

"The Baroque organ as an expression of the popular soul" is the theme of the series of Young Organist Concerts 2011 from the Focus-Abengoa Foundation

- The concerts, which will be start at 8.30 pm on 14, 15 and 16 November, will take place in the Los Venerables church, at the Foundation's headquarters.
- The guest artists at this edition are Loreto Aramendi (San Sebastián), Miriam Cepeda (Bilbao) and Susana García Lastra (Seville).

Seville, 11 November 2011. The Focus-Abengoa Foundation will launch a new edition of the series of Young Organist Concerts entitled "*The Baroque organ as an expression of the popular soul*" on Monday 14 November. The concerts, which will take place over three days, will showcase the Baroque organ and its potential as an instrument for representing cities, regions and countries. The Focus-Abengoa Foundation has therefore invited Loreto Aramendi, Miriam Cepeda and Susana García Lastra, three organists that despite their youth have an extensive knowledge of Baroque music and significant experience in the world of solo performances.

The concerts, which will take place at 8.30 pm in the Los Venerables church, will focus on the works of those European Baroque composers who, as children of that era, were capable of transmitting the concepts and tastes, concerns and emotions of a vivacious, sensitive and sophisticated society, through the language of music and the excellence of their art, promoting the Baroque organ as an expression of the collective conscience.

The repertoire selected by the organists faithfully reflects the musical wealth and influence of this era. The organ of the Los Venerables church will be used to perform works by J.S. Bach, J.B. Cabanilles, N. de Grugnyt, J. Pachelbel, D. Buxtehude and Francisco Correa de Arauxo, among others.

Loreto Aramendi, from San Sebastián in the Basque Country and resident organist of Santa María del Coro de San Sebastián, will be responsible for opening this series of organ concerts on Monday 14. She will be followed by Miriam Cepeda, resident organist at the Basílica de Nuestra Señora de Begoña in Bilbao, who will perform various Baroque pieces on the Los Venerables organ on Tuesday 15. Lastly, Susana García Lastra from Asturias, who won the Graduation Prize from the Conservatorio Superior de Sevilla, will bring the series to a close on Wednesday 16. Their performances will be broadcast on RNE Radio Clásica.

The series of Young Organist Concerts forms part of the larger music program of the Focus-Abengoa Foundation, which seeks to teach youngsters about the importance of a good musical education as a fundamental part of promoting cultural values. More than 40 young organists have participated in the program since it was first held in 1992, offering their music through recitals at the Focus-Abengoa Foundation.



Focus-Abengoa Foundation

The Focus-Abengoa Foundation was created in 1982 as a result of the cultural work begun in 1972 by Abengoa with the publication of the works *Temas Sevillanos* (Themes of Seville) and *Iconografía de Sevilla* (Iconography of Seville). A collection of documents, books and engravings on the Kingdom of Seville and by Sevillian authors was created during the same period. This initial cultural work showed Abengoa's directors the importance of the company's involvement in activities that directly benefit society, beyond the firm's core technology work, which led to the creation of the Seville Cultural Fund Foundation. The Hospital de los Venerables, a 17th century monument and the headquarters of the Focus-Abengoa Foundation in Seville, has housed the Diego Velázquez Research Centre, a leading institution for studying and disseminating the Baroque era and the Sevillian period of this universally renowned artist, since the acquisition of Velázquez's *Santa Rufina* by the Foundation in 2007.

Focus-Abengoa Foundation. Series of Young Organist Concerts. *The Baroque organ as an expression of the popular soul.*

Iglesia de los Venerables. C/ Jamerdana s/n. Time: 8.30 pm. Date: 14, 15 and 16 November 2011 Price: 2.40 Euros. Concessions: 1.20 Euros. Over 65s, pensioners, students (with accreditation), cultural and educational groups (with reservations).

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