

ELISENDA FÁBREGAS

Biography

“Fábregas is one gifted with a blue guitar. Her tunes are beyond us, yet ourselves. Indeed they are tunes of things exactly as they are.”

--American Music Teacher Magazine

Spanish/American composer **Elisenda Fábregas** (b. 1955, Terrassa, Catalonia) is based in Seoul, South Korea, where she is a Visiting Professor of music at Kyung-Hee University Humanitas College. She holds doctorates from the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University in music composition (DMA, 2011), and from Columbia University Teachers College in education (Ed.D. 1992); she also received a Masters and Bachelors in piano performance from The Juilliard School (1983). Before coming to the US, she also completed the highest studies as a pianist in Barcelona. During her early career, Elisenda performed as a pianist throughout Europe and the US, including a Carnegie Recital Hall debut in New York. These experiences as a performer and the training involved ultimately propelled her towards musical composition.

Elisenda has been praised for writing with an “*imaginatively colored... idiom*” (The New York Times) and for possessing an “*individuality [which] shows through in yearning dissonances, quirky juxtapositions of thematic material and a pervasive sensuality not unlike that of her native Barcelona*” (San Antonio Express News). Fábregas’s music has been described as “*complex and haunting*” (Washington Post) with abundant “*expressive long lines and gorgeous lyricism*” (NATS Journal), and for having “*an emotionally compelling aura*” (New Mexican News) and a “*marvelous sense of progression and development*” (American Music Teacher Magazine). In occasion of winning the MTNA Shepherd Distinguished Composer Award, the American Teacher Magazine praised Fábregas for writing with a unique perspective comparing her to the “The man with a Blue Guitar” (1937) in the Wallace Stevens’s poem: “*Fábregas is one gifted with a blue guitar. Her tunes are beyond us, yet ourselves. Indeed they are tunes of things exactly as they are.*” Fábregas music covers a wide range of states, from “*dreamlike images...and illusive rhythms and harmonies that permeate misty settings*” [as in the piano solo ‘Hommage a Mozart,] to music described as “*notable in its sturdy and arresting generative themes*” with “*motoric, muscular, exciting fast movements*” (San Antonio Express News.)

Upcoming performances of Elisenda’s works include twelve performances of *Voces de mi tierra* by the Trio Nova Mundi in their 2017 Spring USA tour in Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Oregon and Washington State. This work will also be performed multiple times in Spain and Argentina by Triomos, a trio based in the Netherlands.

Recent premieres of Elisenda’s music include: *Accents Catalans* (2016) for orchestra, commissioned by the Bucheon Philharmonic and premiered by maestro Youngmin Park at the Orchestra Festival of the Seoul Arts Center on April 10 of 2016; an additional performance took place on September 30, 2016, at Bucheon’s Citizen Hall in Bucheon, South Korea. Elisenda’s working relationship with the Bucheon Philharmonic continues with a new commission to write an orchestral song cycle, *Somnis desperts*, based on Catalan poetry by J.V. Foix. Other highlight concerts in South Korea included multiple performances of *Mirage* for piano by award-winning pianist Mijung Im, in her South Korean tour, with a final concert at the IBK Hall of the Seoul Arts Center on March 23, 2016.

In Barcelona, *Tiempo de amor* for tenor, soprano and piano, was recorded in December 2016 for Mundo Arts in her CD ‘*Amb veu de dona*’ by soprano Patricia Caicedo. Ms. Caicedo commissioned this work for the Barcelona Festival of Song and was premiered at Caixa Forum in Barcelona on June 25, 2015. Patricia performed this work recently at University of California Riverside, and at Biblioteca de Catalunya. Other performances in Barcelona include *Wandering spirit for violin & piano* presented multiple times, with a highlight concert at the MNAC (Museu Nacional d’Art de Catalunya), Barcelona, by Heriberto Fonseca, violin, and Keiko Ueno, piano on July 2, 2016.

On February 9, 2015, Elisenda’s *Triple Concerto for Piano Trio and Orchestra (2015)* was premiered by the Trio Nova Mundi, who commissioned this work, and the Atlanta Community Symphony Orchestra in

Atlanta conducted by maestro Juan Ramirez; an additional performance by the Grove City College Orchestra took place in April. On February 8, 2014, her *Symphony No. 1 for Symphonic Band* was commissioned and premiered by the Banda Municipal de Barcelona at 'L'Auditori' Sala Pau Casals in Barcelona, under the direction of maestro Youngmin Park. In 2011, *Terra Mater for Symphony Orchestra*, was commissioned & premiered by the Wonju Philharmonic. During the 2012-2013 season, *Caminos del duende* for marimba and percussion was commissioned/premiered by "4Plus Percussion Ensemble" at the Seoul Arts Center with a subsequent performance at the International Percussion Festival of Seoul; and *Return a la terra* for mixed ensemble and narrator, was commissioned/premiered by Unai Urrecho and the Virtuoso Ensemble at the Dong Tan Art Center of Hwaseong.

Highlight performances of Elisenda's music include The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and the Phillips Collection in Washington D.C.; Merkin Concert Hall and The Joyce Theater (New York); Bargemusic (Brooklyn, NY); Musical Festival of the Hamptons (New York); Embassy Series (Washington D.C.); Sala Pau Casals at L'Auditori Sala de Barcelona; the Bodensee International Music Festival and Sanssouci Musikfestpiele (Potsdam), Meersburg International Music Festival, and WDR Cologne Radio ("Nachtmusik" live) in Germany; United Nations Conference in Beijing; La Salle Cortot in Paris; 'Les Moments Musicaux de Notre Dame' in Marseille (France); Ibero American Institute in Berlin; Philadelphia Chamber Music Society; Lansing Symphony Orchestra Chamber Music Series; Palau Maricel in Sitges (Concerts de Mitjanit); Seoul Arts Center and International Percussion Festival of Seoul (South Korea); Tapiola Symphony Concert Series (Finland); Esplanade Concerts (Singapore); KWCMS Chamber Music Series in Kitchener-Waterloo, Canada; and Cactus Pear Music Festival (Texas.)

Recordings of Elisenda's compositions have been released on Haenssler (Profil Edition), Albany Records, Centaur Records, Mundo Arts and NCA Classical Adventure Records; and her music is published by Hofmeister MusikVerlag (Leipzig, Germany), Alphonse Leduc & Cie. (Paris.), and Hidden Oaks Music Co.