

Valencia Baryton Project



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*Haydn's works for Baryton -
the centerpiece of the
Valencia Baryton Project*

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The traditional formation of the Haydn Baryton trios - Baryton, Viola and Violoncello

String trios with four instruments? A harpsichord hiding behind the cello? The Valencia Baryton Project has dedicated itself to the performance of music the ancient and exotic instrument, the baryton. A relative of the viol da gamba, but with 10 resonating/plucked strings down the back of the instrument, with the baryton the traditional string trio is given a whole new dimension.

The Valencia Baryton Project was formed by colleagues from the opera of the Palau de les Arts in Valencia, Spain with the vision of performing the nearly 160 works written by Franz Joseph Haydn in various formations with the baryton. At the heart of the ensemble is the traditional formation in trio - baryton, viola, and violoncello - for which Haydn wrote 126 works of outstanding beauty during his time as the court composer for the Prince Esterhazy of Austria.

However, Haydn was not limited to writing trios and likewise the Valencia Baryton Project has from the beginning been a flexible ensemble, adapting from 2 to 8 players to fit the duos, quintets and octets written by Haydn.

Beyond Haydn, the Valencia Baryton Project not only performs other works from the classical era, such as those by Tomasini or Purksteiner, but also explores other musical worlds. Ranging from Brazilian choros to collaborations with musicians performing Turkish classical music, Japanese folk songs as well as contemporary jazz, the Valencia Baryton Project has proven itself both a flexible and innovative ensemble.

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Meet The Valencia Baryton Project



In 2005, **Matthew Baker (baryton)** happened upon music by Haydn written for a strange instrument that he had never heard of while searching for repertoire for his chamber ensembles in the UK and Spain. After his first performance of these works, he fell in love with the baryton and in 2018 began his career on this instrument.

Originally a double bassist of the Palau de les Arts Opera in Valencia as well as professor of double bass in Berklee Valencia, Matt is an accomplished and versatile performer in jazz, world and classical music having played in over 20 countries and recorded over 25 CDs as well as numerous orchestral recordings.

He has transferred these skills to his new instrument and created a project that pays homage to the ingenious works of Haydn and also stretches the use of the baryton beyond what has ever been done before with the instrument.

Alejandro Friedhoff (violoncello) began his cello studies with his father, and later on went to study under Janos Starker and Lynn Harrell at Indiana and Rice University. He is a winner of the First Prize and Prize for the Best Interpretation of Spanish music at the Third National Florián de Ocampo Cello Competition.



As a member of the Trío Vanguardia, he won the First Prize in the Second International Antón García Abril Chamber Music Competition. After serving as Principal Cello of the Granada City Orchestra for two seasons, he was appointed a member of the Valencia Palau de les Arts Orchestra under the leadership of Lorin Maazel and Zubin Mehta.

He has given recitals throughout Argentina, Brazil, the US, and Spain. Mr. Friedhoff has been invited to teach the Houston, Madrid, and Valencia youth symphony orchestras, and has also been guest assistant principal cello with the Tenerife and Valencia symphony orchestras, guest principal with the Barcelona Symphony Orchestra and guest soloist with the Spanish National Television and Radio Orchestra.



Estevan de Almeida Reis (viola) was born in Brasil and studied in France and Denmark with Marie Cristine Witterkoer and Rafael Altino as well as participated in masterclasses with Jean Sulen, Cristophe Desjardins, Donald McInnes, Wilfried Strehle and Julian Rachlin.

In Brasil, Estevan was 3rd chair of the Opera of Rio de Janeiro as well as a member of the Orquesta Petrobas Sinfonica. Parallel to his orchestral work, he was a part of the Radames Gnattali Quartet from 2014-2016, a leading ensemble for contemporary Brazilian music. Estevan also appeared as soloist with numerous orchestras and recorded contemporary works as well as a recorded and toured a CD of children's music of Villa Lobos. He has recorded and toured with Brazilian legends such as Caetano Veloso, Gilberto Gil, Carlinhos Brown, Milton Nascimento, Ivan Lins, Jacques Morelebaun among others.

From 2016-2018, Estevan performed with the Palau de les Arts Orchestra in Valencia, Spain and from 2018 has been appointed assistant principal of the Orchestra Opera National de Montpellier.

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Patricia Garcia (violin) was born in Tenerife, Spain where she began her musical training at the early age of 7. She studied violin as an undergraduate at the Conservatorio Superior de Aragón and furthered her studies at the orchestra academy of the Orquesta Filarmonica de Galicia and obtained a musicology degree from the University of Rioja in 2012. In 2018, she finished her studies of viola in Valencia with David Fons.



In addition to her studies in modern music, Patricia has specialized in early music, gaining a degree “Magna Cum Laude” from the Conservatoire à Rayonnement Régional de Toulouse as well as a Masters in Early Music Interpretation from ESMUC in Barcelona.

Patricia is a member of the Baroque Orchestras of Barcelona, Granada, and Salamanca, as well as with other groups such as Harmonía del Parnás, Les Saqueboutier. She is presently a resident scholar of the University of Montpellier investigating medieval music and regularly performing with Ensembles Magister Petrous and Ars Memoriae.

Patricia is the founder and director of the historical music ensemble “La Dirindina”.

Repertoire

Works for Baryton, Viola, and Cello:

Haydn Baryton trios Hob. XIV n. 3, 35, 47-48, 50, 52, 58-63, 73, 79, 81, 96, 97, 111

Tomasini Baryton trio in C major, k. 19

Choros and Valses Brasileños from composers such as Pixinguinha, Azevedo, Silva, and Abreu among others



Works for Baryton, Violin, and Cello:

Haydn Baryton Trios Hob. XIV n. 89-91

Haydn 12 Cassations for 2 Barytons and Basso Hob XII:19

Tomasini Baryton Trios k. 20, 27, 33, 34

Works for Soprano, Baryton, and Cello:

Arias by composers such as Purcell, Dowland, and Byrd

Works for Larger Ensembles:

Haydn Baryton Quintet in D major Hob. X:10 (2 horns, baryton, viola, cello)

Haydn Baryton Octets 1-7 Hob. X: 1-6, 12 (2 horns, 2 violins, viola, cello, violone)

Works for Baryton, Violin and Percussion:

World music - music of Japan, Turkey, North Africa, and traditional European songs

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