance and walled quarters: the castle La Suda, now a "parador nacional" hotel, episcopal palace, Cathedral of Santa Maria, royal colleges and Jewish quarter.

www.turismetortosa.com

Anna Ricci Cycle Barcelona (October-November)

www.xarxabcn.net/acimc/cicle.htm

During the Anna Ricci cycle of concerts the public can listen to the works of contemporary Catalan composers performed by artists from Catalonia.

Points of interest: See Barcelona p. 46.

Schubert at the Illa Barcelona (October-November)

www.lilla.com

Different recitals and concerts organised in this venue in Barcelona, with performances by well-known national and international artists and also young promises.

Points of interest: See Barcelona p. 46.

Music Season at the Auditori Barcelona

www.auditori.org

Home to the Barcelona and Catalan National Symphony Orchestra. Chamber music and symphonic works, with an open and multidisciplinary approach. Special mention should be made of the promotion of new values within the Young Performers Cycle.

Points of interest: See Barcelona p. 46.

Music Season at the Palau de la Música Barcelona

www.palaumusica.org

The most important cycle of concerts is the Palau 100, which counts on the presence of the foremost figures on the classical music scene in a series of concerts from September to the beginning of the summer.

Points of interest: See Barcelona p. 46.

Music Season at the Gran Teatre del Liceu Barcelona

www.liceubarcelona.com

Every September a new season starts at the Liceu in Barcelona. The big names in international opera grace the stage, with opera, dance, concerts and recitals on offer until the following summer.

Points of interest: See Barcelona p. 46.



Opera

The history of the **Gran Teatre del Liceu** reflects Catalonia's love of opera. The voices of the Catalan sopranos and tenors have transported this lyrical passion to the best opera houses in the world: **Jaume Aragall, Josep Carreras, Victoria de los Ángeles, Montserrat Caballé.**

Catalonia's love of opera goes back a long way. Like other European capitals in the middle of the 19th century, Barcelona would consecrate a magnificent musical temple, the **Gran Teatre del Liceu**, to the great operas and their composers. Composers such as **Felip Pedrell** (1841-1922) and his Wagnerian trilogy *Els Pirineus*, *La Celestina* and *El Comte Arnau*, for example.

The Catalan bourgeoisie made the Liceu the centre of social life in Barcelona. For good or bad, the anarchist attacks on the building also confirmed its symbolic status.

In 1994 it was destroyed by a fire, provoking great commotion in the city. A fund-raising campaign was organised. The architects **Ignasi de Solà-Morales, Lluís Dilmé** and **Xavier Fabré** were responsible for its reconstruction. The project was a success: it was a copy of the old Liceu just as the people of Barcelona had wanted it, but adapted technologically to modern times.

But this love of opera is not limited to Barcelona. Sabadell, to take just one example, has a flourishing opera house with regular programming organised by the **Amics de l'Òpera** association.

Catalonia has given opera some of its finest singers. The legendary tenor **Francesc Viñas** has given his name to a prestigious international singing competition. Eminent figures such as **Jaume Aragall, Josep Carreras, Victoria de los Ángeles** and **Montserrat Caballé** sing in the best opera houses in the world. And among the newer voices, special mention should be made of **Josep Bros, Montserrat Martí** and **Núria Rial**.

Festivals

Music Season at the Gran Teatre del Liceu **Barcelona**

www.liceubarcelona.com

Every September a new season starts at the Liceu in Barcelona. The big names in international opera grace the stage, with opera, dance, concerts and recitals on offer until the following summer.

Points of interest: See Barcelona p. 46.

Monegal Opera Cycle **Sant Llorenç de Morunys, Lleida, Pirineus (March, April and May)**

www.monegal.com

Every spring the Monegal Cultural Cycle of Concerts is organised, an initiative that aims to disseminate culture, in particular music, through a series of concerts and recitals in this emblematic valley in the Catalan Pre-Pyrenees.

Points of interest: Parish church of Sant Llorenç de Morunys with chapel and altar of Mare de Déu dels Colls and organ; Sanctuary of Lord. www.lavalldelord.com

The Festival of New and Pocket Opera **Barcelona and environs (November)**

www.festivaloperabutxaca.com

Rich and varied programme which presents different musical styles and registers including more personal performances, chamber music, Baroque operas, etc.

Points of interest: See Barcelona p. 46.

Opera Festival of Catalonia **Barcelona and environs**

www.aaos.info/index.php

Opera festival taking place in different cities around Catalonia and organised by the **Amics de l'Òpera** from Sabadell, an association whose objective is to familiarise the general public with this type of music.

Points of interest: See Barcelona p. 46.



Sa Farnera

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HÖHNER

Traditional and folk

Troubadours and Jewish poets singing in the Catalan cities and countryside: They are the origin of our musical tradition. Later the sardana appeared, danced on Sundays all over Catalonia. A sober and subtle popular dance. And on the coast, *habaneras*, sailor songs about the crossings to and fro from Cuba, yearning for the lost Caribbean.

Tradition synthesises musical sentiment in Catalonia. In the Middle Ages, minstrels and troubadours travelled throughout the lands of the Crown of Aragon and Catalonia. They sang in early Catalan, which would later become a language of culture.

In the Jewish quarters of cities like Girona, the poets composed Sephardic rhythms, folk songs that would survive down the centuries in the memories of humble people. Groups and soloists are now reviving the melodies and lyrics for future generations.

Jaume Arnella has been a pioneer in the revival and updating of the lively tavern songs. Groups such as **Primera Nota**, **Urbàlia Rurana** and **Els Ministrils del Raval** have us dancing again to the rhythm of jotas, polkas and other dances.

The *sardana*, the national dance of Catalonia, is the most internationally known Catalan dance and also the most popular. Every Sunday people dance sardanas in the main squares of the towns and cities of Catalonia. The sardana is a symbol of fraternity and community spirit in this country and its restraint and delicacy is the musical expression of Catalan Gothic sobriety.

The **Centre Artesà Tradicionàrius**, through its folk festival, helps to keep Catalan folk music alive and presents new groups and fresh initiatives. **Quico el Célio**, **el Noi i el Mut de Ferreries** from Terres de l'Ebre, the singers **Rosa Zaragoza** and **Maria Laffitte**, and groups like **El Pont d'Arcalís**, **El Cau del Llop**, **Mescla** and **La Carrau** illustrate the great vitality of music with traditional Catalan roots. Instruments such as the Catalan shawm and the hurdy-gurdy have taken on a new role in the hands of young musicians.

The *habanera* is the most important traditional song from the last century. They were brought back with the Catalan soldiers who journeyed to and fro to Cuba at the end of the 19th century. Catalans by adoption such as **Ortega Monasterio**, author of the famous *habanera El Meu Avi*, and his group **Cavall Bernat**, have given these *sea shanties* their maximum expression.

The *habanera* expresses, above all, nostalgia. *Habaneras*, *barcaroles*, waltzes and hornpipes are all deeply rooted in the Catalan memory. Groups like **Port Bo** and **Port Vell** continue to perform them.

Festivals

Tradicionàrius **Barcelona (January-April)**

www.tradicionarius.com

Traditional music festival with a quality programme offering a wide variety of artists, compositions and musical styles: instrumentals, ballads, traditional songs, dances, passacaglia and serenades.

Points of interest: See Barcelona p. 46.

Aplek Folk **Terrassa, Catalunya Central (May)**

www.aplekfolc.com/

This folk music festival has been held since 2003 in the verdant setting of the Parc de Vallparadís. The programme includes well-known specialists in this musical style.

Points of interest: See Festival de Jazz de Terrassa p. 25.

Vila-seca Street Music Fair **Vila-seca, Costa Daurada (May)**

www.fusic.org/firacarrer

Performances at different venues around the town by young musicians and up-and-coming groups, who present their shows onstage, in the street, or in music workshops.

Points of interest: Mediaeval town centre, castle of Vila-seca, cooperative wine cellars, Costa Daurada Festival of Magic and PortAventura. www.lapinedaplatja.info

Mataró - Cruïlla de Cultures **(crossroad of cultures)** **Mataró, Costa del Maresme** **(June-July)**

www.cruilladecultures.com

The fusion, mixture and meeting of different cultures is, as the festival's name indicates, the object of this event whose *raison d'être* is the musicians from around the world who meet up there.

Points of interest: Conjunt dels Dolors (Baroque paintings) in the basilica of Santa Maria. www.mataro.org



Habanera concert. Calella de Palafrugell, Costa Brava.

Habaneras are the most important traditional songs from the last century. They were brought back with the Catalan soldiers who journeyed to and fro to Cuba in 1898.

Accordionists' Meeting in the Pyrenees

Arsèguel, Pirineus (July)

www.tradicionarius.com

A festival of folk and traditional music dedicated to the diatonic accordion. Held annually in Arsèguel, it is the oldest traditional music festival in Catalonia and currently considered the most important diatonic accordion festival in Europe.

Points of interest: Old quarter.

www.alturgell.org

Trobadories d'en Guillem de Berguedà

Berga, Pirineus (July)

www.trobadories.org

Festival that aims to become a meeting-point for early music in the south of Europe. The meetings propose an open approach to early music and aim to encourage dialogue between different musical facets such as early music, poetry, the songs and dances of the troubadours, and also music and dance with traditional and folk roots.

Points of interest: Sanctuary of Queralt, Sant Quirze de Pedret, Museum of Natural Science, Circus Museum, La Patum (UNESCO World Cultural Heritage) and the Camí dels Bons Homes (Hiking route following in the footsteps of the Cathars)

www.ajberga.cat

Trobadors i Joglars

Canovelles-Cardedeu-Granollers-La Roca del Vallès-L'Atmella del Vallès-Les Franqueses del Vallès, Catalunya Central (July)

www.trobadorsijoglars.org

Series of concerts at different venues around the Vallès region where singer-songwriting and poetry are the main attraction in the hands of young Catalan authors and performers.

Points of interest: Museu de Granollers, Museu Abelló (Art collection) and Museu Thermalia (the culture of water).

www.turismevalles.net

Croma – Festival Internacional de Músiques del Món de Viladecans

Viladecans, Costa del Garraf (July)

www.ajviladecans.es

Festival whose goal is to foster and consolidate multi-culturality by programming artists and music which reflect the idea of respect for all the world's cultures.

Points of interest: Llobregat Delta Nature Reserve.

FIMPT (Festival Internacional de Música Popular Tradicional)

Vilanova i la Geltrú, Costa del Garraf (July)

www.vilanova.org/fimpt

Tradition in the broadest sense of the word finds its place in one of the oldest festivals of this kind. Musicians from around the world and Catalan folk music get together at the town's seaside venues.

Points of interest: Castell de la Geltrú (12th century castle), Church of Santa Maria, fishing port and marina, Biblioteca Museu Víctor Balaguer (art museum), the railway museum and Museu Romàntic Can Papiol.

www.vilanovaturisme.net

Habanera Concert

Calella de Palafrugell, Costa Brava (July)

www.ajpalafrugell.org

This very traditional and popular recital of habaneras takes place in a privileged setting, on the beach of the Barques. Different groups perform a wide variety of *habaneras* and usually wind up by singing two of the best known and most traditional: *La Bella Lola* and *El Meu Avi*.

Points of interest: Tower of Sant Sebastià, Fundació i Ruta Josep Pla (dedicated to the writer Josep Pla), Museu del Suro (cork museum).

Festival Cornamusam d'Olot Olot, Pirineus (July)

www.olot.org/cultura/entitats/cornamusam

Every year, in the capital of the Garrotxa region, the cornamusas, a local version of the bagpipes, are played in different concerts and in musical passacaglia.

Points of interest: Old quarter, parish church of Sant Esteve, Museu Comarcal (county museum), Casa Museu Can Trinchera (museum-house), Museu dels Volcans, Ruta del Carrilet: cycle trail and nature reserve of the volcanic area of Garrotxa.

www.olot.org/turisme

B-Estival Barcelona (July)

www.bcn.es

Festival of rhythm held in the Poble Espanyol in Barcelona on July evenings, with performances by national and international groups, artists and singers.

Points of interest: See Barcelona p. 46.

Paupaterres – Festival de Ritmes Ètnics de Tàrrrega Tàrrrega, Terres de Lleida (July)

www.paupaterres.cat

Festival specialised in world and traditional music whose goal is to make known and disseminate the different ethnic and musical rhythms from around the world.

Points of interest: Church of Santa Marta, old quarter, Museu Comarcal de l'Urgell, Sala Marsà (art collection), Fira Tàrrrega (street theatre festival), guided visits and MTB routes.



Tenora concert

KESSE – Músiques del Món a Tarragona Tarragona, Costa Daurada (July-August)

www.batall.com

Artists from around the world play in Tarragona to illustrate the richness of musical styles and familiarise the public with the rhythms and sounds, spirituality and forms of expression from other cultures.

Points of interest: See Barcelona p. 46.

Festival de Música Tradicional i Popular Catalana a la Granadella Lleida, Terres de Lleida (August)

<http://lagranadellacultura.xctf.net/>

Festival of traditional and folk music whose goal is to revive and disseminate this type of music.

Points of interest: See Lleida p. 47.

Mercat de la Música Viva de Vic Vic, Catalunya Central (September)

www.mmvv.net

This is more than a festival. With over one hundred concerts and ten venues, it is a meeting-point for all those interested in the world of music, from programmers to fans, and it is a great opportunity to exchange ideas and discover new promises, without forgetting the big names.

Points of interest: Historic monuments including the main square (Plaça del Mercadal), neoclassical cathedral, Roman temple, Museu Episcopal and Museu de l'Art de la Pell (leatherwork museum).
www.victurisme.cat

Festival Terra de Trobadors Castelló d'Empúries, Costa Brava (September)

www.castello.cat

The times of splendour of the mediaeval village of Castelló described by the troubadours are revived in this festival. The village opens its doors to the discovery of Catalan culture through music, dance and street theatre.

Points of interest: Basilica of Santa Maria, prison in the Curia, the old fish market (Llotja de Mar), Ecomuseu Farinera and Museu Catedral. Aiguamolls de l'Empordà nature reserve.

www.castellodempuries.net

Gaià Folk Torredembarra/Riera de Gaià, Costa Daurada (October)

www.gaiafolk.org

Festival of music and popular culture in Baix Gaià. Different activities including concerts, round tables and conferences are organised during a whole month.

Points of interest: Seaside town.

www.torredembarra.cat

Festival de Músiques del Món Barcelona (October)

www.lacaixa.es/fundacio

Meeting and musical dialogue with other cultures at the Auditori de Barcelona, open to proposals from the five continents.

Points of interest: See Barcelona p. 46.

Mediterrània – Fira d'Espectacles d'Arrel Tradicional Manresa, Catalunya Central (November)

www.tradifiramanresa.com

Multidisciplinary festival offering new artistic creations inspired by typical cultural traits from Catalonia and the Mediterranean.

Points of interest: Basilica of Santa Maria de la Seu, Museu Comarcal del Bages, Museu de la Tècnica de Manresa, Museu de la Seu de Manresa, monumental ensemble of the Sant Ignasi cave, the Carrer Balç and the route of St Ignatius.

www.minorisa.es/manresa/turisme.htm



Jazz and blues

Jazz took root in Catalonia in the middle of the last century, with small concerts, jazz halls and clubs. Cova del Drac, Pipa Club, Harlem and La Boite are already legendary.

Jazz has a second home in Catalonia. During the forties, the African American sound was welcomed with enthusiasm by the Catalans, who were seduced by the rhythmic jazz of the big orchestras. In Barcelona, Terrassa, Sabadell and other Catalan cities, the magic atmosphere of the new black American music played in jazz and blues clubs captivated everyone. Small-scale concerts were even given in the lobbies of the city's central hotels. Emblematic venues of Barcelona nightlife like the **Cova del Drac**, **Pipa Club**, **Harlem** and **La Boite** were opened. Catalonia completely fell for jazz. The popular blind pianist **Tete Montoliu**, a Catalan with an African heart, is considered one of the greatest players of all time. His duets with the singer **Núria Feliu** are collector's pieces, and the jazz style of the trio he formed with **Horacio Fumero** and **Peer Wyboris** continues to inspire new talents.

The **Taller de Músics**, in its legendary premises JazzSí, continues to welcome and train new jazz artists.

The **Rossy** brothers, who accompany musicians of Brad Meldhau's status, product of Barcelona's clubs, **Agustí Martínez** and **Llibert Fortuny** represent the future in a country crazy for jazz and with festivals organised everywhere.

Blues also makes its presence felt in Catalonia. The creation of the **Societat del Blues de Barcelona** is just one step forward towards the consolidation of a style that counts on the presence of local figures such as harmonica players **Vicente Zúme** and **Víctor Uris** and the Catalan blues singer **Big Mama Montse**. A regular concert programme in different Catalan cities and the proliferation of musicians and venues confirms the Catalan passion for the blues.

Festivals

Festival de Guitarra de Barcelona Barcelona (March-June)

www.the-project.net/festival_guitarra.htm

The guitar is the instrument par excellence at this attractive and eclectic festival where the principal exponents of jazz, classical guitar, flamenco and Latin sounds appear in Barcelona.

Points of interest: See Barcelona p. 46.

Festival Internacional de Dixieland Tarragona, Costa Daurada (April)

www.dixielandtarragona.com

The most traditional jazz has had its place in Tarragona for the last fifteen years, with appearances by the best international bands in this style and the main Catalan groups.

Points of interest: See Tarragona p. 46.

Festival de Jazz de Terrassa Terrassa, Catalunya Central (March-April)

www.jazzterrassa.org

One of Catalonia's most traditional festivals, always open to the latest tendencies in modern jazz. The whole city becomes a stage to enjoy the big names from jazz.

Points of interest: Museu de Terrassa (Visigoth Churches of Sant Pere, Cartoixa de Valparadís [castle and cloister], Casa Alegre de Sagrera [art collection], Torre del Palau), Catalan Art Nouveau industrial architecture (Masia Freixa, Sala Muncunill, the Carner confectionery shop and the market), the Museum of Science and Technology of Catalonia and the Textile Museum.

www.terrassa.org



Concert at Atac de Jazz Festival



Concert at Atac de Jazz festival

Festival Jazz Vic Vic, Catalunya Central (May)

www.jazzcava.com/festival

A festival that focuses on modern jazz with performances by internationally acclaimed musicians.

Points of interest: See Mercat de la Música Viva de Vic p. 23.

Festival de Jazz i Música Creativa de Ciutat Vella Barcelona (May-June)

www.agendaconcertscatalunya.com

Jazz, creativity and improvisation are the recipe in this festival which takes place at various clubs and bars in Barcelona's old quarter.

Points of interest: See Barcelona p. 46.

Festival de Guitarra Girona-Costa Brava Costa Brava (June-September)

www.agendadegirona.com

This cycle of concerts takes place at different venues along the Costa Brava, with the focus on the guitar and its different styles: classical, flamenco and jazz.

Points of interest: See Girona p. 47.

Atac de Jazz Festival Tàrrrega, Terres de Lleida (July)

www.atacdejazz.typepad.com

This festival is a popular initiative which promotes jazz exclusively made in Catalonia. Musicians and singers, fans and other people linked to jazz get together in a programme of concerts and jam sessions which presents new projects and unknown groups.

Points of interest: Museu Comarcal de l'Urgell, Fira Tàrrrega (street theatre festival in September), old quarter and surroundings, Cistercian route with the monastery of Vallbona de les Monges.

Blues in Roses Roses, Costa Brava (July)

www.bluesaroses.com

One of the most important festivals of this kind is held in the citadel of Roses. It is exclusively dedicated to all the different styles of blues.

Points of interest: Citadel, with the ancient Greek ruins of Rodhe, and megalithic remains.

www.roses.cat

European Jazz in Tortosa Tortosa, Terres de l'Ebre (July)

www.jazztortosa.com

Every year, the town of Tortosa hosts this important European jazz festival which presents the latest novelties and counts on the presence of prestigious groups from the jazz scene.

Points of interest: See Festival Internacional de Música Sacra de Tortosa p. 11.

Festival de Jazz d'Arenys de Mar Arenys de Mar, Costa del Maresme (July-August)

www.arenysdemar.org

Jazz festival held in the town of Arenys de Mar for over ten years.

Points of interest: Torre dels Encantats, parish church and Museu Marès de la Punta (lace museum).

Festival Internacional de la Porta Ferrada Sant Feliu de Guíxols, Costa Brava (July-August)

www.portaferrada.com

This international festival has been held for over forty-five years. This year, the idea is to bring back artists, proposals and tendencies from previous editions.

Points of interest: See Porta Ferrada International Festival p. 14.

Festival Internacional de Música de Peralada Peralada, Costa Brava (July-August)

www.festivalperalada.com

Points of interest: See Peralada International Music Festival p. 14.

Festival Jardins de Cap Roig Calella de Palafrugell, Costa Brava (July-August)

www.caixagirona.es

Points of interest: See Festival Jardins de Cap Roig p. 15.

Festival Internacional de Música de Matadepera Matadepera, Catalunya Central (July-September)

www.culturamatadepera.es

Points of interest: See Festival Internacional de Música de Matadepera p. 16.

Festival Internacional de Guitarra de Sant Carles de la Ràpita Sant Carles de la Ràpita, Terres de l'Ebre (August)

www.terresdelebre.org

An opportunity for guitar fans to enjoy the magic of this instrument in this seaside town in the south of Catalonia.

Points of interest: Gateway to the delta, La Foradada, a privileged observation point in the Ebre delta and Ebre Delta nature reserve. www.turismesantcarlesdelarapita.org

The blind pianist **Tete Montoliu** and the singer **Núria Feliu** are two key figures. The famous **Taller de Músics** and its legendary premises **JazzSí**, places for training and concerts. Blues has also found a public and has its stars in Catalonia: the **Societat del Blues de Barcelona**, the harmonica players **Vicente Zúmel** and **Víctor Uris**, and the singer **Big Mama Montse**.

San Miguel Mas & Mas Jazz Festival

Barcelona (August)

www.masimas.com

Festival celebrated at different venues around Barcelona with sessions of jazz, blues, funk, etc., and nationally and internationally acclaimed artists.

Points of interest: See Barcelona p. 46.

Cap i Bola Blues de Nou Barris

Barcelona (September)

www.festivalbluesbcn.com

This festival in Barcelona's Nou Barris district has gradually grown during its five years of existence and continues to apply a philosophy of making blues popular with the public at large.

Points of interest: See Barcelona p. 46.

Festival L'Hora del Jazz – Memorial Tete Montoliu

Barcelona (September)

www.amjm.org

This festival, which has been running for fifteen years, serves as a showcase for the jazz and modern music made in Catalonia. Its aim is to familiarise the public at large with best of the music made in Catalonia.

Points of interest: See Barcelona p. 46.

Festival Internacional de Blues de Cerdanyola

Cerdanyola del Vallès, Catalunya Central (October)

www.blues.cerdanyola.org

This blues festival, which has functioned for twenty years, is one of the most emblematic of its kind. In a programme of concerts in bars and other venues around the town, the big international figures share the limelight with the new up-and-coming stars.

Points of interest: Iberian settlement of Ca n'Oliver, Romanesque church of Sant Iscle de les Feixes.

www.cerdanyola.cat

Jazz Cycle in Tona

Tona, Catalunya Central (October-November)

www.tona.com/catala/municipi/fpla.htm

Cycle of jazz concerts with well-known musicians.

Points of interest: Fira Fil a l'Agulla (patchwork and textile fair).

www.tona.com

Voll-Damm Festival Internacional de Jazz de Barcelona

Barcelona (October-November)

www.the-project.net

With over thirty editions to its credit, this festival has become something of an institution in the city. It welcomes big international stars and continually renews its commitment to the most outstanding figures on the local jazz scene.

Points of interest: See Barcelona p. 46.

Festival de Jazz de Sant Boi

Sant Boi de Llobregat, Costa del Garraf (October-December)

www.stboi.es/agenda/subap_jazz.htm

Jazz festival with fourteen years of history that offers a programme with acclaimed national and international artists.

Points of interest: Museu de Sant Boi at the Can Torrents manor house, parish church of Sant Baldri, Can Massallera modern art gallery, Roman baths.

www.stboi.es

The SGAE Tete Montoliu Jazz Biennial

Barcelona (November)

www.sgae.es

The SGAE Tete Montoliu Jazz Biennial is a cycle of concerts whose goal is to promote this style of music through a competition for composers.

Points of interest: See Barcelona p. 46.

Jazz Tardor – Festival Internacional de Jazz de Lleida

Lleida, Terres de Lleida (November)

www.quadrantcorner.com/jazztardor

With an open programme where there is room for the principal figures in Catalonia as well as interesting international initiatives, this festival, which takes place at various venues around the city, has already become a reference point for jazz fans.

Points of interest: See Lleida p. 47.

Els Grans del Gospel

Barcelona (November-December)

www.theproject.es

The first Barcelona International Gospel Festival was organised in 2000 as a spin-off from the Festival Internacional de Jazz de Barcelona. The best international gospel groups sing at the emblematic venue of the Palau de la Música.

Points of interest: See Barcelona p. 46.



Singer-songwriters

The Setze Jutges inaugurated singer-songwriting in the sixties. It expressed the Catalan clamour for freedom and connected with the French iconoclastic and rebel spirit of May '68, although on a different note. **Joan Manuel Serrat**, **Lluís Llach**, **Marina Rossell**, **Raimon**, **Ovidi Montllor**, **Quico Pi de la Serra** and **Maria del Mar Bonet** were the stars of the **Nova Cançó** (New Song). And there were other figures with a more libertarian spirit: **Pau Riba**, **Oriol Tramvia**, **Jaume Sisa**. All of them helped to consolidate the tradition of Catalan singer-songwriters, which has lasted up to the present day.

The first were the Setze Jutges, soon to be followed by **Joan Manuel Serrat**, **Quico Pi de la Serra**, **Ramon Muntaner** and the Majorcan **Maria del Mar Bonet**, as well as **Raimon** and **Ovidi Montllor** from Valencia. Some of them revived Catalan poetic tradition (**Raimon** sang texts taken from the writings of the 13th century author **Ausiàs March**, **Maria del Mar Bonet** explores the rhythms of the Mediterranean), but all of them challenged censorship and defied the establishment. Their concerts were often forbidden or controlled by the police. There are recordings which did not get past the censor. Some of their songs became genuine anthems for the student and democratic movements, such as *Diguem No* by **Raimon** and *L'Estaca* by **Llach**. Even outside Catalonia, in Madrid and Andalusia, these fighters for progress sung their songs in Catalan.

They connected with the spirit of May' 68, but had to confront a dictatorship which considered them to be sowing the seeds of a dangerous democratic opposition movement. In a more festive, playful, hedonistic spirit, lying somewhere between the bizarre and the libertarian, **Pau Riba**, **Oriol Tramvia**, **Jaume Sisa** joined the movement. All of them were suspect for the Francoist regime. Together they constitute the sound track of an era.

In the eighties, during the first years of democracy, sensitive poets like **Joan Isaac** gave the **Nova Cançó** a more lyrical touch and consolidated this already deeply rooted and constantly renewed tradition of singer-songwriters. These days, **Albert Fibla**, **Roger Mas** and **Feliu Ventura** are the figures who keep alive and revitalise this tradition.

Festivals

BarnaSants **Barcelona (January-March)**

www.barnasants.com

Festival of Catalan music whose main goal is to promote singer-songwriting in Catalonia. It is addressed to both singers and composers, through a very varied programme with performances at different venues around Barcelona.

Points of interest: See Barcelona p. 46.

Canet Cançó + D6 **Canet de Mar, Costa del Maresme** **(October-November)**

www.canetdemar.org

The Canet Cançó festival is committed to the promotion and dissemination of music made in Catalonia. Since the first edition in 2002, some twenty authors and groups from the so-called Països Catalans (Catalan Lands) have come to Canet to present their music, combining highly polished productions with young singers and groups and mixing poetry and other musical styles such as pop and more traditional folk.

Points of interest: Casa Museu Lluís Domènech and Montaner (Museum-house).



Catalan rumba and flamenco

Rumba expresses the rich potential of the mixture of cultures and emigration. Flamenco and Catalan rumba: a happy meeting of styles. It began with **Carmen Amaya** and **Los Tarantos**, followed by **Peret**, **Gato Pérez**, **Los Manolos**. But that is not the end of it: their successors are **Estopa**, **Ojos de Brujo**, **Macaco** and **La Troba Kung-Fú**. They are the **Barcelona sound**.

Outside Andalusia, the strongest flamenco tradition developed in Catalonia. The successive waves of immigration during the second half of the 20th century set the scene for this meeting of Mediterranean cultures. In the 1950s, legendary figures such as the *ballaora* **Carmen Amaya** emerged and *tablaos* (flamenco clubs) proliferated in Barcelona.

“Catalan rumba” appeared in the city’s gypsy community, especially in the Gràcia district, with **Peret** and **El Pescaïlla** as the main figures, though **Los Amaya** and **Sabor de Gracia** are not to be forgotten. Later came **Gato Pérez**, an Argentinian with a Catalan spirit. Gato introduced the principles of rumba and the “flavour” in the popular orchestras and festival dances. The classic “fan” movement (in reference to the rhythmic way of playing the Spanish guitar, which is the essence of this style) became one of the signs of identity of Catalan music. And it was **Los Manolos** who internationalised rumba, at the closing ceremony of the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona. Later came the famous ultrarumba international sound of the **Estopa** duo. But the big surprise has been the series of inspired fusion groups, such as **Ojos de Brujo**, **Macaco** and **La Troba Kung-Fú**, who combine Catalan rumba and Latin sounds. Thanks to them, the “Barcelona sound” is talked about in Europe and America.

Flamenco in its pure state is also growing with innovative vitality in Catalonia, as proved by the *cantaores* **Miguel Poveda** and **Duquende**, and the *cantaora* **Mayte Martín**. Flamenco with solid foundations, deep, measured, based on firm principles.

Festivals

Festival de Guitarra de Barcelona Barcelona (March-June)

www.the-project.net/festival_guitarra.htm

The different rhythms of jazz, blues, Brazilian popular music and flamenco find a venue at the Barcelona Guitar Festival, an unbeatable opportunity to see this instrument’s great virtuosos.

Points of interest: See Barcelona p. 46.

Festival de Flamenco de Ciutat Vella Barcelona (May)

www.tallerdemusics.com

One of the most prestigious flamenco festivals, which features both young talents and the maestros. Orthodoxy and modernity meet up in one of the key events for flamenco lovers.

Points of interest: See Barcelona p. 46.

De Cajón! Festival Flamenco de Barcelona Barcelona (June-July)

www.theproject.es

Flamenco festival in Barcelona where fans can enjoy the best flamenco of the moment, with an impressive programme that includes star figures such as **Diego El Cigala**, **María López Tristancho**, **José Mercé**, **Tomatito**, **Enrique Morente** and his daughter **Estrella**.

Points of interest: See Barcelona p. 46.



Pop and rock

Catalonia adopted pop and rock with enthusiasm. Groups like **Los Sirex**, **Los Diablos**, **Los Mustang** and **Los Salvajes** appeared in the sixties. Later the **Companyia Elèctrica Dharma** would introduce Catalan rock, which combined traditional instruments and melodies with rock rhythms.

In Catalonia, rock made an impact with the energy typical of its origins. The younger generations wanted to hear the contagious American and European rhythms which could only put in a shy appearance in a country that was politically and culturally sealed off. And local groups appeared immediately who expressed the fresh and rebellious atmosphere of rock.

Singing in English and in Spanish, **Los Sirex**, **Los Diablos**, **Los Mustang** and **Los Salvajes** were the groups who pioneered pop and rock'n'roll in the sixties.

Rock in Catalan came later, the so-called "Layetán wave". The **Companyia Elèctrica Dharma** deserve special mention, blending traditional Catalan sounds and instruments like the shawm with the contagious rhythms of international pop.

Musicians who changed the prism of music in Catalonia forever appeared in the seventies. **Ia i Batiste**, on the one hand, and the unclassifiable **Pau Riba**, on the other, are milestones in a movement which would later be consolidated by groups such as **Màquina**, **Tapiman** and the **Orquestra Mirasol**, who incorporated the latest tendencies in Britain and the States, progressive rock and hard rock.

Then came the first records by soloists such as **Joan Bibiloni**, **Remigi Palmero** and **Enric Hernàez**, and groups who preferred a more festive type of pop, such as **La Madam** and **Duble Buble**.

The richness of this substrate has been fertile ground for the emergence of a set of genuine stars in the second half of the eighties, coinciding with the explosion of pop and rock in Catalan. **Sau**, a duo formed by **Pep Sala** and **Carles Sabater**, and **Sopa de Cabra**, with a very young **Gerard Quintana** as their lead singer, were the first of a series of bands playing a great variety of styles. Household names include **Els Pets**, **Sangtraït**, **Lax'n'Busto**, **Kitsch**, **Gossos**, **Brams** and **Glauco**: it is Catalan rock, which would become popular everywhere and has been an enormous hit with both the general public and the critics.

The new Catalan groups became icons for a whole generation whose successors continue today: a new series of immensely popular projects, bands and singers. Groups such as **Abús**, **Refree**, **Glissando** and **Aramateix** represent the new generations of Catalans. In this context, Catalonia figures in the big tours of the best-known international bands.

Festivals

Festival Electropop Alternativo (FEA)

Barcelona (January)

www.feafestival.net/botonera/init.htm

FEA is a Barcelona festival and competition dedicated to new alternative pop and electronic groups.

Points of interest: See Barcelona p. 46.

Screaming Festival **Calella, Costa del Maresme (June)**

www.screaminfestival.com/indexesp.html

Festival dedicated to the world of the fifties and classic rock'n'roll, with concerts, travelling markets and thematic events, in Calella de la Costa.

Points of interest: Municipal Museum-Archive of Calella Josep M. Codina and Bagué

www.calella.cat/turisme

www.turismedecalella.com

Festival d'Estiu de Tarragona **Tarragona, Costa Daurada** **(June-August)**

www.tarragona.cat/cultura/escena

Festival offering a generous and varied programme of theatre, music and dance during the summer evenings in Tarragona. Musical theatre, world music, young people's orchestras and audiovisual projections are presented at different venues around the city, such as the Camp de Mart, the Pla de la Seu, the Rambla Nova and the Plaça de la Font.

Points of interest: See Tarragona p. 46.

Faraday **Vilanova i la Geltrú, Costa** **del Garraf (July)**

www.faraday.tv

The latest trends in Spanish pop-rock can be heard at this seaside festival in Vilanova i la Geltrú.

Points of interest: See FIMPT p. 22.



Els Pets in concert.

Acampada Jove
Arbúcies, Costa Brava (July)

www.acampadajove.cat

Outdoor concerts and interesting complementary activities in the town of Arbúcies, near the Montseny nature reserve.

Points of interest: Old quarter, castle of Montsoriu, Ethnological Museum of the Montseny (La Gabella), Festa de les Enramades (declared a traditional festival of national interest) and the Montseny nature reserve.

www.arbucies.cat

Festus
Torelló, Catalunya Central (July)

www.festusfestival.com

Multidisciplinary festival with all kinds of shows: theatre, dance, circus, cinema, jazz, electronic music, poetry, role games, etc., held in Torelló. Its goal is to familiarise the general public with aspects of the performance arts –musical, visual and art activities– which are ignored by the usual channels of diffusion.

Points of interest: Sanctuary of Rocaprevera and Vicenç Pujol Gardens.

www.ajtorello.net

Festival Grec
Barcelona (July)

www.barcelonafestival.com
www.bcn.es/grec25

During the summer months, Barcelona celebrates its most emblematic festival, the Grec. A series of shows offering theatre, dance and music at different venues around the city. The festival is an obligatory point of reference for cultural activity in the city.

Points of interest: See Barcelona p. 46.

popARB
Arbúcies, Costa Brava (July)

www.ajarbucies.net

Festival of independent Catalan pop music held in Arbúcies.

Points of interest: See Acampada Jove p. 34.

Festival Pyrene
Salardú, Val d'Aran (July)

www.festivalpyrene.com

Festival of world music, fairs, sports and mountain activities in the Catalan Pyrenees.

Points of interest: Romanesque church of Sant Andreu.

www.aran.org

Senglar Rock
Basses d'Alpicat, Terres de Lleida (July)

www.senglarrock.com

Catalan rock is the main theme of this festival where the best Catalan bands of the moment appear in a varied programme that aims to present and disseminate the best music made in Catalonia.

Points of interest: See Lleida p. 47.

Solsona Rock Festival
Solsona, Pirineus (July)

www.solsonarockfestival.net

Musicians with different styles come from all over Catalonia to play non-stop at this festival of Catalan rock.

Points of interest: Old quarter: cathedral and episcopal palace Palau Llobera, Museum of the Diocese and Region and castle of Castellvell.

www.elsolsonesinvita.com

Xipella Rock Solivella

Solivella, Costa Daurada (July)

www.solivella.com

The essence of this summer festival is the music and the rhythms that keep the public dancing for hours and hours.

Points of interest: Collection of earthenware, ceramic workshops, cribs and models by Antonio Sans, viticulturists' cooperative and cellars.

(A)PHÒNICA – Banyoles Festival of Voice

Banyoles, Costa Brava (July)

www.banyoles.cat

This first festival of voice organised in Banyoles supports the leading role of Catalan culture.

Points of interest: Old quarter: Plaça Major (13th century main square), Church of Santa Maria dels Turers (13th century), Pia Almoina (14th century canon's house), Llotja del Tint (15th century dye works), monastery of Sant Esteve, Regional Archaeology Museum, Darder Natural History Museum and Banyoles lake.

www.banyolesturisme.com

Les Nits de Bonmont
Mont-roig del Camp, Costa Daurada (July-August)

www.lesnitsdebonmont.com

Les nits de Bonmont is an outstanding event on the Costa Daurada: It offers a cycle of concerts during the summer with a wide range of musical styles and sensibilities addressed to a diverse public.

Points of interest: Old church (currently a cultural centre) and hermitage of la Mare de Déu de la Roca.

www.mont-roig.com

SJ Cerka'l Festival
Piera, Catalunya Central (August)

www.cerkal.org

Festival in the town of Piera focussing on alternative music and performing arts. More than thirty free shows.

Points of interest: Church of Santa Maria de Piera and Piera castle.

www.viladepiera.com

The new Catalan groups have become icons for a whole generation that today, with the same creative energy, continues to turn out influential projects, bands and artists.

L'Arboç Sona

L'Arboç, Costa del Garraf (August)

www.turismedia.com

This event is organised during the village festival at l'Arboç. It includes fusion, ethnic, rock and electronic music as well as other modern genres.

Points of interest: Parish church of Sant Julià, Museu de Punes de Boixets (lace-making/patchwork museum).

www.turismedia.com/baix_penedes_arboc.htm

Sant Feliu Hardcore Festival

Sant Feliu de Guíxols, Costa Brava (August)

www.santfeliufest.com

Six editions have consolidated this event as one of the best punk rock and hardcore festivals in Catalonia.

Points of interest: See Festival Internacional de Porta Ferrada p. 14.

Ebre Terra de Vent

Tortosa, Terres de l'Ebre (September)

www.ebreterradevent.com

Tortosa is the venue of a festival for wind instruments. Over 4500 musicians from different countries, playing a great variety of styles: from Galician bagpipers to jazz, funky, marching music, Dixie and reggae groups

Points of interest: See Festival Internacional de Música Sacra de Tortosa p. 11.

Rocco Festival

Sabadell, Catalunya Central (September)

www.roccofest05.tk

Alternative music festival organised in Sabadell since 2004 which offers performances by the most popular alternative groups, and also new groups.

Points of interest: Sabadell History Museum, Sabadell Art Museum, Palaeontology Institute Dr. Miquel Crusafont.

www.sabadell.net

Altaveu Festival

Sant Boi de Llobregat, Costa del Garraf (September)

www.festivalaltaveu.cat

Altaveu, the festival of music and song in Sant Boi de Llobregat, has an open and eclectic programme that mixes languages, cultures, aesthetics, and sounds. There is also a competition for new groups.

Points of interest: See Mostra de Jazz de Sant Boi p. 27.

Mercat de la Música Viva de Vic

Vic, Catalunya Central (September)

www.mmvv.net

Points of interest: See Mercat de la Música Viva de Vic p. 23.

Vitamina Festival

Viladecans, Costa del Garraf (September)

www.aj-viladecans.es

The Torre Vermella football ground is the venue for concerts and shows offering a variety of musical styles and also includes DJs.

Points of interest: See Croma – Festival Internacional de Músiques del Món de Viladecans p. 22.

Castanyada Rock Piera

Piera, Catalunya Central (October)

www.castanyadarock.com/

Concerts and interesting activities connected with the rock music scene.

Points of interest: Church of Santa Maria and Piera castle.

www.viladepiera.com

Barcelona Hayride

Badalona, Barcelona (December)

www.bcnhayride.com

Barcelona Hayride has been growing since 1999 and has now become a cult event. It offers different styles of retro American music performed by bands coming from the United States, France, Sweden, Holland, the UK and Germany.

Points of interest: Museu de Badalona.

www.badalona.cat/aj-badalona/turisme/es.html

Festival Mil·lenni

Barcelona (December-February)

www.festivalmillenni.com

Festival whose programming is addressed to a varied public and offers a wide range of musical styles. It presents twenty-five nationally and internationally famous artists.

Points of interest: See Barcelona p. 46.



Independent, electronic and avant-garde

The new electronic and avant-garde trends, alternatives to the more commercial music, have taken root in Catalonia spontaneously: DJs in clubs, independent record labels and exciting festivals.

Thanks to the small recording companies who are pioneers in the diffusion of alternative sounds, such as **B-Core**, or recent initiatives that show signs of great vitality, such as the companies **Sinamon** and **Bankrobber**, underground Catalan music has reached a public which is non-conformist and interested in non-commercial proposals.

The first bands began singing in English. Later unclassifiable artists and producers appeared on the scene, such as **Quimi Portet** and **Marc Parrot**. Other projects followed such as **Raül Fernández's** with his group **Refree**. The independent scene in Catalonia displays increasing vitality and the ambition to make an impact abroad.

The avant-garde has always been present on the music scene in Catalan cultural life. There are numerous ground-breaking artists who try to break down musical conventions and create in total freedom.

In Catalonia, this radical, non-conformist movement has produced figures with a powerful style and personality. Names like **Víctor Nubla**, **Suz** and **Io Casino**. And bands such as **Macromassa** and **Jumo**, which revolutionised the avant-garde scene at the end of the seventies and during the fertile eighties, working with theatre companies such as **La Fura dels Baus**, dance companies such as **Lanònima Imperial**, and also in other artistic fields.

Their mark and influence can be traced right down to the present day, especially among the DJs, such as the legendary and recently deceased **Sideral**, **Joc** and **Spay**, and many others who spin in the most modern clubs in Barcelona, but above all at the top festival in the calendar of the Catalan capital, **Sonar**, **International Festival of Advanced Music and Multimedia Art**, held at the **Centre de Cultura Contemporània (CCCB)** and other venues around Barcelona.

The **LEM Festival**, linked to the association **Gràcia Territori Sonor**, also presents the most experimental creators of the moment. In Girona, the **Remor Festival** offers avant-garde sounds and the latest developments in musical creativity in Catalonia and on the international scene.

It is the starting point that gives new impetus and energy to creativity and experimentation. Young Catalan artists such as **Guille Martorell**, **Miguel Yuste** and the group **12Twelve** can be counted among the most interesting figures at the present time.

Festivals

International Cycle of Musical Influences Barcelona (January-April)

www.cccb.org

This cycle offers concerts that promote multicultural chamber music, jazz, modern improvisation, and interaction between these musical trends and other artistic disciplines.

Points of interest: See Barcelona p. 46.

Festival Internacional de Percussió Barcelona (May)

www.auditori.org

This Barcelona festival began in 2006 and offers performances by percussionists from around the world.

Points of interest: See Barcelona p. 46.

Músiques Contemporànies – Nous Sons Barcelona (March-April)

www.auditori.org

Different ways of understanding music share the stage at this festival, where flamenco, jazz, and electro-acoustic musicians alternate with their latest ideas.

Points of interest: See Barcelona p. 46.

During the last decade, the Catalan scene has situated itself in the forefront of European electronic and avant-garde music. **Sonar**, the Barcelona Festival of Advanced Music and Multimedia Art, is the festival season's biggest attraction.



Circle Square at Sonar festival.

Sonar – Barcelona International Festival of Advanced Music and Multimedia Art
Barcelona (June)

www.sonar.es

The most important festival of electronic music and multimedia art in Spain is held at the Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona (CCCB) and other venues around the city. The most important artists on the international scene come every year to an event that has become an icon for European youth.

Points of interest: See Barcelona p. 46.

Primavera Sound
Barcelona (June)

www.primaverasound.com

This festival dedicated to the most modern music began in 1995. With a wide-ranging programme that includes from electronic sound to indie pop, this event has become a must in the spring in Barcelona.

Points of interest: See Barcelona p. 46.

LEM Festival
Barcelona (July)

www.gracia.territori.com

The most advanced developments in sound and multimedia creation are presented at different venues around Barcelona. This festival has proved to be one of the best platforms for presenting work by young creators.

Points of interest: See Barcelona p. 46.

Summertime
Barcelona (July)

www.summertime.com

Independent and electronic music during the Barcelona summer. Big names and the best alternative pop at one of the most attractive summer festivals.

Points of interest: See Barcelona p. 46.

Fame Festival
Ascó, Terres de l'Ebre (August)

www.asco.altanet.org

Electronic music festival organised in the town of Ascó.

Points of interest: Old quarter, parish church.

Fire
Roses, Costa Brava (August)

www.roses.es

The festival started in 2005 and brings big names from the international music scene to play in this Catalan seaside town.

Points of interest: See Blues in Roses p. 26.

BAM
Barcelona (September)

www.bam.es

The BAM offers the public a programme containing a wide range of musical proposals from all over the world. The mixture of musical styles and influences to be seen at its venues presents a real, up-to-date and very enlightening vision of rhythms from around the world.

Points of interest: See Barcelona p. 46.

In-somni Tarragona
Tarragona, Costa Daurada
(October)

www.individuocultmusica.org

The first travelling festival in Catalonia, with venues in the most important cities, and groups and artists from the current independent scene. Musical eclecticism is one of its main features.

Points of interest: See Tarragona p. 46.

Wintercase
Barcelona (October-November)

www.wintercase.com

Independent festival that has become firmly established after five years of existence. A not-to-be-missed musical gathering that circulates between Barcelona, Bilbao, Madrid and Valencia.

Points of interest: See Barcelona p. 46.

Hipersons
Barcelona (November)

www.indigestio.com

Hipersons promotes the most modern music made in Barcelona and presents groups playing indie pop and rock.

Points of interest: See Barcelona p. 46.

Emergenza Festival
Barcelona (November-December)

www.emergenza.net

In the last few years, Emergenza has become one of the most consistent and best known musical events. The figures, the infrastructure and the contracts and contacts offered to groups are proof of this. Emergenza is currently the most prominent musical competition for up-and-coming groups as far as its scale and international coordination are concerned.

Points of interest: See Barcelona p. 46.

Groups like Love of Lesbian, Sidonie, Astrud and Cabo San Roque, and solo artists like Mazoni and Le Petit Ramon, are now the biggest names on the modern music scene in Catalonia.

Sonar festival.

Summercase festival.



The Gran Teatre del Liceu, the Auditori Nacional de Catalunya, the Palau de la Música Catalana, the Auditori Pau Casals, the Museu de la Música, the Museu Isaac Albéniz, the Auditori Enric Granados...

Schools, museums, competitions, conservatories, auditoriums, theatres, luthiers.

In Catalonia music is played everywhere and for everyone, and there is a strong desire to be creative and to popularise all the styles...

Catalonia has always fostered music venues, from main squares to the Gran Teatre del Liceu in Barcelona and to the smallest of villages; people everywhere can enjoy music...



Music venues

Because in order to grow and spread, apart from an efficient network of schools and conservatories, music needs its sanctuaries: venues with good acoustics and visibility, where architectural style and tradition join up with the latest technology so that music can be heard and amplified in the best conditions. Catalonia has some exceptional auditoriums.

In Barcelona, the rebuilt Gran Teatre del Liceu, the art nouveau Palau de la Música Catalana and the Auditori Nacional de Catalunya.

The Auditori de Girona, the Teatre Auditori Camp de Mart in Tarragona and the Auditori Enric Granados in Lleida complete, apart from other smaller theatres and auditoriums in each city, the offer around Catalonia. Many of these, through their links with the big European auditoriums, have begun to present performances of works by the most prestigious contemporary musicians and have left behind a more conventional and limited past.

Music culture needs a solid infrastructure, a good network of schools and conservatories and the resolve to encourage the creation and diffusion of music in all its different styles. But it is also vital to be able to count on the necessary theatres and auditoriums where music can be staged and reach the public.

Catalonia has always supported venues for music. Barcelona, as the capital of Catalonia, has the most internationally known venues, but musical tradition has roots in every town and city: from Sabadell and Terrassa to Reus and Manresa, all over Catalonia we find theatres, auditoriums, clubs, music halls, bars and clubs where the best music can be enjoyed.

Barcelona

The Gran Teatre del Liceu, rebuilt using cutting-edge technology for the acoustics and the stage, looks as splendid as it did when it opened in 1847. In its regular programme famous operas alternate with concerts, ballets and recitals given by the foremost figures on the music scene. And the Petit Liceu was opened a few years ago, designed for family concerts with particular attention being paid to children. Part of the building can be visited and special mention should be made of its impressive main auditorium, the Saló dels Miralls (the Hall of Mirrors) and the foyer. There are guided visits daily at 10.00 am, in Spanish, Catalan and English, which last a little over an hour.

www.liceubarcelona.com

The Palau de la Música Catalana, was designed by the brilliant architect Domènech i Montaner and completed in 1908, so it is about to celebrate its centenary. It was declared World Heritage in 1997. It is the seat of the Orfeó Català (Choral Society of Catalonia), has become the main venue for classical music in Catalonia, and has also opened its doors in recent years to other musical genres such as jazz and flamenco. There are guided visits daily, every half hour from 10.00 am to 3.30 pm, in Catalan, Spanish and English.

www.palaumusica.org

The Auditori Nacional de Catalunya, a new building designed by the architect Rafael Moneo, complements the offer of quality music around the city with its three halls (symphonic, chamber and polyvalent). It is the seat of the Barcelona and Catalan National Symphony Orchestra and offers an extensive, quality programme. It is also home to the ESMUC (Escola Superior de Music de Catalunya) and the Museum of Music.

www.auditori.org

Girona

The Auditori de Girona, situated in the popular park known as la Devesa on the banks of the river Ter and on the same site as the city's conference hall, has been conceived as a multidisciplinary space. The Orquestra de Girona is the in-house ensemble and there is a regular programme of concerts that includes internationally acclaimed groups and individual artists.

www.auditorigirona.org

Lleida

The Auditori Enric Granados de Lleida is also home to the city's music conservatory and has become the driving force for music all over inland Catalonia. It is the seat of the Orquestra Julià Carbonell de les Terres de Lleida (OSJCTL), which offers a regular programme with heavy emphasis laid on Catalan composers.

www.paeria.es/auditori/

Tarragona

The Teatre Auditori Camp de Mart, in the heart of Roman Tarragona, is the most emblematic venue in the city and is dedicated to events of special relevance.

www.tarragona.cat

El Vendrell

The Auditori Pau Casals in Vendrell, just opposite the famous musician's museum-house, is a very attractive venue that includes an inner courtyard. There is a cycle of young performers, a jazz cycle and another dedicated to classical music, with special attention being given to the Festival Internacional de Música Pau Casals.

www.elvendrell.net



Palau de la Música Catalana. Barcelona.

Because in order to grow and spread, apart from an efficient network of schools and conservatories, music needs its sanctuaries: venues with good acoustics and visibility, where architectural style and tradition join up with the latest technology so that music can be heard and amplified in the best conditions. Catalonia has some exceptional auditoriums.

Auditori Pau Casals. El Vendrell. Costa Daurada.





L'Auditori, Sala Pau Casals. Barcelona.

Museums

Museu de la Música de Barcelona

www.museumusica.bcn.cat

Previously situated in the Casa Cuadras, an Art Nouveau building renovated in 1902 by the architect Puig i Cadafalch, it was recently moved to the Auditori, designed by Rafael Moneo. This is an outstanding museum of musical instruments with a notable collection of guitars, no doubt one of the most important in the world.

Museu Josep Serra i Castellví

Benissanet (Terres de l'Ebre)

www.terresdelebre.org

A collection of about 300 musical instruments is on display here.

Vil·la Casals - Museu Pau Casals

Sant Salvador, El Vendrell (Costa Daurada)

www.paucasals.org

The main object of this museum is to conserve and make known the life and works of Pau Casals.

Casa Nadiua de Pau Casals

(Birthplace of Pau Casals)

El Vendrell (Costa Daurada)

www.elvendrell.net

The house where Pau Casals was born retains the atmosphere of a very modest family home from the end of the 19th century.

Museu Isaac Albéniz

Camprodon (Pirineus)

www.webgipal.net/isaacalbeniz/

The museum exhibits include original music scores, personal belongings and also the composer's pianos.

Competitions

The object of the competitions organised throughout the year around Catalonia is to foster talent, discover young creators in all the fields of musical art and make known the new emerging artists on the Catalan music scene. Many of these competitions are well known internationally and attract young musicians from all over the world thanks to the popularity and prestige of their awards. The most important include the following:

Tarragona International Award for Musical Composition

www.tarragona-music-competition.com

Reina Sofia Award for Musical Composition

www.fundacioferrersalat.com

Ciutat de Girona Award for Musical Composition

www.auditorigirona.org

Maria Canals de Barcelona International Competition for Musical Performance

www.mariacanals.org

Competition for Young Composers. Frederic Mompou International Award

www.jmbarcelona.com

Ricard Viñes Piano Competition

www.paeria.es/auditori/cricardvines

Francesc Viñas International Singing Competition

www.francisco-vinas.com

Jaume Aragall International Singing Competition

www.concursaragall.com

Xavier Montsalvatge Performance of Contemporary Music for Piano Competition

www.auditorigirona.org

Manresa Music Award

www.ajmanresa.cat

Luthiers

There is a bridge linking human beings and music: the instrument. The instrument is the object that "instructs the mind" because it shows the way to discovering the ineffable mysteries of sound. It is material in vibration that connects the spirit to the ethereal dimension of nature, which cannot be seen or touched, which only the ear can convert into the language of words. David Bagué, Xavier Vidal and Josep Melo represent three aspects of the construction and restoration of string instruments (violin, viola, cello and guitar) in Catalonia.

David Bagué has been making violins, violas and cellos by hand for over thirty years and is considered one of the finest luthiers in the world. He has been decorated with the Creu de Sant Jordi. His workshop is in Barcelona.

Tel. +34 93 237 86 03

lospagnoletto@eresmas.com

Xavier Vidal is a master luthier recognised for his work in the complex and necessary field of restoration and maintenance of bow instruments. He has a shop-cum-workshop in Barcelona.

Tel. +34 93 459 42 42

luthiervidal@teleline.es

www.luthiervidal.com

Josep Melo makes classical, acoustic and electric guitars in his workshop in Sabadell.

josepmelo@meloguitars.com

www.meloguitars.com

For further information:

www.artesania-catalunya.com

The rebuilt Gran Teatre del Liceu looks as splendid as when it opened in 1847.



Gran Teatre del Liceu. Barcelona.

Schools and conservatories

Training is undoubtedly the cornerstone of Catalan music culture. The intense activity all over Catalonia in all the fields of music-making, with daily concerts, recitals and a large number of recordings every year, would not be possible without the existence of a solid base that ensures that this feeling for music is present in everyday life. This is precisely the function of the ample network of schools, conservatories and academies distributed all over Catalonia and which is extraordinarily busy training future musicians, singers and composers.

These are top-level centres with strict quality controls, which carry out the humblest of tasks, but at the same time the most fundamental: teaching new generations to appreciate music.

The following centres deserve special mention: the **Conservatori del Liceu in Barcelona** (www.conservatori-liceu.es). It trains opera singers and has a strong tradition and great prestige going back to the middle of the 19th century; the **Conservatori Municipal de Música de Barcelona** (www.bcn.es/conservatori) and the **ESMUC**

(**Escola Superior de Música de Catalunya**) (www.esmuc.net), music schools which turn out the best musicians in Catalonia and cover a wide variety of styles, from classical music and jazz to early and traditional music.

Lorin Maazel.



Joan Manuel Serrat.



Victoria de los Ángeles





Cable car from Montjuïc to the port of Barcelona. Barcelona.

Points of interest

Barcelona

In the last few years, Barcelona has become one of the main tourist destinations in Europe. Its history, art, music and big international shows, the presence of Gaudí, Picasso and Miró, the installations of the 1992 Olympic Games, the mild climate and the extensive network of top quality services constitute a unique offer. Welcoming, innovative, spectacular: there are a thousand reasons for not missing Barcelona.

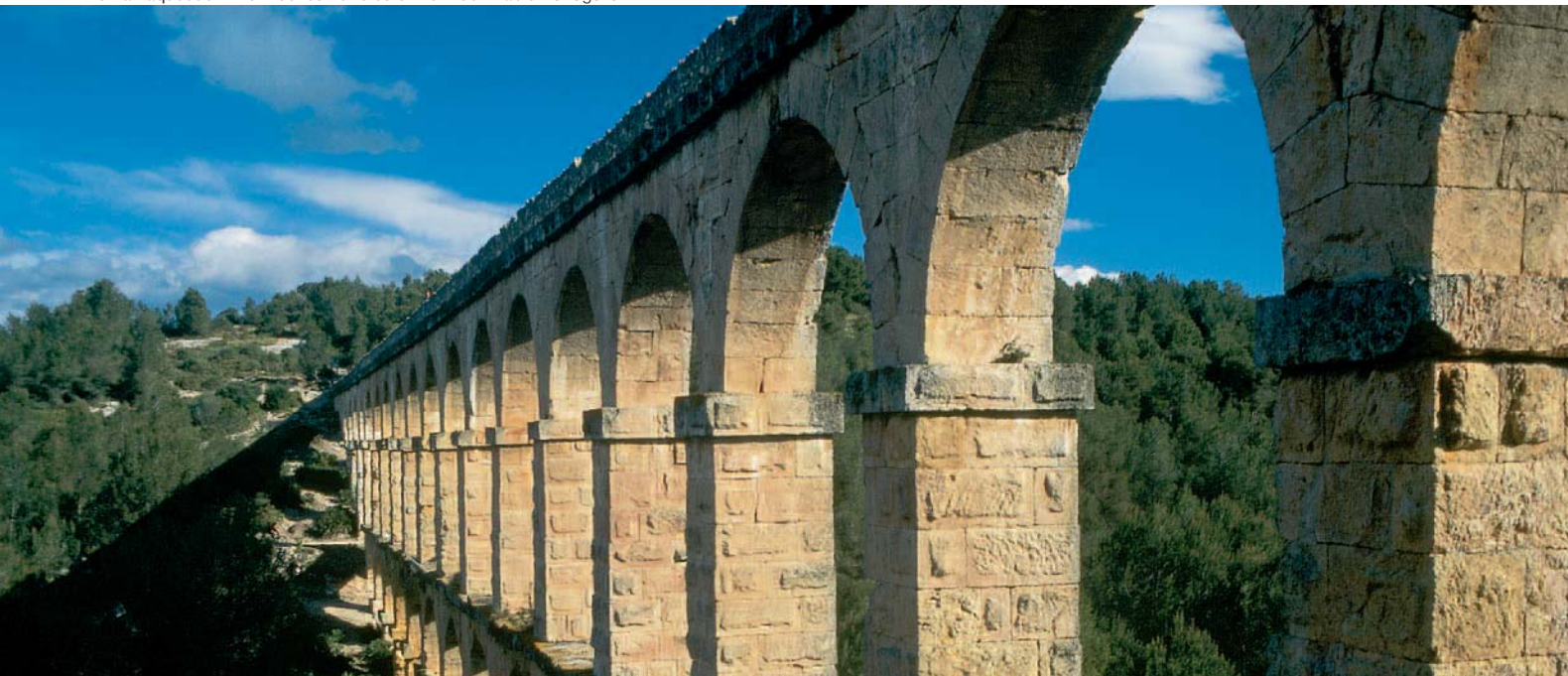
www.barcelonaturisme.cat

Tarragona

The capital of the Costa Daurada has kept alive its Roman tradition. An imperial city and world heritage site, Tarragona is also an important centre of mediaeval art. On its beaches, in the maritime quarter of Seralvo, on the archaeological route, on the Rambla or in the main streets, visitors experience a new encounter with the sources of Mediterranean sensibility.

www.tarragonaturisme.cat

Roman aqueduct - Pont de les Ferreres or Pont del Diable. Tarragona.





Houses by the river Onyar. Girona.

Girona

Not far from the Costa Brava, Girona boasts some of the finest historic monuments in Catalonia, including mediaeval fortifications, Romanesque and Gothic churches, and one of the most important mediaeval Jewish quarters in Europe. The more modern parts of the city, which extend along the two sides of the river, still have a calm and pleasant atmosphere.

www.ajuntament.gi

Lleida

A city waiting to be discovered, full of attractions; it is an unexpected surprise for every visitor. Lleida offers art, culture, international festivals, commerce and a gastronomic tradition based on farm produce. Particular mention should be made of the fruit, olive oil and traditional snail dishes.

www.turismedelleida.cat

The castle La Suda and Seu Vella. Lleida.





Colomers, Val d'Aran.

Catalonia Tourist Information

Passeig de Gràcia, 105, 3p - 08008 Barcelona
Tel. +34 93 484 99 00 - Fax. +34 93 484 98 88
e-mail: catalunya.turisme@gencat.net
www.catalunyaturisme.com

Costa Brava.





Parc Güell. Barcelona.

Catalonia Tourism centres for tourist promotion

CPT Benelux
info@catalunya-turisme.org

CPT France
Paris:
media@tourismedelacatalogne.fr
Perpinyà:
p-casaperpinya@gencat.net

CPT United Kingdom - Eire
Catalonia@catalantouristboard.co.uk

CPT Germany
info@katalonien-tourismus.de

CPT Italy
info@catalogna-turismo.it

CPT Scandinavia
ctb@wtc.fi

CPT Eastern Europe
jose@rosmail.ru

CPT China
info@hispachina.com

Centre Cultural Blanquerna
Madrid:
turisme.blanquerna@gencat.net

Other relevant centres for tourist promotion

Girona Tourist Board (Costa Brava - Pyrenees)
www.costabrava.org

Costa Daurada Tourist Board
www.costadaurada.org

Terres de l'Ebre
www.terresdelebre.org

Barcelona Tourism
www.barcelonaturisme.com

Barcelona Provincial Council - Turisme Total
www.turismetotal.org

Lleida Tourist Board
www.lleidatur.com

Val d'Aran Tourist Board
www.aran.org

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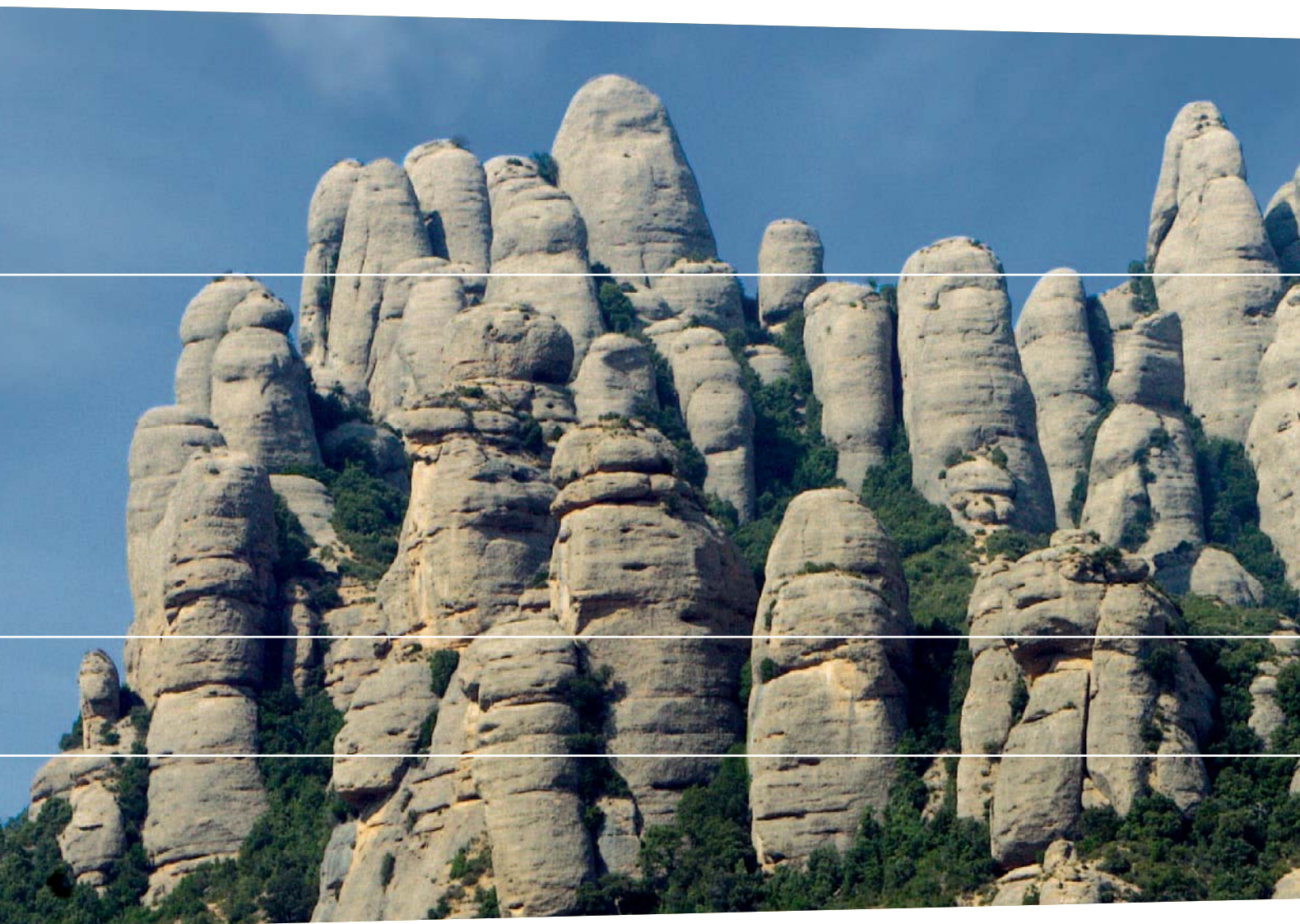
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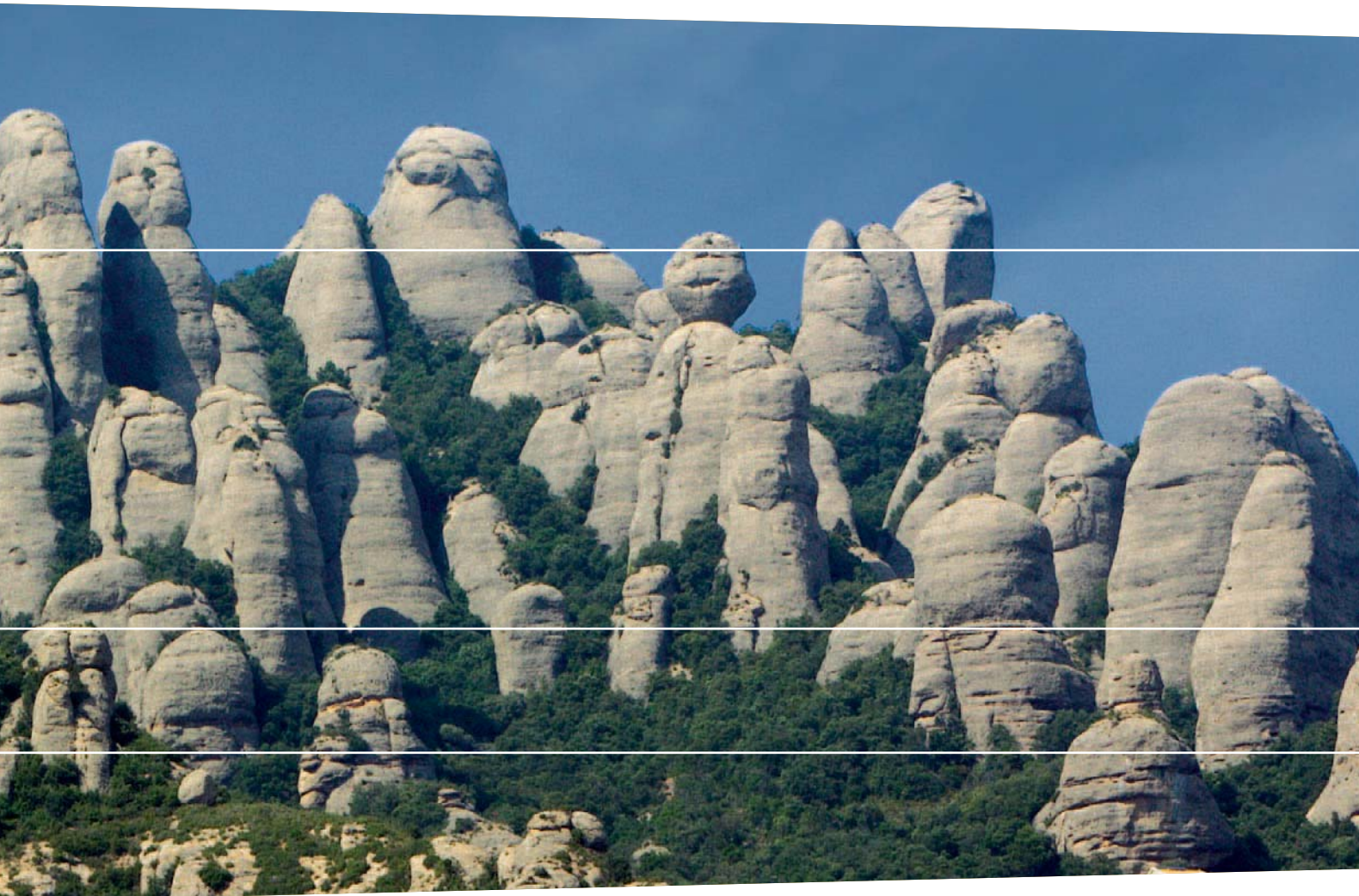
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