

Saturday, March 11, 2006, 8pm
Zellerbach Hall

Maria del Mar Bonet



Mònica Salmaso



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MARIA DEL MAR BONET

Born on the island of Majorca, where she learned traditional Balearic songs as a small child, Maria del Mar Bonet arrived in Barcelona in 1967. She began to sing with Els Setze Jutges, an important group of Catalanian composers-singers, and made her first stage appearance and record with four traditional songs from Majorca.

The following year, the Franco regime's censors forbade her to sing one of her most popular songs, "Què volen aquesta gent." She began her first performances abroad in the early 1970s in France, Denmark and England, and has visited the following countries during the course of her career: Switzerland, Venezuela, Mexico, Portugal, Poland, Italy, Sweden, Germany, Greece, Tunisia, Holland, Belgium, the former USSR and Japan.

In 1971, one of her records with the songs "L'aguila negra" (The Black Eagle) and "No voldria res més ara" won the Spanish Golden Disk Award.

A few years later, Ms. del Mar Bonet began a series of concerts in the Plaça del Rei in Barcelona (Festival) which she has performed in every summer since, and it has become an excellent opportunity for her to reunite with her Barcelona public.

In 1981, she recorded *Jardí Tancat* in Paris with arrangements by Jacques Denjean in cooperation with Alan Stivell. In 1984, the French government awarded her the Charles Cross Academy Prize for the best foreign record edited in France. That same year she was awarded the Cross of San Jordi, the highest distinction of Catalunya.

In 1986, she toured Spain with the internationally famous Brazilian musician Milton Nascimento, offering an international blend of Mediterranean music and South American rhythms. The tour was extended to Brazil the year after.

In 1988, Ms. del Mar Bonet and the Spanish choreographer and dancer Nacho Duato presented *Arenal*, which combined song and dance and received an excellent public response in every country in which it was performed. Nacho Duato has choreographed other music for Ms. del Mar Bonet, including *Jardí tancat* (which received the first prize for choreography at Köln, Germany) and *Cor perdut*.

Ms. del Mar Bonet received the 1992 National Prize, awarded by the Generalitat de Catalunya (Catalan Government) for popularizing Catalan folk music, and presented a new show, *The Greece of Theodorakis*, in Plaça del Rei in Barcelona.

In 1995, she presented *Salmaia*, a selection of themes from different Mediterranean countries (Turkey, Sicilia, Greece, Napoli), with the collaboration of Ensemble de Musique Traditionnelle de Tunis and conductor Féthi Zghonda. The prestigious Edinburgh International Festival, invited Ms. del Mar Bonet to perform her new show for two days to great acclaim. In 1996, invited by the International Conference on Habitat organized by UNESCO, Ms. del Mar Bonet performed with enormous success in Istanbul.

In 1997, Ms. del Mar Bonet celebrated 30 years of musical work by giving a concert in the famous Palau Sant Jordi in Barcelona in front of an audience of 14,000. At this concert, telecast live, she performed with international guests—Lluís Llach, Joan Manel Serrat (Catalonia), Nena Venetsanou (Greece), Catherine Allard (Belgium) and Féthi Zghonda (Tunisia). Ms. del Mar Bonet released a double album of the concert, entitled *El Cor del temps*. In September, invited by UNESCO, she performed in Thessaloniki, European Cultural Capital 1997.

In September 1998, Ms. del Mar Bonet toured South America to support *El Cor del temps*, giving concerts in Buenos Aires, Rios de la Plata, Parana, Santiago de Chile and at the Salvador Allende homage concert.

In 1999, Ms. del Mar Bonet recorded the album *Cavall de foc*, which features 12 traditional and Mediterranean songs. She received the Premium SGAE 2000 for her performance of the song "Com un mirall." Later that year, she received the Premium from the Catalan government for the best artistic career.

In 2000, she sang at the Festival Midem Cannes and made a Spanish tour with Jackson Browne. On July 29 of that year, she sang in Munich with Zülfi Livanelli and Maria Farantouri, in a tribute concert to Mikis Theodorakis that drew a crowd of 14,000.

As a result of this success, Ms. Farantouri and Ms. del Mar Bonet toured Spain in 2001. During that time, Ms. del Mar Bonet expanded her international presence with performances in the United States, Germany, Portugal, Tunis and Rumania.

In July 2001, Maria del Mar Bonet recorded her latest CD, *Raixà*, at Festival Grec in Barcelona (to celebrate her 25 years of singing at the festival). The CD was recorded live with Ars Ensemble and the regular musicians of her group.

MÔNICA SALMASO

Born in São Paulo in 1971, Mônica Salmaso has arisen as one of the best young voices among the new talents of Brazil. She began her musical career singing in a "comedy" directed by the award-winning Gabriel Villela. Besides her music studies at the University Santa Marcelina in São Paulo, Mônica has performed and recorded with such important Brazilian artists as Edu Lobo, Eduardo Gudin, José Miguel Wisnik, Marluí Miranda, Guinga, Nelson Ayres and the Jazz Symphonic Orchestra of São Paulo.

She recorded as a soloist on the album *Canções de Ninar* by Paulo Tatit and Sandra Peres, which won Brazil's Prêmio Sharp 95 as the Best Recording for Children. In 1995, she recorded *Afro-Sambas*, a voice and guitar album arranged and produced by Brazilian guitarist Paulo Bellinati, which premiered the complete *Afro-Sambas* of Baden Powell and Vinícius de Moraes, including the famous *Berimbau* and *Consolação*.

In the same year, she and Bellinati recorded the song "A Felicidade" by Tom Jobim and Vinícius de Moraes for the *Antonio Carlos Jobim Songbook* on Lumiar Records. In 1997, she was nominated for Prêmio Sharp 97 as Best New Singer in Brazilian Popular Music for her work on *Afro-Sambas*.

In 1998, she recorded her first solo CD, *Tram-polim*, released by Bluejackel Records in United States, and produced by Rodolfo Stroeter. The disc features some of the most creative musicians in Brazilian contemporary music, such as Nana Vasconcelos, Teco Cardoso and Paulo Bellinati.

In May 1999, Mônica won the Visa/MasterCard Eldorado Prize for best singer in Brazil, a competition that drew more than 1,200 contestants from all over the country. The prize attracted attention to Mônica's talent and career, and she subsequently recorded the album *Voadeira* for Eldorado Records, with Rodolfo Stroeter again producing. The Brazilian press honored the album as one of 1999's best recordings. *Voadeira* features Marcos Suzano, Benjamim Taubkin, Naylor "Provetá," Toninho Ferragutti and Paulo Bellinati, among others.

Also in 1999, Mônica was named "best singer" in Brazil by the Associação Paulista dos Críticos de Arte, an especially significant award given by the most important members of the Brazilian press.

Since 1998, Mônica has been singing with the Orquestra Popular de Câmara, a 12-piece band that blends a Brazilian musical heritage with the personal contribution of each of the renowned soloists in the group.

Her latest CD, *Iaiá*, was released in the United States and Europe by Harmonia Mundi in 2004.