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**and not miss a thing!**

# MERCÈ MÚSICA

# 2026

23 - 27 SEPTEMBER



### 1. A Mercè open to the world and a reflection of Barcelona's diversity

With a global panorama of 109 concerts, this year's music programme brings together artists from around thirty countries and a wide range of backgrounds, reflecting the cultural diversity and richness of voices that define Barcelona today.

### 2. Shanghai arrives as this year's guest city, building a bridge between tradition and the avant-garde

The Chinese capital comes to Barcelona with three performances showcasing the vitality and diversity of its music scene: the **Shanghai Conservatory of Music Jazz Ensemble**, which reinterprets the language of jazz from one of the country's most prestigious musical institutions; the **Shanghai Restoration Project**, which blends electronic music, hip-hop, dance and traditional Chinese music; and the **Shanghai Chinese Orchestra**, one of the leading ensembles dedicated to China's musical heritage.

Together, these three projects create a dialogue between traditional instruments, jazz, electronic music and contemporary sounds, strengthening the cultural ties between Barcelona and Shanghai.

### 3. Música Mercè puts popular music under the pressure of electricity and experimentation

Curated by artistic director **Gisela Sais**, the programme brings together 34 concerts that create a dialogue between tradition and contemporary expression, heritage and experimentation.

Catalan rumba from **Sabor de Gràcia**, flamenco from **María Terremoto** and **La Barcelona Flamenca**, singer-songwriter music from **Luísa Sobral** and **Nacho Vegas**, Latin American rock from **Aterciopelados**, the psychedelia of **Arp Frique**, the distinctive

voice of **Maika Makovski**, Afropop from **Def Mama Def**, the celebratory pop of **La Pegatina**, and fresh perspectives from **La Paloma**, **Marc Vilajuana**, **Sorvina** and **Pol Batlle** all form part of a programme that also includes the experimental folk and avant-garde jazz of **Fuensanta** and the intercultural dialogue created by the Shanghai ensembles.

Together, they make for a programme that crosses genres, geographies and generations, while never losing sight of the city that provides its setting.

### 4. Marta Mei and Aina Pociello take the helm of BAM

**BAM – Barcelona Acció Musical** welcomes new curators **Aina Pociello** and **Marta Mei**, reaffirming its role as a radar for the most restless and boundary-pushing voices on the national and international music scene. The festival presents 39 concerts, turning Barcelona into a meeting point for some of the most exciting music being created today.

From the electronic-infused hip-hop of **Uzi Freyja** to the rock of **The Slates**; from the songwriting of **Sandra Monfort** to premieres by **Brama**, **KIW & Mourad Belouadi** and **Sandré**; and including the first Barcelona performances by **La 126**, **La Valentina**, **Islandman**, **I AM ROZE**, **The Slates**, **Imarhan** and **Daoud**.

The programme spans post-punk, electronic music, contemporary folk, roots music, club culture, experimental rock and new urban scenes, consolidating BAM as a place to discover the voices that will shape the musical landscape of the years to come.

### 5. BAM – Acció Cultura Viva celebrates a decade of community-led governance and co-creation

The project marks ten years of activity by strengthening a shared curatorial model developed together with local organisations

and neighbourhood groups, transforming the **Fabra i Coats** complex into an uncompromising hub for artistic experimentation and community-driven creation.

#### **6. A red carpet for eleven major new album releases from Spain and around the world**

This year's edition offers a snapshot of the contemporary music scene, featuring eleven exclusive presentations of new albums by established artists and the generation of artists following in their footsteps, including **Nacho Vegas, Luísa Sobral, María Terremoto, Aterciopelados** and **La Paloma**.

#### **7. A programme committed to gender equality and a diversity of voices**

**Música Mercè, BAM and BAM – Acció Cultura Viva** continue to strengthen a programming policy that ensures a balanced presence of women, men and gender-diverse artists on their stages. Beyond the numbers, the artistic selection embraces diversity as a cross-cutting principle, bringing together women-led projects, mixed-gender ensembles and gender-diverse artists as a natural part of the programme, while placing equality at the heart of the festival's approach.

#### **8. Five original and exclusive productions created specifically for the festival**

Local talent and collective artistic exploration take centre stage this year through five productions created specifically for the festival: **La Barcelona Flamenca**; a musical dialogue between **Ana Rossi** and **Joana Queiroz**; the symphonic concert by **Vozes** with **Marco Mezquida**;

**Carola Ortiz's** performance at **Plaça de Sant Jaume**; and the premiere of **Poder de protesta**, **Marco de Ana's** new flamenco performance.

#### **9. Sixteen stages offering a portrait of Barcelona today**

The programme captures a snapshot of contemporary Barcelona: an open, diverse city shaped by different languages, origins and artistic journeys.

Emerging artists share the stage with established names, local creators with international artists, and projects rooted in the city's musical community with performances arriving in Barcelona for the first time. It is a vision of music as a space for discovery, exchange and dialogue between scenes, communities and audiences.

This musical map unfolds across **16 stages**, each with its own identity.

**Teatre Grec** hosts major singer-songwriter performances and special productions; **Nou Barris District Headquarters** consolidates its role as the city's leading symphonic stage; **Avinguda de la Catedral** celebrates rumba, flamenco and roots music; **Jardins del Doctor Pla i Armengol** focuses on jazz, contemporary creation and emerging talent; and **Passeig dels Til·lers** combines family-friendly performances with new voices.

Meanwhile, **Bogatell Beach** and **Avinguda de Maria Cristina** become the main venues for the festival's large-scale popular concerts. At **BAM – Barcelona Acció Musical, Plaça de Catalunya, Moll de la Fusta, Rambla del Raval** and **Antiga Fàbrica Estrella Damm** form a journey through emerging national and international scenes, while **BAM – Acció Cultura Viva**, at **Fabra i Coats**, champions community-led creation and locally rooted projects.

## Festival in Numbers

-  5 days of concerts
-  109 concerts
-  16 stages
-  14 venues
-  11 album premieres
-  5 original Música Mercè productions
-  Artists from 30 countries and diverse backgrounds

## Música Mercè

Thirty-four free concerts will take over Barcelona's streets, bringing together popular traditions with electronic experimentation and contemporary improvisation.

Curated by Gisela Sais, the programme uses Barcelona's public squares to explore what happens to traditional music when it is exposed to electricity and the freedom of improvisation. Through world premieres and presentations of recent recordings, the concerts place the musical language of local artists in direct dialogue with the sounds of international musicians.

Five days of live music challenge traditional melodies to coexist with the musical language of today. The programme turns the city into a meeting point where artists from different backgrounds and musical journeys share rhythmic patterns and sonic

structures. On stage, local expertise meets the musical language of international bands. It is a meeting of influences brought directly into the streets, bringing the rhythm of the festivities into sync with the everyday pulse of Barcelona's neighbourhoods.

Three different projects put the spotlight on **Shanghai**, this year's guest city. The stages bring together the monumental sound of traditional woodwind and string instruments with conservatory jazz featuring the *suona*, the high-pitched wind instrument from northern China, as well as electronic music intertwined with percussion and movement. The selection uses public space to explore how Asian traditions can coexist with the soundscape of the contemporary city.

The preparation of this year's edition is also rooted in shared research and collaboration, bringing together international artists based in Barcelona and educational organisations in the Raval. This process has resulted in a

trio of productions created exclusively for the city's main festival: **La Barcelona Flamenca** is a living chronicle: an intergenerational dialogue that recovers Barcelona's often-overlooked contribution to the history of flamenco. Nearby, the duo of Ana Rossi and Joana Queiroz bridges the Atlantic, weaving together wood, strings and digital fingerpicking. The programme concludes with Carola Ortiz, who strips classical habanera compositions of their traditionalist veneer, bringing their melodic lines into the language of contemporary composition.

The artistic selection embraces women creators and a diversity of voices as a natural reflection of Barcelona today. The city's squares bring together the musical pulse of Senegal, Portugal, Brazil and China with sounds from Mexico, Cuba, Puerto Rico, the Netherlands, Austria and the United States, in a dialogue reflected in a balanced representation across the stages. The 34 live performances are distributed evenly: 38.24% of the acts are led by men, 35.29% by women, and 26.47% are mixed-gender groups.

This year's stages are shaped by their physical surroundings, with each setting connecting its acoustics to the character of the neighbourhood. The stone setting of **Teatre Grec** captures the intimate nighttime performances of **Pol Batlle** and **Luísa Sobral**, while the **Cathedral** opens its doors to Shanghai's large-scale productions and the powerful voice of **María Terremoto**. The intimate setting of **Jardins del Doctor Pla i Armengol** provides a quiet interlude for the double bass of **Fuensanta** and the chamber pieces of **Marc Vilajuana**. Finally, the rhythm moves into the streets: **Passeig dels Til·lers** accompanies the Terra i Gust fair with the salsa of **Tumbakin** and **Giulia Valle's** jazz-infused take on copla, before leading towards the sands of **Bogatell Beach**, the

festival's electrifying hub for large-scale live performances beside the water.

## Teatre Grec

The programme takes over the foothills of Montjuïc, creating a space that shields the music from the noise of the city and establishes a direct connection with the audience. Three nights trace a journey through the vulnerability of singer-songwriter music, the distortion of indie rock and the reinterpretation of roots traditions. Set against the rock of the former quarry, the theatre's architecture strips the songs back to their essentials, turning the listening experience into something tangible and shared.

### Wednesday, September 23

The Grec opens with a dialogue between two of the most delicate voices on the contemporary Iberian music scene. **Pol Batlle (9:30 p.m.)** marks a new stage in his artistic journey with a concert created exclusively for the venue, built around the fragility of wind instruments and bespoke arrangements. Nearby, **Luísa Sobral (11:30 p.m.)** brings songs from *Cartas de desamor* into the open air, adapting her songwriting to the exposed setting of the stone theatre. A quartet of piano, double bass, drums and guitars gives her music a more expansive and luminous pulse than its usual cadence. Two different sensibilities, yet remarkably close, sharing the same understanding of songwriting through subtlety, restrained emotion and honesty.

### Friday, September 25

The night brings together two links in the same electric musical lineage. First, **Nacho Vegas (9:30 p.m.)** takes the Grec stage with a new album, shifting the focus towards the margins. His songwriting is rooted in disillusionment, carried by a rough-edged voice and a guitar that searches for truth in everyday details and social commentary. He

is followed by **La Paloma (11:30 p.m.)**, who present their new album. The Madrid quartet responds with taut guitars, distortion and the youthful urgency of a band determined to decode the present through pounding drums and direct lyrics. Two generations, two musical languages and the same ability to capture the present through independent rock.

### **Saturday, September 26**

The stage comes alive around a shared impulse: taking inspiration from Iberian, Brazilian and West African traditions and expanding them through a contemporary lens.

**Ana Rossi** and clarinetist **Joana Queiroz (9:30 p.m.)** open the night by bringing their respective musical backgrounds together in a dialogue where folklore meets the freedom of improvisation and the pulse of electronic music. They will present *Lo que se sabe invisible*, a project developed during a residency at **Fabra i Coats**, in which clarinet and acoustic experimentation translate botanical matter, landscapes and the patterns of nature into sound.

The mood shifts with the arrival of **Def Mama Def (11:30 p.m.)**. The Senegalese duo turns the acoustic narrative on its head with a live performance arriving from Dakar, driven by concise rhymes and the percussive heartbeat of West Africa. Three contemporary responses united by the same premise: **origin as a catalyst for new ideas**.

## **Avinguda de la Catedral**

Avinguda de la Catedral brings together the backbone of Música Mercè. The programme deliberately moves away from purism, embracing direct contrasts: the raw sounds of flamenco coexist with the festival's original productions, the dialogue with this year's guest city and the scale of its large-

format concerts. The avenue becomes a space where, within the same free and open public setting, musical styles that would normally belong to separate circuits come together.

### **Wednesday, September 23**

The first night at the Cathedral uses dance as a catalyst for both celebration and collective expression in the public space. The evening opens with **Sabor de Gràcia (10:00 p.m.)**, celebrating three decades of Catalan rumba on stage with a large-scale orchestra. The expansive instrumental line-up reclaims the genre as a communal and spontaneous experience, far removed from postcard nostalgia.

Then the square shifts gear with the arrival of Dutch group **Arp Frique & The Perpetual Singers (12:00 a.m.)**. The large ensemble comes to Barcelona with a line-up designed to fire up the rhythmic engine of funk, soul and 1970s disco. The night closes by bringing back the sweat, syncopation and analogue pleasure of music made to set the dance floor alight.

### **Thursday, September 24**

The central day puts the spotlight on flamenco as a living heritage, connecting new generations with the history of the genre. **Cantaora María Terremoto (9:00 p.m.)**, heir to one of Jerez's great flamenco dynasties, opens the evening at a pivotal point in her artistic development, embodying the festival's commitment to the voices reshaping today's flamenco scene.

Next comes **La Barcelona Flamenca (10:15 p.m.)**, a Música Mercè flagship production directed by **Luis Troquel**, with **Chicuelo** at the musical helm on guitar. The project moves beyond folkloric stereotypes to focus on the facts: Barcelona has never been a peripheral player in flamenco, but rather a key laboratory in the genre's evolution. The performance brings together different

voices to revisit this legacy and create a sonic map of the city's streets.

### Friday, September 25

The night comes alive with the **Shanghai Chinese Orchestra (11:00 p.m.)** and its programme *The Colours of China*. Around twenty musicians take over the stage, bringing traditional East Asian instrumentation into dialogue with contemporary sound, in a performance structured around the rhythms and metre of classical Chinese poetry.

### Saturday, September 26

The evening takes a radical turn, shifting into the full-throttle world of rock. First up are Colombia's **Aterciopelados (10:00 p.m.)**, who arrive in Barcelona with three decades of music behind them, bringing their classic repertoire face to face with the immediacy of a new album. Later, the stage belongs to the guitar and piano of **Maika Makovski (12:00 a.m.)**, who celebrates twenty years of her career with a raw, uncompromising live performance driven by electricity.

## Passeig dels Til·lers

### Friday, September 25

The new programme at Passeig dels Til·lers unfolds as a space for community encounter and cultural exchange. The day begins with the irreverent spirit of **Azucarillo Kings (10:30 p.m.)**, an artistic project that draws on popular repertoire to challenge institutional solemnity and explore new forms of collective celebration.

### Saturday, September 26

The second day opens a window onto conceptual thinking and international urban music. Austrian artist **Marco de Ana (12:30 p.m.)** presents a project at the intersection of dance, performance and flamenco, using the body as a political vehicle for protest against dominant narratives surrounding

tradition.

Next, US artist **Sorvina (10:30 p.m.)** channels the pulse of global music culture through the Berlin–Barcelona axis, moving between hip-hop and electronic music to map out new languages of urban dissent.

### Sunday, September 27

The final day explores the city's histories of memory and migration. **Tumbakin (1:00 p.m.)** highlights the richness of the Afro-Cuban diaspora by bringing contemporary salsa into Barcelona's local musical fabric. Finally, composer **Giulia Valle (7:30 p.m.)** closes the programme with a critical reinterpretation of the songs of **Carlos Cano**. Drawing on improvisation and contemporary jazz, Valle shifts Mediterranean memory into new spaces for active listening. Ultimately, it is a place to experience culture through a slower pace, reflection and critical thought.

## Seu del Districte de Nou Barris

This venue consolidates its position as a major stage for symphonic and band music, bringing together prestigious musical institutions alongside projects with a strong educational and social impact. Across four days, performances will feature the **Orchestra and Choir of the Gran Teatre del Liceu**, the **Barcelona Symphony and Catalonia National Orchestra (OBC)**, the **Roquetes de Nou Barris Symphonic Band**, the **Barcelona Municipal Band**, and the **Vozes** project, which will close the programme with an original production alongside **Marco Mezquida**. Together, they form a journey that presents this musical heritage as something living and evolving, deeply rooted in the local community and continually engaging with new audiences.

### Thursday, September 24

The programme opens at **8:45 p.m.** with the **Orchestra and Choir of the Gran Teatre del**

**Liceu**, reimagining the symphonic and choral format as an open and accessible experience that moves beyond the traditional concert hall and into the heart of public space.

#### **Friday, September 25**

The **Barcelona Symphony and Catalonia National Orchestra (OBC)** takes over at **8:45 p.m.**, transforming the public space into a setting for collective experimentation and exploring new ways of bringing symphonic music into dialogue with the community.

#### **Saturday, September 26**

The day turns its attention to the local musical landscape and community networks. At **12:00 p.m.**, the **Roquetes de Nou Barris Symphonic Band** highlights the resilience and vitality of community-based musical traditions. At **8:45 p.m.**, the **Barcelona Municipal Band** presents a programme rooted in musical heritage while questioning the continuing relevance of the band tradition within today's urban environment.

#### **Sunday, September 27**

The programme revisits historical memory through a collaboration between Menorcan pianist **Marco Mezquida** and the social music project **Voces (7:00 p.m.)**. To mark the **150th anniversary of the birth of Manuel de Falla**, Marco Mezquida will perform his compositions for the first time in new arrangements by **Pablo González**, director of the Voces project.

### **Jardins del Doctor Pla i Armengol**

Away from the energy of the festival's major stages, **Jardins del Doctor Pla i Armengol** offers an intimate setting dedicated to musical discovery and sonic exploration. Its surroundings invite audiences to slow down and discover projects that explore the boundaries between tradition and

contemporary experimentation.

The venue also reinforces La Mercè's connection with the city's educational community. Barcelona's leading higher music schools will be represented through performances by **ESMUC**, the **Conservatori Superior del Liceu** and **Jam Session**, offering a glimpse of the future of the local music scene. They will be joined by **Xamfrà**, a socio-educational project from the Raval that uses artistic practice as a tool for social cohesion and community transformation.

#### **Wednesday, September 23**

The opening night brings the guest city into the gardens, showcasing the technical and creative potential of its musical institutions. The **Shanghai Conservatory of Music Jazz Ensemble (9:00 p.m.)**, made up of young musicians from one of China's most prestigious musical institutions, opens the dialogue by reinterpreting the Western jazz canon. Next, **Shanghai Restoration Project (11:00 p.m.)**, one of the most distinctive international acts of this year's festival, presents an electronic pop and dance project that celebrates contemporary musical hybridity.

#### **Thursday, September 24**

The day focuses on education and inclusion through two projects that showcase the diversity of Barcelona's music scene. **ESMUC (12:00 p.m.)** opens the programme with a showcase of the talent being developed at the Catalonia College of Music, while **Xamfrà (7:00 p.m.)** presents its socio-educational project, using artistic practice as a tool for social cohesion and community transformation.

#### **Friday, September 25**

The second day explores the sounds and musical heritage of the Atlantic diaspora. Composer **Fuensanta (9:00 p.m.)** presents an acoustic exploration where contemporary

jazz structures meet Mexican oral traditions, strengthening her connection with Catalonia, where she recorded her latest work.

As a counterpoint to this introspective exploration, **Marina y su Melao (11:00 p.m.)** will energise the public space with a fresh take on Caribbean rhythms, repositioning the tropics as both a centre of celebration and a space where the metropolis and different cultures come together.

### Saturday, September 26

**Jam Nation (12:00 p.m.)** takes over with a project centred on improvisation, shared learning and live performance as a meeting point for young musicians. The evening then turns its attention to micro-textural exploration and collaborative experimentation. Maresme-based artist **Marc Vilajuana (9:30 p.m.)** opens this final chapter with an exercise in sonic introspection: a minimalist dialogue between piano, voice and acoustic physics that places vibration and language at the heart of the creative process.

The journey continues with the premiere of **Desacoples (11:00 p.m.)**, the first joint musical project by **El Extintor** and singer **LaTorre**. The project intertwines the guitars and digital soundscapes of **David Soler** and **Marcel Bagés** with the vocal poetry of **LaTorre**, a key figure in Ecuador's emerging music scene. Together, they create a space of formal freedom that plays with the traditions of *cobla* music and processed sound.

### Sunday, September 27

The programme concludes with a performance by the **Conservatori del Liceu (12:00 p.m.)** and its **Liceu Blam Collective** project, bringing a showcase of its students' work to the gardens and reaffirming Música Mercè's commitment to giving visibility to the city's leading music education institutions.

## Plaça de Sant Jaume

For Música Mercè 2026, this institutional square becomes a space for re-examining dominant narratives around intangible cultural heritage and urban identity. Here, the programme puts traditional music into circulation, separating it from the forms that have preserved it over time and exploring its capacity to continue generating meaning.

Traditions are presented as something that is passed down, transformed and marked by each successive generation.

### Sunday, September 27

Clarinetist, composer and performer **Carola Ortiz (7:00 p.m.)** presents ***Havaneres i sons de mar***, one of the three original productions conceived as a conceptual statement for this year's edition. Known for her deconstruction of traditional musical languages, **Ortiz** revisits the world of maritime song from a poetic and minimalist perspective.

Built entirely around voice, clarinet and interaction with a seven-string guitar, the performance sets aside the genre's established conventions to explore space, silence and micro-texture. Created specifically for the festival, this research-driven project highlights one of the programme's central ideas: the need to move oral heritage into new forms of expression.

## Avinguda de Maria Cristina

Avinguda de Maria Cristina once again establishes itself as one of the major stages of the La Mercè celebrations, with two high-energy nights of large-scale pop and rock. The programme is built around a double partnership: on one side, collaboration with **RAC105** to celebrate contemporary and intergenerational Catalan pop; on the other, a connection with **Europa FM** to showcase

the latest trends in Spanish pop, bringing together established and emerging artists, along with one closely guarded surprise.

### Friday, September 25

Presented by **RAC105**, this stage offers a cross-generational journey through the sounds of Catalonia, moving from poetic intimacy to the euphoric energy of some of the scene's biggest names.

The evening begins at **8:30 p.m.** with **Maria Jaume**, the Mallorcan artist whose distinctive voice and the textures of her latest musical world set an introspective and poetic tone. At **9:30 p.m.**, **Markos amb K**, one of the new names to watch in contemporary Catalan pop, takes the stage. Next, at **10:00 p.m.**, **Els Amics de les Arts** perform, almost two decades into a career that has turned their songs into a shared emotional soundtrack for several generations. At **11:45 p.m.**, **Els Catarres** bring the night's full-blown celebratory energy. The evening culminates at **1:30 a.m.** with **Teràpia de Shock**, whose return is one of the most eagerly anticipated moments of this year's festival.

### Saturday, September 26

The second night, presented in collaboration with **Europa FM**, offers a broad panorama of Spanish pop, combining established artists with some of the most promising emerging voices on the current scene.

At **9:00 p.m.**, **Ivan Herzog** opens the night with a melodic pop performance, followed at **9:45 p.m.** by **Banda Neón** and their guitar-driven sound. **Paula Koops** takes the stage at **11:00 p.m.** as one of the most promising artists in today's pop scene. At **12:15 a.m.**, the programme reaches its surprise moment with the **mystery artist of this year's edition**, whose identity will remain under wraps until the concert itself. The night closes at **1:15 a.m.** with **Leire Martínez**, who presents the next chapter of

her artistic career while revisiting the songs that have defined her journey.

## Platja del Bogatell

The Bogatell waterfront once again establishes itself as one of the city's great meeting points: an open-air setting where the coastline amplifies the sound of contemporary Catalan pop, bringing together emerging artists and established names who have shaped the soundtrack of a new generation. The vastness of the beach and the open horizon reinforce the celebratory character of a stage designed to experience music on a truly large scale.

### Friday, September 25

**Nit ELS40** transforms Bogatell into the major stage for the most popular Catalan and Spanish pop. The evening begins with **Aina Machuca (7:45 p.m.)**, one of the standout new voices in Spanish pop. The pace picks up with **Sexenni (8:30 p.m.)**, bringing their playful, generation-defining energy to the stage, followed at **10:00 p.m.** by **Miki Núñez**, one of the most established names in the contemporary Catalan music scene. The night reaches its climax with **Buhos (1:15 a.m.)**, a band capable of turning every large-scale concert into an explosion of shared energy and adrenaline.

It is a musical journey connecting the next generation of artists with major pop names, making the beach an unmissable meeting point.

### Saturday, September 26

**La Nit Mediterràniament d'Estrella Damm** fills Bogatell with Catalan pop and a distinctly festive spirit, bringing together some of the most beloved names on the current scene. **Al·lèrgiques al Pol·len (8:00 p.m.)** open the evening, reaffirming their position as one of the defining bands of the new Catalan pop scene, combining guitars,

political awareness and a strong generational identity.

Next, **La Pegatina (9:30 p.m.)** take the stage with a special retrospective production of their own. The band revisits their Catalan-language repertoire while presenting songs from their latest work, in a concert designed for singing, dancing and celebration—true to the festive spirit that has made them a fixture on major popular stages.

The night also explores the evolution of **Svetlana (1:30 a.m.)**, who present an expanded band format for the first time. This new setup broadens their ironic musical language and introduces a more complex stage design, further developing their exploration of new directions in Catalan music.

## BAM – Barcelona Acció Musical

This year, BAM enters a new phase under the direction of its new curators, **Marta Mei** and **Aina Pociello**. The two cultural managers were selected through the public tender launched by **ICUB** to curate the festival programme. Their proposal was chosen for its quality and strength, as well as for its ability to usher in a new chapter for BAM with a realistic and well-structured programme.

Under the direction of Aina Pociello and Marta Mei, BAM strengthens its role as a space for cultural intersection within the La Mercè programme, embracing artistic risk, sonic dissidence and aesthetic exploration. This edition presents itself as an ecosystem of resistance to the industry's rigid categories, featuring several bands performing in Barcelona for the first time and a programme designed to build bridges between cultures, musical genres and languages that reflect the diversity of the city.

This year's BAM also maintains its partnerships with **Portugal Alive**, a platform for international cooperation and cultural exchange, and with **BAM Acció Cultura Viva**, which decentralises traditional production by placing decision-making in the hands of local communities and neighbourhood networks. At the same time, the festival serves as a key platform for showcasing grassroots creative practices and emerging local artists. A new community is emerging around self-production, challenging the existing musical ecosystem and developing new ways of engaging with sound through experimental and multidisciplinary formats.

## PLAÇA DE CATALUNYA

**Plaça de Catalunya** becomes one of BAM's major spaces for discovery, creating a map of the many directions contemporary music

can take. The programme takes audiences into a local and international scene that is restless and constantly evolving, where sound becomes a space of refuge for identity and creative freedom.

### Wednesday, September 23

Plaça de Catalunya opens BAM with the **Sona9 competition concert (7:00 p.m.)**, one of the leading platforms for emerging music in Catalan, reaffirming the festival's commitment to the country's new voices.

The power of outspoken lyrics takes centre stage with **Bia Ferreira (10:30 p.m.)**, an undisputed reference on the Brazilian scene who combines music and activism to deliver a powerful message against racism and homophobia and in support of feminism. Next, **Brama (12:00 a.m.)** takes the audience into the ritual intensity of psychedelic rock performed in Occitan. The night closes with **Imarhan (1:30 a.m.)**, demonstrating that Tuareg blues is not a fixed tradition but an open musical territory capable of embracing today's electronic influences.

### Friday, September 25

The second day focuses on new ways of approaching the language of popular music. The collective **Daoud (10:30 p.m.)**, performing in Barcelona for the first time, presents a boundary-free form of jazz that dissolves the lines between house, drum and bass, rock and Afrobeat.

Next, **The Slates (12:00 a.m.)**, also making their Barcelona debut, bring together heavy riffs, funky basslines, beats and thick low-end with melodies that are hard to shake. **Sandr  (1:30 a.m.)** rounds off the night with the presentation of their latest album, a raw combination of free-form guitars, experimentation and untamed energy.

### Saturday, September 26

The final night features **Minib s Intergal ctic (10:30 p.m.)**, one of the most distinctive initiatives in today's Catalan music scene, developed through **Cases de la M sica**, presenting their sonic explorations in an experimental live performance. Next, **Ypnosi (12:00 a.m.)** brings back the energy of rock and punk through an ironic, generation-conscious perspective. The programme closes with **Sandra Monfort (1:30 a.m.)**, who will also bring her *La Mona de nit* tour to an end with this performance. She revisits Valencian popular culture through a combination of electronic folk, club rhythms and a liberating aesthetic. This concert is jointly curated by **BAM and Acci  Cultura Viva**. All three performances on the final night will feature **sign-language interpretation and vibrating backpacks for people with sensory disabilities**, making the programme more accessible to audiences with different sensory needs.

### RAMBLA DEL RAVAL

Accents coexist, languages enrich one another, and musical traditions travel long before they reach the stage. Rambla del Raval reflects this everyday cultural

landscape and turns it into a programme, bringing together artists whose work emerges from displacement, diaspora and shared identities. Geographical, linguistic and musical borders dissolve, making room for projects that remain connected to their roots while seeing music as a tool for bringing communities together, questioning borders and imagining new ways of living alongside one another.

This is the context for **Portugal Alive**. This year, the collaboration brings three names from Portugal's contemporary music scene to BAM: three concerts offering a fragmented yet vivid portrait of a musical landscape that continues to reinvent itself.

### Wednesday, September 23

Portugal provides the first distinctive voice of the Rambla del Raval. **Humana Taranja (9:30 p.m.)** opens the night with guitars that alternate between tension and fragility. Next, **Sunflowers (11:00 p.m.)** pick up the pace with a visceral live show that edges towards chaos without ever losing precision. **Maria Reis (12:30 a.m.)** closes the evening, bringing the sound of a new generation of Portuguese pop to the stage.

### Friday, September 25

The second day focuses on hybrid identities, borders and music as a space for cultural expression and activism. **Restinga (9:30 p.m.)** connects contemporary electronic music with Arabic sounds, while **Uzi Freyja (11:00 p.m.)** delivers an intense, physical and politically charged rap performance. The night culminates in a meeting between **Queer Falafel and MadMonkey (12:30 a.m.)**, turning the dance floor into a space where electronic music, performance and queer and anti-colonial activism speak the same language.

### Saturday, September 26

The final day moves through cultural crossings, languages and intertwined

musical legacies. **I AM ROZE (9:30 p.m.)** brings a powerful voice that moves effortlessly between soul and R&B. Next, **TĀRA (11:00 p.m.)** pushes Arab'n'B into new territory, transforming cultural roots into living material for artistic creation. The final accent comes from **TootArd (12:30 a.m.)**, bringing Syrian musical traditions into dialogue with funk, disco and contemporary groove.

## MOLL DE LA FUSTA

This waterfront venue brings together electronic music, punk, reggae and urban sounds. Moll de la Fusta becomes a space of movement and collective energy, with a selection designed to encourage encounters, surprises and a celebration of contemporary musical plurality.

### Wednesday, September 23

The programme begins with an exercise in trans-Mediterranean fusion by **KIW & Mourad Belouadi (10:30 p.m.)**, bringing Catalan-rooted experimental jazz into dialogue with the deep rhythms of Moroccan Gnawa tradition, while avoiding simplistic folkloric interpretations. The mood shifts with **La 126 (12:00 a.m.)**, injecting urgency and physicality into the stage through a visceral blend of pop, rock and punk. The night culminates with **Juventude (1:30 a.m.)** and their larger-than-life take on Andalusian folklore, a sonic creation where psychedelia and ska meet the structural challenges of progressive rock.

### Friday, September 25

The second day features **Les Testarudes (10:30 p.m.)**, a young nine-woman Catalan band bringing a contemporary and community-focused perspective to the legacy of ska, reggae and rocksteady.

The baton then passes to **Isla Kume (12:00 a.m.)**, a project that places Iberian folk

traditions under pressure from synthesizers and strings, operating somewhere between the ancestral atmosphere of a ritual and the saturation of a rave. **Islandman (1:30 a.m.)** closes the night with a hypnotic and immersive live performance that dissolves geographical and stylistic boundaries between club electronics, instrumental psychedelia and Middle Eastern textures.

### Saturday, September 26

The final night opens with **Gala i Ovidio (10:30 p.m.)**, the duo formed by **Raül Refree** and **Aida Tarrío**, singer with Tanxugueiras. Together, they deconstruct Galician traditional music through avant-garde pop, electronic experimentation and the white noise of *noise*. Next comes **Poncelam (12:00 a.m.)**, one of the most distinctive voices on the urban music scene, developing an elegant sound somewhere between singer-songwriter pop, soul and Afro influences. Finally, **La Valentina (1:30 a.m.)** performs in Barcelona for the first time, closing the series with a new stage production that fuses rap, trap, drill, salsa and experimental rock.

## ANTIGA FÀBRICA ESTRELLA DAMM

For two days, this venue becomes a showcase for emerging creative talent from the region, bringing together artists at key moments in their development: first releases, live debuts and brand-new performances. Rather than representing a particular generation or a single musical style, the programme showcases different ways of creating music today: a testing ground where new codes and aesthetic mutations can be explored before they reach the wider public.

Singer-songwriter music, folk, pop, urban music, rock and experimental electronics coexist here alongside stage formats incorporating dance, performance, visual art, lighting design and virtual identities. Music is understood not simply as a

succession of songs, but as the creation of a distinctive language and a complete artistic experience.

### **Saturday, September 26**

The first day brings together projects that place listening, identity and sonic exploration at the heart of the creative process. **Carmen Aciar (1:15 p.m.)** opens the programme, connecting singer-songwriter traditions, Argentine folk and the Mediterranean character of her surroundings.

The physical and performative dimension emerges through the tropical perspective of **Angela Blackburn (2:15 p.m.)**, who blends salsa, diasporic rhythms and global club music in an exercise in cross-cultural connection.

From a different perspective, **Jovedry (4:30 p.m.)** brings to the stage the approach of a producer who sees live performance as an extension of the studio, transforming the studio workflow into a natural part of the show, where layers, synthetic textures, experimental rock and alternative pop evolve in real time.

Under the banner of *Revelación*, **Admire (5:40 p.m.)** presents a conceptual creation combining dancehall, Afrobeat and experimental pop with an independent choreographic and mystical language. **Bofirax (8:15 p.m.)** closes this part of the programme with an immersive experience in which analogue synthesizers, strings and lighting design gradually reshape the architecture of the space.

### **Sunday, September 27**

The duo **Arar (1:15 p.m.)** creates a delicate sonic universe built around voices, guitar and saxophones, with compositions born from playfulness, collaboration and instrumental experimentation. **Mala Freixura (2:15 p.m.)** adds to this open exploration of

emerging scenes with a project that further expands the range of musical languages represented at BAM.

Identity, memory and technology run through the rest of the day from very different perspectives. **AL-V (4:30 p.m.)** presents a pop requiem centred on grief, remembrance and accepting death, combining voice, cello, guitars, keyboards and synthesizers. **Asra3 (5:40 p.m.)**, with a piece created specifically for BAM, explores polyrhythms, microtonal tuning, hyperpop and digital humour in a celebration of creative communities born online. With the project **MERCÈ (6:50 p.m.)**, live performance becomes a playful virtual mirror combining code, violin and three-dimensional avatars. Finally, **Maig (8:15 p.m.)** closes the programme by stripping away the electronic textures of the preceding performances and turning to raw guitars and organic drums in *PROU*, a debut that confronts the pop-rock of previous generations with a distinctly contemporary sense of urgency.

## **BAM – Acció Cultura Viva**

**BAM – Acció Cultura Viva** celebrates its **10th edition** this year, firmly established as one of the most community-focused and wide-ranging programmes of the La Mercè celebrations.

Over the past decade, the festival has helped establish **Sant Andreu** as one of La Mercè's cultural hubs, turning **Fabra i Coats** and its surroundings into a place for musical discovery and community gathering. The programme combines indoor and outdoor stages at Fabra i Coats and, for the past three editions, has also extended into **Plaça Can Fabra**, bringing live music into the neighbourhood with concerts on Saturday evenings and throughout Sunday afternoon.

The festival presents a selection of emerging musical projects from Barcelona and Catalonia, chosen through an open

public call and a collective programming process involving a citizen committee made up of people of different ages, backgrounds and experiences. The result is a programme open to new musical languages and sounds, reflecting the vitality and diversity of today's music scene.

**To celebrate its 10th anniversary, a special performance, *La Llorería*, will take place on Sunday, September 27 at 6:00 p.m. It will bring together several artists who have been part of the history of Acció Cultura Viva in a collective celebration of ten years of music, community and shared culture.**

### **Saturday, September 26**

#### **L'Harmonia Stage**

The afternoon begins at **5:00 p.m.** with **Peperina**, a performance project blending rock, hyperpop, tango, punk and trip-hop in a bold intersection with theatre, dance and spoken word. At **6:40 p.m.**, **Grup de Ties** brings a burst of celebratory rock infused with humour, garage influences and a carefree attitude. The stage closes at **8:20 p.m.** with **LECOCQ** and *Sucre*, a luminous, danceable sonic creation moving between indie pop, chanson, electronic music and neo-soul, framed by a delicate bilingual interplay between Catalan and French.

#### **Fabra i Coats Stage**

At **5:50 p.m.**, **María Cielos** connects singer-songwriter traditions with rooted folk and influences from Rwandan music in a highly poetic live performance. At **7:30 p.m.**, **AGOST** takes over with an immersive journey through shoegaze, dream pop and experimental electronic textures—a testament to the vitality of an alternative music circuit that continues to push its boundaries.

#### **Plaça Can Fabra Stage**

The programme moves outdoors from **9:30 p.m.** with the direct rock energy of **Jester**. At **10:50 p.m.**, **Revolución Guapachosa** unleashes a psychedelic earthquake where cumbia meets Caribbean diasporic rhythms. The night closes at **12:10 a.m.** with **STA**, creating an experimental dub alchemy in which Jamaican roots collide with free jazz, psychedelia and electronic machinery.

### **Sunday, September 27**

#### **Plaça Can Fabra Stage**

The day begins at **1:10 p.m.** with **De Gairó**, offering a contemporary reinterpretation of the *havanera* tradition. At **3:00 p.m.**, **Brisa Nunjo** brings together the sounds of neo-soul and Afrobeat in a warm, organic musical language. The pace picks up at **4:30 p.m.** with **Quintal Delas**, a predominantly female and participatory samba circle that transforms the public space into a place of collective rhythmic celebration.

The festival closes at **6:00 p.m.** with **La Llorería**, a collective and celebratory ritual built around boleros, rancheras, cumbia and merengue, featuring a host of established artists who have been part of Acció Cultura Viva's journey. The programme comes to a close with an intergenerational celebration marking the project's **10th anniversary**.

## Programme by Day

### **Plaça de Catalunya (BAM)**

Sona9 Competition – 7:00 p.m.

Bia Ferreira – 10:30 p.m.

Brama – 12:00 a.m.

Imarhan – 1:30 a.m.

### **Moll de la Fusta (BAM)**

KIW & Mourad Belouadi – 10:30 p.m.

La 126 – 12:00 a.m.

Juventude – 1:30 a.m.

### **Rambla del Raval (BAM)**

Humana Taranja (Portugal Alive) – 9:30 p.m.

Sunflowers (Portugal Alive) – 11:00 p.m.

Maria Reis (Portugal Alive) – 12:30 a.m.

### **Teatre Grec (Música Mercè)**

Pol Batlle – 9:30 p.m.

Luísa Sobral – 11:30 p.m.

### **Jardins del Doctor Pla i Armengol (Música Mercè)**

Shanghai Conservatory of Music Jazz Ensemble – 9:00 p.m.

Shanghai Restoration Project – 11:00 p.m.

### **Avinguda de la Catedral (Música Mercè)**

Sabor de Gràcia – 10:00 p.m.

Arp Frique & The Perpetual Singers – 12:00 a.m.

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## **Thursday, September 24**

### **Jardins del Doctor Pla i Armengol (Música Mercè)**

ESMUC – 12:00 p.m.

Xamfrà – 7:00 p.m.

### **Seu del Districte de Nou Barris (Música Mercè)**

Orquestra i Cor del Gran Teatre del Liceu – 8:45 p.m.

### **Avinguda de la Catedral (Música Mercè)**

María Terremoto – 9:00 p.m.

La Barcelona Flamenca – 10:15 p.m.

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## **Friday, September 25**

### **Plaça de Catalunya (BAM)**

Daoud – 10:30 p.m.

The Slates – 12:00 a.m.

Sandré – 1:30 a.m.

### **Moll de la Fusta (BAM)**

Les Testarudes – 10:30 p.m.

Isla Kume – 12:00 a.m.

Islandman – 1:30 a.m.

### **Rambla del Raval (BAM)**

Restinga – 9:30 p.m.

Uzi Freyja – 11:00 p.m.

Queer Falafel x MadMonkey – 12:30 a.m.

### **Teatre Grec (Música Mercè)**

Nacho Vegas – 9:30 p.m.

La Paloma – 11:30 p.m.

### **Jardins del Doctor Pla i Armengol (Música Mercè)**

Fuensanta – 9:00 p.m.

Marina y su Melao – 11:00 p.m.

### **Seu del Districte de Nou Barris (Música Mercè)**

Orquestra Simfònica de Barcelona i

Nacional de Catalunya (OBC) – 8:45 p.m.

### **Platja del Bogatell (Música Mercè – ELS40)**

Aina Machuca – 7:30 p.m.

Enol – 7:55 p.m.

Sexenni – 8:30 p.m.

Miki Núñez – 10:00 p.m.

Buhos – 1:15 a

**Avinguda de Maria Cristina (Música Mercè – RAC105)**

Maria Jaume – 8:30 p.m.  
Markos – 9:30 p.m.  
Els Amics de les Arts – 10:00 p.m.  
Els Catarres – 11:45 p.m.  
Teràpia de Shock – 1:30 a.m.

**Avinguda de la Catedral (Música Mercè)**

Shanghai Chinese Orchestra – *The Colors of China* – 11:00 p.m.

**Passeig dels Til·lers (Música Mercè)**

Azucarillo Kings – 10:30 p.m.

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**Saturday, September 26**

**Plaça de Catalunya (BAM)**

Minibús Intergalàctic – 10:30 p.m.  
Ypnosi – 12:00 a.m.  
Sandra Monfort – 1:30 a.m.

**Moll de la Fusta (BAM)**

Gala i Ovidio – 10:30 p.m.  
Poncelam – 12:00 a.m.  
La Valentina – 1:30 a.m.

**Rambla del Raval (BAM)**

I AM ROZE – 9:30 p.m.  
TÀRA – 11:00 p.m.  
TootArd – 12:30 a.m.

**Antiga Fàbrica Estrella Damm (BAM)**

Carmen Aciar – 1:15 p.m.  
Angela Blackburn – 2:15 p.m.  
Jovedry – 4:30 p.m.  
Admire – 5:40 p.m.  
Cristina Len – 6:50 p.m.  
Bofirax – 8:15 p.m.

**L'Harmonia Stage (BAM – Acció Cultura Viva)**

Peperina – 5:00–5:50 p.m.  
Grup de Ties – 6:40–7:30 p.m.  
LECOCQ – 8:20–9:10 p.m.

**Fabra i Coats Stage (BAM – Acció Cultura Viva)**

María Cielos – 5:50–6:40 p.m.  
AGOST – 7:30–8:20 p.m.

**Plaça Can Fabra Stage (BAM – Acció Cultura Viva)**

Jester – 9:30–10:30 p.m.  
Revolución Guapachosa – 10:50–11:40 p.m.  
STA – 12:10–1:10 a.m.

**Teatre Grec (Música Mercè)**

Ana Rossi + Joana Queiroz – 9:30 p.m.  
Def Mama Def – 11:30 p.m.

**Jardins del Doctor Pla i Armengol (Música Mercè)**

Jam Nation – 12:00 p.m. Marc Vilajuana – 9:30 p.m.  
El Extintor + LaTorre – 11:00 p.m.

**Seu del Districte de Nou Barris (Música Mercè)**

Banda Simfònica Roquetes de Nou Barris – 12:00 p.m.  
Banda Municipal de Barcelona – 8:45 p.m.

**Avinguda de Maria Cristina (Música Mercè – Europa FM)**

Ivan Herzog – 9:00 p.m.  
Banda León – 9:45 p.m.  
Paula Koops – 11:00 p.m.  
Surprise Artist – 12:15 a.m.  
Leire Martínez – 1:15 a.m.

**Platja del Bogatell (Música Mercè – Estrella Damm)**

Al·lèrgiques al Pol·len – 8:00 p.m.  
La Pegatina – 9:30 p.m.  
Artist TBA – 11:00 p.m.  
Svetlana – 1:30 a.m.

**Avinguda de la Catedral (Música Mercè)**

Aterciopelados – 10:00 p.m.  
Maika Makovski – 12:00

**Passeig dels Til·lers (Música Mercè)**  
Marco de Ana – 12:30 / 1:30 / 2:30 p.m.  
Sorvina – 10:30 p.m.

Brisa Nunjo – 3:00–4:00 p.m.  
Quintal Delas – 4:30–5:30 p.m.  
La Llorería – 6:00–7:00 p.m.

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## Sunday, September 27

**Antiga Fàbrica Estrella Damm (BAM)**  
Arar – 1:15 p.m.  
Mala Freixura – 2:15 p.m.  
AL-V – 4:30 p.m.  
Asra3 – 5:40 p.m.  
MERCÈ – 6:50 p.m.  
Maig – 8:15 p.m.

**Plaça Can Fabra Stage (BAM – Acció Cultura Viva)**  
De Gairó – 1:10–2:00 p.m.

**Jardins del Doctor Pla i Armengol (Música Mercè)**  
Liceu Blam Collective – 12:00 p.m.

**Passeig dels Til·lers (Música Mercè)**  
Tumbakin – 1:00 p.m.  
Giulia Valle – 7:30 p.m.

**Plaça de Sant Jaume (Música Mercè)**  
Carola Ortiz – *Havaneres* – 7:00 p.m.

**Barcelona Waterfront**  
La Mercè Pyromusical – 10:00 p.m.

## More Information

### Música Mercè

[lamerce.barcelona](http://lamerce.barcelona)

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### BAM – Barcelona Acció Musical

Barcelona Acció Musical

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### BAM – Acció Cultura Viva

BAM – Acció Cultura Viva

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