



## DUO MUSART BARCELONA

**RAÚL PRIETO RAMÍREZ, Organ & MARIA TERESA SIERRA, Piano**

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Two young keyboard artists, described by journal *Diari Avui* as “two rising stars in Spain”, formed **Duo MusArt Barcelona** in 2007 to fill a vacant niche on the Iberian musical landscape — piano and organ duets in full-scale concert performance. **Maria Teresa Sierra**, a concert pianist who trained at the Rimsky-Korsakov Conservatory in St. Petersburg, Russia, and **Raúl Prieto Ramírez**, Spain's sensational organist who studied in Spain and Germany, are also husband and wife. The blazing, edge-of-the-seat virtuosity which mark their individual styles permit them as a duo to approach the music with the precision and clarity of a premier chamber ensemble. As *Le Monde* (Spain) described: “They play as with one mind.”

They have performed to critical and audience acclaim at Spain's major concert halls in Madrid (Auditorio Nacional, the Conde Duque Hall, and the Circulo de Bellas Artes) and Barcelona (Palau de la Musica, Auditori Hall, and the Pau Casals hall), Canary Islands (Alfredo Klaus Hall), as well as numerous cities in Europe, Russia, and across the United States. Among the major festivals at which the duo has been featured are the International Barcelona Piano Festival, the International Festival in Segovia, the Third International Organ Festival in Russia, the 2016 American Guild of Organists' national convention in Houston, and the 2018 Virginia Arts Festival in Virginia Beach.

The duo offers a wide repertoire of original works for piano and organ, as well as their own transcriptions of works by Tchaikovsky, Lutoslawski, Horowitz, Liszt, Gershwin, and famous Spanish masterpieces by de Falla and Granados. In addition, they also commission new works by contemporary composers to add to their concert repertoire. In 2010, they recorded a CD on the Brilliant Classics label at the Palau de la Música Catalana in Barcelona.

With words such as “sizzling” and “transcendent” used to describe his performances, Raúl Prieto Ramírez is the first Spanish organist in recent times to establish himself among the elite of the international pipe organ scene. His global schedule takes him to major festivals and concert halls throughout Europe and the U.S., for lectures at universities and institutions, collaborations in summer academies, and as jury member at International competitions. Mr. Ramírez possesses an extensive knowledge of organ repertoire, styles, and schools, from the 14<sup>th</sup> century Robertsbridge Codex to Messiaen and beyond. His transcriptions of Liszt's piano études and *Mephisto Waltz* and his interpretations of the music of Buxtehude, Bach, Franck, and Reger have been highly praised by audience and critics. In December 2017, Mr. Ramírez was appointed the San Diego Civic Organist and Artistic Director of the Spreckels Organ Society, where he presides over the famed Austin organ at the city's Balboa Park Pavilion – the largest outdoor pipe organ in the Western Hemisphere. Mr. Ramírez is the eighth Civic Organist to serve San Diego on the Spreckels organ bench.

At the tender age of 14, Maria Teresa Sierra was hand-picked by Russian piano pedagogue Leonid Sintsev for admission to the Rimsky-Korsakov Conservatory in St. Petersburg, Russia and it was there that she developed her deeply sensitive and fiery musical sensibility and acquired the technical proficiency characteristic of the Russian school. Additional studies of contemporary piano literature were with French pedagogue Jean Pierre Dupuy. Ms. Sierra “has the talent to move the audience and transport them...through the sonority she extracts from the piano.” (*La Porta Classica*, Spain).

Duo MusArt Barcelona is represented in North America exclusively by Phillip Truckenbrod Concert Artists, LLC.

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