

LES AVENTURES DE MR. JULES



Spanish Brass Albert Guinovart

When the members of Spanish Brass commissioned a piece for me to premiere at the Alzira Festival 2011, I felt I was going to have to make music suitable for a summer festival, something that was fun to play and listen to.

I already knew about the great musical virtuosity – and virtue – of each of the quintet members because we had collaborated on another project years ago.

I was excited to write a piece for a sextet, with me playing the piano part, so I tried to compose a piece that would be both attractive to the public as well as demanding and exuberant from an instrumental point of view.

It was with all this in mind that I wrote *Las Aventuras de Monsieur Jules* (The Adventures of Monsieur Jules), a work in six movements for a brass quintet and piano. Each movement is inspired by a novel written by the great French writer Jules Verne, hence the titles. The six movements are as follows:

- I. *Vingt mille lieues sous les mers* (Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea)
- II. *Michel Strogoff*
- III. *Nord contre Sud* (North against South)
- IV. *Voyage au centre de la Terre* (A Journey to the Center of the Earth)
- V. *Le Rayon vert* (The Green Ray)
- VI. *Le Tour du Monde en quatre-vingts jours* (Around the World in Eighty Days)

You could say that the plot of most of these novels forms part of our collective imagination. I thought it would be a good idea to create evocative music for each title and that this would lead to recognition on the part of the audience of descriptive fragments of the books, without any clarification other than the title.

The music I created is more suggestive than descriptive in the sense of being able to follow the story's plot. The movements are detached images and specific scenes that stir memories of these stories in adults who puts themselves in the shoes of a child as they rediscover the adventures that made them dream.

I think I have composed an attractive piece that is easy to listen to from the first time you hear it, not only because the audience can relate to it from a common experience, but also because through their imagination, the audience can enjoy expressive, virtuosic, intimate, comic, satirical, or even dream-like moments through the sounds created on stage by six musicians.

Albert Guinovart

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One of the most complete and versatile musicians today, Albert Guinovart divides his professional activity between performing as a repertoire pianist, composing, and teaching.

Guinovart trained in Barcelona and then went to London to study with Maria Curcio. He has played throughout Europe, South America, the United States, Canada, Japan, the Middle East, Australia, and New Zealand. His performances include recitals and various orchestra appearances with directors such as Ch. Hogwood, F.P. Decker, V. Petrenko, D. Cohen, L. Foster, E. Colomer, J. Pons, S. Mas, and J. Ross, among others. He has also collaborated with artists such as Victoria de los Angeles and Nacho Duato.

He is especially known for his award-winning musicals: *Mar i Cel*, *Flor de Nit*, *Gaudí*, *Barcelona*, *Paradís*, *La Vampira del Raval*, and *Scaramouche*

In addition, he has composed the operas *Atzar* and *Alba Eternal*, the *Terra Baixa* ballet, and numerous symphonic, choral, and chamber pieces. He has also made appearances on television and in films.

He is currently a professor of orchestration and composition at ESMUC, as well as being an academic at the Sant Jordi Royal Academy of Fine Arts. He has been awarded three Armchair and two Max Awards, as well as the Ciutat de Barcelona Prize. He's a Steinway Artist.

Of his more than 30 recordings, those made with Harmonia Mundi are especially noteworthy: Albéniz's *Sonatas*, Turina's *Danzas*, and Granados' *Goyescas*. He has also recorded *Tangos simfònics* with the Barcelona Symphony Orchestra (OBC) for Decca, and Rodrigo's *Integral* for EMI. The Sony recording of his first two *Concerts de Piano* in St. Petersburg, as well as his celebrated *Valsos Poètics* were all well received, as was the latest recording of his solo piano

Spanish Brass

With a thirty year trajectory in the world of chamber music, Spanish Brass is one of the most dynamic and consolidated quintets on the international musical stage. In 1996 the ensemble won First Prize in the Sixth International Brass Quintet Competition "Ville de Narbonne" (France), considered the most prestigious for this formation. In 2017 they received First Prize in the Bankia Awards for Musical Talent of the Comunitat de València and in 2019 Spanish Brass has received the Espai Ter de Música.

As well as participating in some of the most important festivals in the world, they performed at the gala for the Prince of Asturias Awards in 1995, and have recorded music for the play *La Fundación* by Buro Vallejo, at the Centro Dramático Nacional, as well as the score for the film *Descongélate* by Félix Sabroso produced by El Deseo.

Spanish Brass have published twenty-six recordings, among them two DVD-CDs and a double CD collection, which shows their multiple aspects: *Luur-Metalls Spanish Brass Quintet* (1996), *No Comment* (1998), *La escalera de Jacob* (2000), *SPANISH BRASS Luur Metals & Friends* (2001), *Delicatessen* (2002), *Caminos de España* (2003), *Absolute* with Christian Lindberg and Ole E. Antonsen (2004), *Gaudí'um* (2005), *Metàl·lics* (2006), *Retaule de Nadal* with l'Orfeo València Navarro Reverter (2006), *SBALZ Brass Ensemble* (2007), *Brass and Wines* with Steven Mead (2008), *Brassiana* with Lluís Vidal Trio (2008), *The Best of Spanish Brass* (2009), *SBLM* (2009), *Tell me a Brass Story* with the Banda Municipal de Música de Bilbao (2012), *viBRASSions* (2012), *Metalls d'estil* with Pep Botifarra (2013), *25* (2014), *SuBLiMe Christmas* (2014), *Brass Brass Brass* (2016), *de Vents i Terra* with the Banda Municipal de Barcelona (2017), *Puro de Oliva* with Chano Domínguez and Bandolero (2018), *XXX* (2018), *Mira si hem corregut terres...* with Carles Dénia (2019) and *Les Aventures de Monsieur Jules* with Albert Guinovart (2019).

Alongside their activities as performers, Spanish Brass organises two festivals, international in scope, devoted to brass instruments: the Festival Spanish Brass Alzira (www.sbalz.com) and the Brassurround (www.brassurround.com), where every year some of the most prestigious international brass soloists, groups and teachers gather.

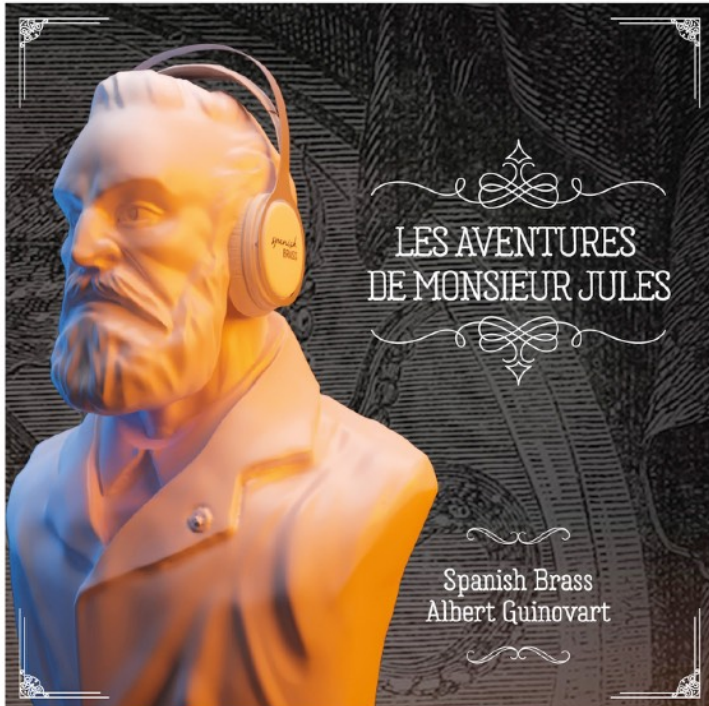
Spanish Brass are sponsored by Buffet Crampon and play with B&S trumpets, a Hans Hoyer French horn, Courtois trombone and Melton tuba; and also the new BlackBinder application.

Spanish Brass uses Bags instrument cases. In addition, they receive support from the Institut Valencià de Cultura and the Ministerio de Cultura-INAEM.

Componentes

Carlos Benetó Grau, trompeta, Juanjo Serna Salvador, trompeta, Manuel Pérez Ortega, trompa, Inda Bonet Manrique, trombón
Sergio Finca Quirós, tuba

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