

FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE LLOBET CONTEST IS LEFT WITHOUT WINNER

Barcelona, November 11, 2019 | 19:25h

Culture is again damaged in Barcelona for the exceptional moments that are happening, with an edition of little participation.

The decision of the jury left not only the First Award vacant, but also both special Llobet and CAT Awards.

Photos: Oriol Miralles

Since last month the city has been the headquarters of social events in exceptionalism due to the lack of political understanding. The mistaken news promulgated by the sensational media has damaged the image of Barcelona, and consequently to the instability of its cultural and tourist activity. The Llobet Competition, as an international event, has been no stranger to it and has been affected by the low participation in the contest. However, trying to cope with the event to the deserved normal, the 10th of November we relived an exciting afternoon in the noble art of classical guitar. The



room Oriol Martorell of the **Auditori of Barcelona** refilled an audience with loudness fully delivered.

The two finalists that were selected by the members of the jury for the final round performed the two musical pieces that were chosen for the contest. **José Manuel Naranjo**, of Sevillian origin, was the responsible of opening the contest with the *El Oriental* piece, of the Uruguayan master **Esteban Klisich**, accompanied by the **Orquesta de Cámara Vozes**, conducted by **Pablo González**, from Venezuela. The second finalist, the young Slovenian **Mario Kurtjak**, performed the piece *Valle perdido*, of the Colombian composer **Leo Herrera**.

The members of the jury, formed by **Claudia Montero**, Argentinian composer winner of four Grammy's latinos of la Academia; **Luz Mabel Medina**, Venezuelan pianist member of the Orquesta Sinfónica Simón Bolívar; **María Asunción Sabater**, guitarist from Teruel and professor of the Conservatorio de Música del Liceu; **Daniel**

Nogués, guitarist from Barcelona and professor of El Conservatorio Municipal de Música de Barcelona; y **María Esther Guzmán**, guitar soloist and President of the Jury. They decided to leave va-

cant the first prize pleading the impossibility of having not reached the level of this rigorous and devoted contest. And yet, they praised their effort and dedication, encouraging them to participate in the future editions.

The second prize was awarded to the Slovenian participant Mario Kurtjak, who was also bestowed with the Audience Award, and the third Award was for the Spanish José Manuel Naranjo. The awards for the best interpretation of **Miquel Llobet's** work and to the best Catalan classified were declared void.

The qualifying events took place between the 7th and the 9th of November in The **Museu de la Música de Barcelona**, public space of great reference and with a documentary collection, thanks to the legacy of the renowned master Miquel Llobet, which makes it as a remarkable place of the instrument. The participants performed compulsory musical pieces selected by the organising committee: *Estudio Capricho* of **Miquel Llobet**, written being 21 years old. *Fantasia para guitarra Española* of the acclaimed guitarist and composer of Toledo, **Valentín Bielsa**. *Aire Vasco* of the blind musician **Antonio Jiménez Manjón**, celebrating the centenary of his disappearance. And *Las Abejas* of the famous Paraguayan guitarist and composer **Agustín Barrios "Mangoré"**, in the 75th anniversary of his disappearance.

After the audience intervention of voting the election of its special award, in the break of the event, it continued the second part with the inter-



vention of the Orquesta de Cámara Vozes, the foundation is dedicated to the integration and social cohesion through the music, conducted by the master Pablo González, founder of the project inspired in the national system of orchestras and children's and youth choirs of Venezuela, approaching the musical practice to under-



privileged youngsters and teenagers. Orchestra that achieved, with its effort and dedication, to move the auditory with its enthusiasm and a warm round of applause given to the rendition of the musical works of **Tchaikovsky** about *Serenata para cuerdas opus 48* and *Danzón n°2* by **Arturo Márquez**.



The prize-giving ceremony highlighted by the honorary prize of *A lifetime for the Guitar* to the master **Fernando Alonso Mercader**, due to its contribution and dedication for more than 50 years to the exaltation of the guitar in the world throughout the preservation of the legacy of the renowned guitarist Miquel Llobet.



The closing of the sixteenth edition of the Llobet Competition was in charge of its founding director, the master **Eulogio Dávalos**, who addressed to the audience reminding them that everybody is a part of this event “(...) *You are the owners of this contest, the people of Catalonia are the ones who must make it grow*”. The moderator of the event, the actor and the doubler **Jaume Comas** invited us to the opening of the seventeenth edition, that will be held from the 5th to the 8th of November of 2020.



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