

# **“A PIANO AT THE EDGE OF THE ABYSS”**

**world première**

**Solo Piano Performance**

**by Josep-Maria Balanyà at the**

**Opening of the exhibition “*1966: Spaniens Aufbruch Ein  
Künstlermuseum der Zukunft*”**

**LUDWIG MUSEUM KOBLENZ,**

**September 2, 2023 at 4 pm**



**The solo piano composition “A Piano At The Edge Of The Abyss” is a new work by Josep-Maria Balanyà, commissioned by the Ludwig Museum Koblenz and the Fundación Juan March.**

It will have its world première at the opening of the exhibition “*1966: Spaniens Aufbruch. Ein Künstlermuseum der Zukunft*” at the Ludwig Museum Koblenz (Germany). Born in Barcelona on July 25, 1949, the pianist, composer and multidisciplinary artist Josep-Maria Balanyà grew up in the Catalan capital. He lived there during the decades of the dominance of Spanish abstract informalism,

and later on through the years of Spain's transition to democracy. As a child, Balanyà spent a summer in Cuenca, home to the Museum of Spanish Abstract Art. There he experienced the unique atmosphere of that provincial city, including fairs and *fiestas*, priests and processions, bullfights, a memorable running of the bulls which saw the frightened animals break into a church, wine-drinking contests, river crab fishing, open-air cinema, and finally visits to the Enchanted City and, of course, the Hanging Houses. The museum, which Fernando Zóbel would go on to found in the latter complex, did not yet exist. However, these experiences remained marked in Balanyà's memory and were later assimilated and distilled in to his process of musical creation. Balanyà thus knows the city of the Spanish Museum of Abstract Art well. He is also deeply familiar with the work of the artists featured in this exhibition, particularly with the works of the Catalan artists.

### **Description of the performance**

"A Piano At The Edge Of The Abyss," a solo piano performance lasting about 45 minutes, will transform the works of the exhibition *1966: Spaniens Aufbruch. Ein Künstlermuseum der Zukunft* into sound, showing that state of permanent risk inherent to avant-garde art. Balanyà's solo piano work will reflect informal and abstract messages. His touch and his gestures with the instrument, together with risk and improvisation, make his music merge with the paintings and sculptures on display, and establish a dialogue between abstract art and our contemporary moment. The performance will bring you to the inner abyss of artists and human experience. If someone is at the edge of an abyss, they are about to enter a terrifying or threatening situation. Balanyà's concert will be an energetic and deep ritual, not without a sense of humour, where the presence of that abyss will be deeply felt. In his composition, Balanyà will use orthodox piano and extended techniques.

### **Composition, interpretation, scenography**

Josep-Maria Balanyà "The most precious among Balanyà's qualities is his freedom, his permanent search for the unknown, the fresh, the surprising, his remarkable invention and mastery of both piano and percussion, that allows him to express all the complexity of the human being, which is the main subject of his music." Milen Panayotov, composer and music journalist, Sofia, Bulgaria.