

José Menor is an artist who defies labels. Recognised as “the great ambassador of Spanish music” (Melómano Magazine) and as a “revolutionary of his instrument” (Hèctor Parra), he is both an acclaimed interpreter of core piano repertoire, and a sought-after performer of new music. His solo recital at Carnegie Hall in March 2016 received a standing ovation and was declared “impassioned and eloquent” by New York Classical Review, and his recording of the complete solo piano works of Joan Guinjoan was awarded four stars by Fono Forum Magazine.

2016 sees him on a worldwide tour to commemorate Granados’ 100th anniversary, as the Resident Pianist in Granados’ birthplace (Lleida). There he opened the celebrations with a televised performance of Granados’ complete ‘Goyescas’. Later performances included Carnegie Hall, ‘Meet in Beijing’ Arts Festival in China and ‘Martha Argerich Project’ Festival in Switzerland.

Other recent highlights include performing the solo piano music of Hèctor Parra, at the Schwetzingen SWR Festspiele in Germany and at the Palau de la Música Catalana in Barcelona, and Messiaen at the ‘Martha Argerich Project’ Festival (with the pianist Daniel Rivera).

One of the most outstanding Spanish pianists of his generation, José made his international debut at the age of fifteen, performing at Carnegie Hall as First Prize winner in The World Piano Competition in Cincinnati. Top prizes and awards at several other piano competitions quickly followed. His debut at the Palau de la Música Catalana (Barcelona), after winning First Prize in the ‘El Primer Palau’ series, marked the beginning of his busy career as a soloist.

José’s performance with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra (RPO) in London of Albéniz’s ‘Concierto Fantástico’ was highly acclaimed by the international press. It launched a series of premieres across the world, especially throughout the American continent, and became his ‘signature work’. As a concerto soloist, he has appeared with orchestras in three continents including Wuhan Philharmonic Orchestra (China); Montevideo Philharmonic (Uruguay); Redlands Symphony Orchestra (USA); Wrocław and Bydgoszcz Philharmonics (Poland); Sinfónica de Xalapa (México), amongst others; and major Spanish orchestras including RTVE in Madrid; OBC in Barcelona; and Simfònica del Vallès. As a solo recitalist, he has performed at a range of venues including the Wigmore Hall in London (where he opened the 2006 Ginastera Festival), the Auditorio Nacional in Madrid, and Palau de la Música Catalana in Barcelona.

José is also an avid chamber musician. He has collaborated with artists including Philip Setzer (Emerson Quartet), Ransom Wilson, Dai Miyata, Alexander Sitkovetsky and Francisco Fullana. His live performances have been widely recorded and broadcast by media companies including TVE, TV3, CNN, BBC Radio 3, SWR 2 (Germany), RNE, Catalunya Música, Radio Canada, ABC Classic FM Australia, WXEL and WWFM (USA), among others.

As an enthusiastic promoter of Spanish contemporary music, José has premiered works by major composers including Hèctor Parra, Joan Guinjoan and Benet Casablanca. He just gave the world premiere of Parra’s cycle, *Cinq études d’art*, at the Festival Nits de Clàssica in Girona, Spain (July 2016). He premiered his own solo piano work ‘Notes on Crossroads’ in Madrid, and six works for piano and electronics in New York, together with the video artist, Francesc Martí (RMSOnce), in 2014. Forthcoming engagements include new works by José, and the London-based composer Sam Hayden, in New York City, Madrid, and London.