

# JAPAN IS CROWNED AGAIN IN THE LLOBET COMPETITION AFTER 28 YEARS

- \* Japanese guitarist Sohta Nakabayashi wins the top award at the 21st edition of the competition. In 2006, his compatriot Ryuji Kunimatsu was crowned the winner.
- \* Carles Trepats distinguished with honors on the podium of illustrious guitarists such as Julian Bream, Alirio Díaz, Alberto Ponce, among others.



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Photos: Izan Rubio Soria [@izanrubio guitar](#)

We once again experienced a magical night, typical of the Llobet Competition finals. Barcelona once again dressed up as a guitarist, as tradition dictates, with a varied programme spread throughout the city, which ended last night with the final of the competition at its official headquarters, the *Municipal Conservatory of Music of Barcelona*.

But before getting to the summary of the final, it is worth pointing out the excellent musical quality that this year's Competition has enjoyed in all its phases of the competition, making the event an event where the highest expressions of classical guitar have been exhibited with participants from Argentina, Cuba, Italy, Japan, Peru, Portugal, Russia, Chile and Spain. The rigorous preparation and execution of the selected works lived up to expectations. We remember that the qualifying phases were composed of works of profound intensity and serenity, such as the arrangements of **Miquel Llobet** on the hypnotic *Nocturne 9 No. 2* by **Frédéric Chopin**, commemorating the 175th anniversary of his death, and of Carles Trepats with the evocative *Ojos verdes* by **Maestro Quiroga**, celebrating the 125th anniversary of his birth; were those of the first qualifying phase. In the second semi-final phase, the *Danse Rythmique* by the French guitarist and composer **Ida Presti**, on her centenary, and *Feuilles Mortes* by the young Italian composer **Edoardo Tritto**, winner of the fifth edition of the *Llobet Composition Competition*, were performed.

The Final, as usual, began under the direction and presentation of the actor **Jaume Comas**, who after thanking the institutions and organizations that



support this event annually, highlighting our official sponsor AGBAR and the necessary public support of the Barcelona City Council and the Generalitat de Catalunya, the first part began giving way to the Quartet Brossa, to perform the same work chosen by the three finalists, the first movement *Allegro* of his *Sonatina for guitar and string quartet* by the young Japanese guitarist **Masataka Suganuma**, leaving aside once again the unfinished piece by the Mexican composer **Manuel María Ponce**, his latest work *Quatour*, finished by the master guitarist *Alberto Ubach*. The first intervention was by the Cuban representative **Darío González**, followed by the Japanese **Sohta Nakabayashi** and ending with the Russian representative **Vera Danilina**. The audience had a ten-minute pause to vote for the contestant they liked best and award them a special prize.

The second part was again in charge of the Quartet Brossa, made up of violinists **Aleix Puig** and **Pere Bartolomé**, viola player **Uixi Amargós** and cellist **Anna Costa**, who performed works by Catalan composers **Xavier Turull** and **Aleix Puig** together with the universal Argentine **Astor Piazzolla**. Meanwhile, the members of the Jury, made up of violinist professor **Francesc Guarné**, guitarist and composer **María Camahort** and Norwegian guitarist **Anders Clemens**, debated the always difficult decision of the order of winners of this edition.

After the music, the master of ceremonies Comas spoke, calling the members of the jury, the award-winners and the protagonists to the stage. Without delay, Comas presented the *Public Award* and asked someone from the room, as a representative of the public, to announce the winner, which went to the young Cuban representative **Darío González**, who

received a great applause during the night. The next prize was awarded to the *Honorary Award "A Lifetime for the Guitar"*, presented by the founding director of the *Llobet Competition*, maestro **Eulogio Dávalos**, and the honour went to the international Catalan concert artist, composer and researcher **Carles Trepát**, a faithful follower of the Catalan school of classical guitar and tireless defender of the values of excellence and quality in the noble art of guitar performance. Trepát was very moved and dedicated the award to his friend and fellow guitarist **Fernando Alonso de la Casa Sor** and thanked maestro Dávalos for his advice on mastery with the instrument.

The big moment of the decision and order of winners by the Jury arrived, starting with the special prizes. The *CAT Prize* for the best Catalan performer was once again left vacant for the second consecutive year. The *Llobet Prize* for the best interpretation of the work of Miquel Llobet went to the Japanese **Sohta Nakabayashi**, received from the





hands of the secretary of the competition and composer **José Galeote. María Camahort** was in charge of announcing the names of the winners in ascending order. *Third Prize* for the representative of Russia, **Vera Danilina**, presented by Mr. **Antoni Villas**, president of the *Consell Comarcal de les Garrigues*, the organising body of the festival in honour of maestro **Emili Pujol**, *Garrigues Guitarfest*. *Second Prize* for the Cuban representative, **Darío González**, presented by Mr. **Jordi Codina**, vice-president of the *Cercle Guitarrístic a Catalunya*. And the *First Prize* and winner of the twenty-first edition of the Llobet Competition went to the representative of Japan, **Sohta Nakabayashi**. The director of the *Conservatori Municipal de Música de Barcelona*, **Lito Iglesias**, presented the highest award.

To close this current edition, the host of the program thanked the public for attending and announced the next twenty-second edition that will take place from **November 6 to 9, 2025**.

+ info: [CERTAMEN LLOBET 2024](#)

