

L8Nite Performance

The sound of light, Gaudí & Mompou Transversality in Performative Artistic Research

How to prepare emergent artists for Artistic Research? Arts transversality as a methodology. The aim of this research is to demonstrate that performative artistic transversality can be used as a methodology to improve musical performance and offer us the opportunity to create concrete and differentiated artistic products.

The methodology consisted firstly in analysing, combining and contrasting biographical, stylistic and aesthetic aspects of two artists from different disciplines and different generations: Antoni Gaudí 1852-1926 (architect) and Frederic Mompou 1893-1987 (composer). Subsequently, quality materials were selected and computer media were used to make them dynamic according to an established script. The semiotic and formal analysis of Gaudí's architecture gives us keys to deeper understanding of the semiotics and aesthetics of Mompou's compositions. This also happens in reverse.

The sound of light, Gaudí & Mompou is the result of this research, which develops and makes visible their analogies and points of convergence. This is possible with the resources of computer technology. As more sophisticated the media, better the related elements can be shown: structure of works, treatment of light, space, resonance, materials, contrast of colour, concreteness of shapes, pulsations and rhythmic figures, the manifestation of duality and unity, symbolic elements and forms, etc. The creative process is capable of generating a dialogue that implicitly expresses registers of the intangibles of this music and this architecture.

Artistic research has provided us with surprising conclusions that we can make visible in the concert. Mompou and Gaudí base their creativity on an origin that we can observe in nature and that is permanently recommenced thanks to a transcendent or divine force. Mompou expresses it through vibration and resonance of harmonic sounds, projecting them without limits, like a bell that expresses the physical nature of sound and evokes magical states. At the same time, he uses synthesis, the minimum means for maximum expression. He avoids development, discourse, what we might understand as the dress of music. Other hand, Gaudí reveals this original message in the synthesis of the architectural structures of nature (animal, vegetable and mineral architecture), asymmetrical proportions, continuous movement of living subjects. Both have been repeatedly described as highly original artists, but we can see that their originality is the consequence of seeking and perceiving the origin.

The title the sound of light is a metaphor for Mediterranean light and spiritual light, which they share, proposing an inclusive spirituality that goes beyond the limits of social religions. They address the metaphysical dimension by transforming space and sound in a creative process that begins in the intimate details of nature and culminates in the meditation of their last two major works: Silent Music and The Sagrada Familia Cathedral.

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Head of Performing Classical and Contemporary Music from

2017 till 2022 (Esmuc).

Some awards: “Best Spanish musical product 2013 Prize” for Complete Piano Works by Frederic Mompou and Essay F. Mompou, the eternal restart. (Musical Magazine Codalario Madrid (Spain, 2013). “Robert Wagner Foundation Prize” Würzburg (Germany, 1992), “Caixa Sabadell Foundation Award” (Spain, 1996).

Some places where he has performed: Glinka Hall (St. Petersburg), Palau de la Música catalana (Barcelona), Radio and Television Auditorium (Luxembourg), Metropolia University Auditorium (Helsinki), Gran Teatro (La Habana), Alltech Fortnight Festival (USA), Iturbide Palacio (Mexico DF), among others.

Masterclasses and lectures: Menéndez Pelayo University Consortium (Barcelona), Gnessin Russian Academy (Moscow), Royal College of Music (London), Kyoto University Japan, universities of Brasilia, Costa Rica, Chile, Kentucky and Transylvania USA, among others. He has collaborated and published with Sony Classical, Radio Catalunya Música, Catalan Musical Magazine, Cultural Magazine of AECID (Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs).