

LES AVENTURES DE MR. JULES



SPANISH BRASS · ALBERT GUINOVART

Les Aventures de Monsieur Jules is a project by **Spanish Brass**, with the collaboration of the pianist and composer **Albert Guinovart**, presented at the SBALZ Festival in 2011, which has been completed over the last few years with other music for brass quintet and piano by **Salvador Brotons** and the **Valero-Castells** brothers.

Les Aventures de Monsieur Jules, which gives the show its title, is a work in six movements for brass quintet and piano. Each of the movements is inspired by a novel by the brilliant French writer **Jules Verne**: *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea*, *Michel Strogoff*, *North against South*, *Journey to the Centre of the Earth*, *The Green Ray* and *Around the World in Eighty Days*.

Albert Guinovart has created music that is more suggestive than descriptive in order to follow the plot of the story. The outcome is captivating music that immediately resonates with the audience, as it draws upon familiar elements. This musical journey, enhanced by imaginative accompaniments, offers moments of expressiveness, virtuosity, intimacy, humor, parody, and reverie. These emotions are brought to life by the six musicians, crafting a symphony of sounds on stage.

CARLES SANTOS MUSIC AWARD 2020

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Albert Guinovart

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 Ángeles 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 works, Nocturn.



Spanish Brass

Spanish Brass is one of the most dynamic and highly regarded chamber music groups on the international music scene. They have participated in some of the most prestigious venues and festivals around the globe, as well as such honored moments as the gala award ceremony of the Principe de Asturias Prize, and recording the music for the play "*La Fundación*" by Buero Vallejo for the National Drama Center and the soundtrack for the film "*Descongélate*" by Félix Sabroso for El Deseo Producers.

In 1996 they won the First Prize in the "Ville de Narbonne" (France) 6th International Competition for Brass Quintets, considered to be the event of greatest prestige for this ensemble. In 2017 the group received the I Bankia Music Talent Award in Spain, for the most influential musical artists, and in 2019 they received the Espai Ter de Musica de Torroella de Montgrí Award and four Carles Santos Music Awards.

In 2020, Spanish Brass was honored by receiving the National Music Prize from Spain's Ministry of Culture, the country's highest musical honor.

All told, they have released 31 recordings, including three double CDs and 2 CD-DVDs. Spanish Brass has founded two international brass festivals: the Spanish Brass Alzira Festival (www.sbalz.com) and Brassurround (www.brassurround.com).

Spanish Brass plays Shires trumpets and trombone, Paxman French horn, Melton tuba and Romera Brass mutes and mouthpieces. They use the BlackBinder application. Spanish Brass uses BAGS instrument cases and are the owners of the BAGS company.

In addition, they receive support from the Institut Valencià de Cultura and the Ministerio de Cultura-INAEM.

www.spanishbrass.com

Carlos Benetó Grau (trumpet)
Juanjo Serna Salvador (trumpet)
Manolo Pérez Ortega (french horn)
Inda Bonet Manrique (trombone)
Sergio Finca Quirós (tuba)