

BARCELONA SYMPHONIC BAND

(Banda Municipal de Barcelona, BMB)

The **Barcelona Symphonic Band** (Banda Municipal de Barcelona, BMB) was founded as an orchestral band in 1886 in line with a centuries-old tradition of musical formations which since the Middle Ages, under the name of 'Municipal music', had brought an air of solemnity to official events and City Council processions or even played serenades. But the agreement of 1886 gave explicit musical value to the new band. The value of the music and its spread in the populace thereby took precedence over the Band's official role, which remained unchanged.

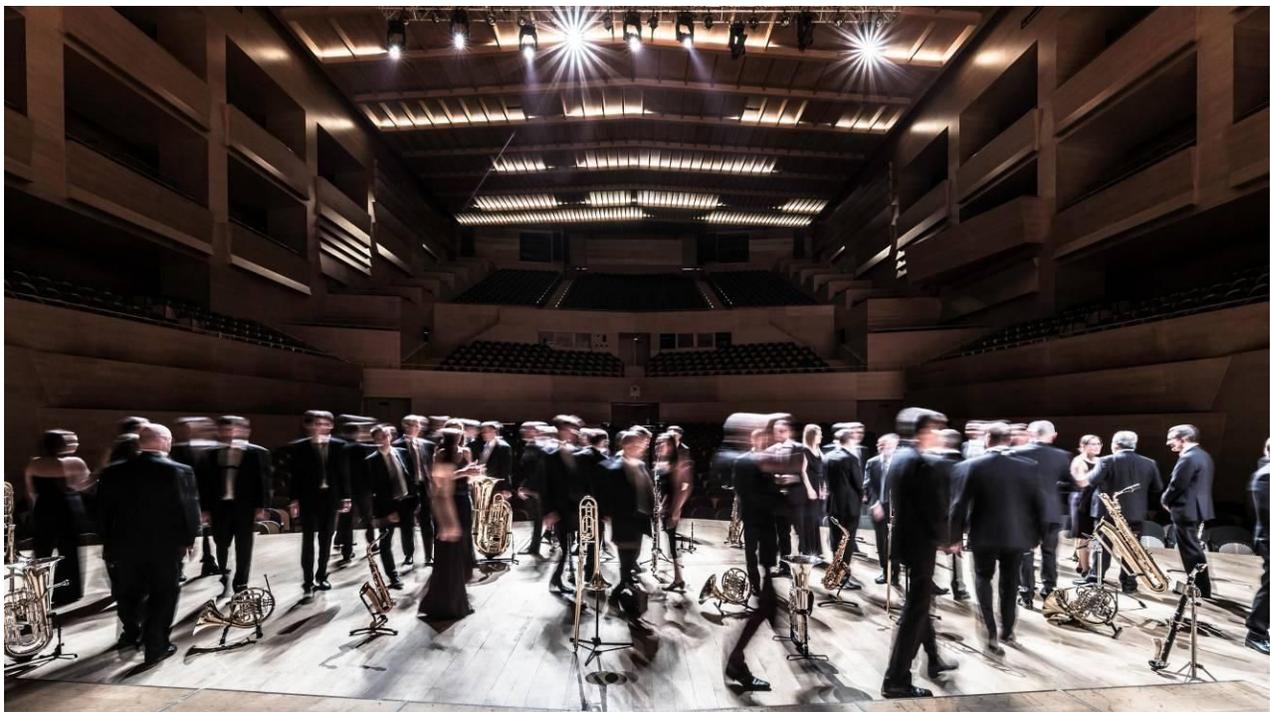
In its beginnings, the BMB was highly considered and became the centre of municipal and public attention. It was present at the 1888 Universal Exhibition and presented examples of quality music.



Between 1915 and 1939, under his conductorship, the formation went through one of its most glorious periods. Lamote de Grignon had planned a complete project which he was able to carry out with municipal support and which brought the BMB up to a standard it had never seen before. It was at this time, in 1925, when Richard Strauss, who was visiting Barcelona, met the band and invited it to Frankfurt in 1927.

Today, under the conductorship of Salvador Brotons, the Band wants to showcase premières and performances of works by contemporary composers, introduce the public to the original repertory for symphonic band and produce a varied and popular programme with the object of bringing music closer to the general public.

And so today we can enjoy a BMB, with its 56 musicians, which is well-established in Barcelona and which focuses its activity in a fixed season of concerts at the L'Auditori, performances in the city's and concerts for schoolchildren.



SALVADOR BROTONS conductor and composer

Salvador Brotons was born in Barcelona into a family of musicians. He studied the flute with his father and continued his studies at the Conservatori Superior de Música de Barcelona, where he obtained advanced qualifications in flute, composition and orchestral conducting. In 1985 he was awarded a Fullbright scholarship and moved to the United States, where he took a Doctorate in Music at the Florida State University.



As a composer, he has written more than 130 works, mainly for orchestra and chamber orchestra. He has received 16 prizes for composition, such as the Premio Nacional de España (1977) for his *Quatre peces per a cordes* (*Four pieces for strings*), the Premi Jove d'Or (1980) and the Premi Ciutat de Barcelona for his *Primera simfonia* (*First*

symphony) and for **Absències** (*Absences*) for narrator and orchestra (1986), the Southeastern Composers League Prize for his **Sinfonietta da camera** (1986), the Flute

Choir Composition Award from Madison University (1987) for his **Suite de flutes** (*Suite of flutes*) and the Reina Sofía Prize (1991) for the work **Virtus** for orchestra.



He has also had numerous commissions and several of his works have been recorded and released on CDs in Europe and the United States under labels such as EMI, Auvidis, Albany Records, Naxos, Claus, RNE, etc.

He has been Music Director of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra (WA) since 1991. He has also been titular conductor of the Vallès Symphony Orchestra (1997-2002) and the Balearics Symphony Orchestra in Palma de Mallorca (1998-2001; 2009-2013). In

2002 he received the Florida State University Alumni Award for his professional achievements.

He currently combines a busy schedule as a conductor and composer. Since September 2008 he has been music director of the Municipal Band of Barcelona.