



**Caballé**  
Beyond music  
a musical film

*" I believe that people owe a lot to music because music is always there. It is a form of expression that is born not from thinking but from feeling. I believe that drinking music is the best thing in life. Music is magic and it is a privilege to live with it. With this film I wish to share with you the most important moments in my career, which are also the best moments of my life. "*

**Montserrat Caballé**

With the world premiere in Cannes, during MIDEM (International Market of Records and Musical Edition) in January 2003, *Caballé Beyond Music* combines the tradition of musicals with the documentary style revealing not only Caballé as the Prima Donna, but also Montserrat as the woman.

The film allows us to relive the most important musical, personal and moving moments of such a long and fascinating life through an intimate account told in the first person by the artist herself.

Her tough beginnings, her training, her doubts and setbacks, the cities that saw her evolve and the performances that established her name worldwide, all appear, as do the statements of those who know her as woman and artist: from the great tenor Plácido Domingo to the genial Freddy Mercury, the legendaries Claudio Abbado and Zubin Mehta; the writer Terenci Moix; and the ballerina Maya Plisetskaya, among others.



# MONTSERRAT CABALLÉ

Montserrat Caballé has performed more than 90 roles on stage and counts with more than 100 recordings from which 40 are complete operas. She has performed in the five continents and her recordings have been listened to in the Cosmos. She has sung in historical places like Aspendos, Epidavros, Merida Roman Theater and also in the Kremlin Great Conference Hall, Pekin Nation Hall, the White House in Washington and the Auditorium of the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York. Caballé has performed before audiences of more than half million people in Tel Aviv, Saratoga and Berlin, among others.





## THE FILM

A musical which covers the life of Montserrat Caballé in a personal tone and without formalities. Filmed over nearly three years in the most significant places in her life alongside the people who have accompanied her throughout her impeccable personal and artistic path. She reveals the keys to understand not only her art but also and above all the woman who performs and dreams in a life filled with music. *Caballé Beyond Music* succeeds in showing her artistic development through intimate and certain previously unknown aspects. The musical reveals secrets for the first time about the immaculate path of Montserrat Caballé who Maria Callas named as her only successor. In this film we see, not only her love for the art but also her great sensitivity towards the world that surrounds her, where Caballé is a distinguished spokeswoman for the serious problems suffered by humanity.

*Caballé Beyond Music* is a fascinating journey through the life and career of the woman who is undoubtedly, a key figure in the music of the second half of the twentieth century. Our exceptional guide is Montserrat herself who, with her warmth and sense of humour, returns to those places important in her life. From her native Barcelona we visit her beginnings in Basel and Bremen, the famous Carnegie Hall in New York where her international career was launched and all the greatest opera houses in the world where she has performed: the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, the Konzerthaus in Vienna, the Scala in Milan, the Royal Festival Hall in London, the Opera in Paris, the Opera in Munich, the Palau de la Música Catalana in Barcelona, the Teatro Real in Madrid, Carnegie Hall and Fisher Hall in New York and the Bolshoi in Moscow. Historically valuable fragments of some of her most emblematic and legendary performances are gathered from the masterly Norma of Orange, the Tosca of Tokyo, the Semiramide with Marilyn Horne, Turandot, Salome in Madrid and the unpublished Anna Bolena in 1966, the first known audio-visual recording of Montserrat.





# THE INTERVIEWEES

*Caballé Beyond Music* counts on the direct testimonies of many of the people who have formed part of her life and career: Claudio Abbado, Giuseppe di Stefano, Plácido Domingo, Renée Fleming, Joan Holender, Marilyn Horne, Joan Matabosch, Federico Mayor Zaragoza, Zubin Mehta, Terenci Moix, Professor Luc Montagnier, Yelena Obraztsova, Maya Plisetskaya, Eve Queler, Samuel Ramey, Mstislav Rostropovich, Cheryl Studer, Joan Sutherland help to sketch the different features of the soprano and the woman who lives inside her unforgettable operatic characters.



Also interviewed are her collaborators and closest relatives such as her brother and artistic advisor Carlos Caballé, who guided Montserrat from her beginnings and warily helped her to choose her repertoire with excellent precision. The love story with her husband, Bernabé Martí, who Montserrat calls 'my Pinkerton', ever since they both shared the stage in the opera *Madame Butterfly*, and her past and present relationship with Montsita, her daughter, who follows in her footsteps as a musical singer and her son Bernabé Martí Caballé.



The list of interviewees is capped by: Flora Bertrand, Charlie Bessels, Mariona y Carmen Bonet Badía, José Antonio Campos, Denny Dayviss, Joan Dornemann, Irving Fischer, Pierre Jourdan, Lois Kirschenbaum, Cristina Ordovás, Stefan Schmerbeck, Renata Vercesi.



# MUSICAL ARCHIVES AND MUSIC

*Caballé Beyond Music* includes an exclusive selection of legendary audiovisual archives, some of them unpublished, which constitute probably the best operatic moments in existence.

TURANDOT (PUCCINI) act II scene. Opéra, Paris  
IL PIRATA (BELLINI) "Col sorriso d'innocenza" Salle Pleyel, Paris  
ADRIANA LECOUVREUR (CILEA) "Poveri fiori", Tokyo  
ROBERTO DEVEREUX (DONIZETTI) "Vivi ingrato". Festival d'Aix en Provence  
A. LECOUVREUR (CILEA) act II. With J. Carreras, Tokyo  
JOTA NAVARRA (MORENO TORROBA) with P. Domingo. Auditorio Nacional de Música, Madrid  
GATO MONTÉS (PENELLA) . "¡Sí ! ¡Torero quiero sé!". With P. Domingo. Auditorio Nacional de Música, Madrid  
SEMIRAMIDE (ROSSINI) "Ebben, a te ferisci!" With M. Horne. Festival d'Aix en Provence  
TOSCA (PUCCINI) "Vissi d'arte" .Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. London  
SALOMÉ (R. STRAUSS) Final Scene. Teatro de la Zarzuela, Madrid  
BARCELONA (F. MERCURY & M. MORAN) With F. Mercury. "La Nit", Barcelona  
THE GOLDEN BOY (F. MERCURY & M. MORAN) .With F. Mercury. "La Nit", Barcelona  
MARCH WITH ME (VANGELIS). Olympic Stadium, Athens  
LUISA FERNANDA (M. TORROBA) "A la sombra de una sombrilla" With A. Kraus. Teatro Real, Madrid  
REQUIEM (VERDI) Rehearsals. San Marco, Milan  
IL VIAGGIO A REIMS (ROSSINI) act I aria. Staatsoper, Vienna  
LA TEMPRANICA (GIMÉNEZ) "La Tarántula é un bicho mu malo". Philharmonie am Gasteig, Munich  
NORMA (BELLINI) "Casta Diva". Chorégies d'Orange  
LA VIERGE (MASSENET) « L'extase de la Vierge ». Mezquita-Catedral de Córdoba  
"LA PRIÈRE DU MONDE" (VÁNGELIS). Mezquita-Catedral de Córdoba  
HENRY VIII (SAINT-SAËNS) . Orquestra Simfònica del Gran Teatre del Liceu  
ANNA BOLENA (DONIZETTI) "Al dolce guidami". Salle Pleyel, Paris





The film also includes carefully selected music by Carlos Caballé, Musical Director, which accompanies the viewer and enhances its content and emotions.

LA TRAVIATA (VERDI) "Teneste la promessa"  
PARAULES D'AMOR (J.M SERRAT)  
LUISA MILLER (VERDI) Overture  
CLARINET CONCERTO in A, K. 622 (MOZART)  
DAMUNT DETÚ NOMÉS LES FLORS (F. MOMPOU)  
ZUEIGNUNG, op.10 no.1 (R. STRAUSS)  
AIDA (VERDI) Overture  
LA BOHÈME (PUCCINI) Leitmotif Mimi's death, act IV  
LA BOHÈME (PUCCINI) "Mi chiamano Mimi"  
TANNHÄUSER (WAGNER) "Dich, teure Halle" Orchestral introduction  
COSÌ FAN TUTTE (MOZART) "Come scoglio"  
NORMA (BELLINI) "Guerra, guerra!"  
WALZ no.2 in C sharp minor (CHOPIN)  
MADAMA BUTTERFLY (PUCCINI) Cio-Cio-San's entrance  
MANON (MASSENET) "Et je sais votre nom" With G. di Stefano  
LUCREZIA BORGIA (DONIZETTI) "Com'è bello"  
LUCREZIA BORGIA (DONIZETTI) "Tranquillo ei posa"  
I VESPRI SICILIANI (VERDI) Bolero  
LIKE A DREAM (VANGELIS) Lyrics by Montserrat Caballé  
IL PIRATA (BELLINI) "O s'io potessi... col sorriso d'innocenza"  
Orchestral introduction  
LA TRAVIATA (VERDI) "Amami Alfredo"  
UN BALLO IN MASCHERA (VERDI) Minuetto act III  
TOSCA (PUCCINI) Act II, orchestra only  
TRAVIATA (VERDI) Prelude act III  
ROMÉO ET JULIETTE (GOUNOD) "Je veux vivre"  
NORMA (BELLINI) "Casta Diva" Orchestral introduction  
TURANDOT (PUCCINI) Orchestral end of act I  
TURANDOT (PUCCINI) Orchestral introduction act II  
PIANO CONCERTO no.27, K. 595 in B Flat (MOZART)  
PIANO CONCERTO no.27, K. 595 in B Flat (MOZART)  
SAPHO (MASSENET) Air de la séduction : "Pendant un an je fus ta femme"  
CAVALLERÍA RUSTICANA (MASCAGNI) Intermezzo  
ANDREA CHÉNIER (GIORDANO) "Vicino a te" With Bernabé Martí  
LES CONTES D'HOFFMAN (OFFENBACH) "Barcarole" With M. Martí  
TRISTAN UND ISOLDE (WAGNER) "Liebestod"  
LOUISE (CHARPENTIER) "Depuis le jour"



# BIOGRAPHY

Montserrat Caballé was born in Barcelona on the 12th of April 1933. Coming from a humble background, her family went to great efforts so that she could study music at the Superior conservatory of the Liceo. In 1956 she moved to Switzerland where she formed part of the Opera of Basel company. Between 1957 and 1959 she opened a repertoire which included Mozart and Strauss. Between 1959 and 1962 she became part of the permanent company of the Opera of Bremen. In her final year there she earned her first contract to sing in the Liceo in Barcelona where she opened the *Arabella* by Strauss and played the feminine roles of *Don Giovanni* by Mozart and *Madame Butterfly* by Puccini. Her launch onto the international stage took place on 20th April 1965 in New York when she unexpectedly substituted Marilyn Horne in the *Lucrezia Borgia* by Donizetti. Up until that moment she was unknown, on finishing her first aria the public dedicated an ovation of twenty minutes and the local press added: 'No previous publicity could have predicted the tremendous impact this Goyesque woman would cause upon the public pampered by the delights of Callas and Sutherland. When Caballé began her first aria there was a change in the atmosphere. It felt as though everyone had stopped breathing'.





With a somewhat uncommon versatility, Montserrat Caballé has alternated her operatic performances with recitals and concerts and has sung as soloist with the most prestigious orchestras and conductors such as Herbert von Karajan, Leonard Bernstein, Zubin Mehta, James Levine, Claudio Abbado, Seiji Ozawa, Riccardo Muti, Sir Colin Davis and Carlo Maria Giulini. Her collaboration with Freddie Mercury on the album *Barcelona* and with Vangelis in "March with Me" finally conquered the widest public.



Montserrat Caballé is also known for her passion for reviving works that have fallen into oblivion. When the majority of sopranos tend to progressively reduce their artistic activities Caballé, over the last two decades, has devoted herself to the research of an uncommon repertoire, including *Armide* by Gluck, *Les Danaïdes* by Salieri, *Medea* and *Demophon* by Cherubini, *Ermione e Il Viaggio a Reims* by Rossini.



She owns numerous prizes and international decorations, including the Order of Isabel la Católica, Commandeur des Arts et des Lettres de France, Académica de Honor and Gold Medal from the Academia de las Letras, Ciencias y Artes of Italy. Since 1974 she is honorary ambassador of the United Nations and Good Will ambassador for UNESCO.



## MORENA FILMS

Company dedicated to the production and distribution of audiovisual works. With a clear international reach, its main objective is the production of feature films, documentaries and television programming for the national and international market in co-production with other countries.

## IBITS PRODUCTIONS

Independent Film production company, founded by Alberto Sabaté, committed to the creation of projects with a high cultural and social content. We defend that the fusion of culture and matters that add value to Evolution, can be commercially successful. In pre-production: "IT wants YOU!". Ambitious docufilm with the mission to help combat AIDS in the world. With an important cast of personalities and international stars. " Caballé: beyond the music ", is Ibits Productions first work.



## TECHNICAL DATA

Length	98 min
Shooting Format	Super 16 mm, Digital Betacam
Screening Format	35mm

## CREW

Producers	Alvaro Longoria Alberto Sabaté
Director	Antonio A. Farré
Editing Director	Raúl Roman
Musical Director	Carlos Caballé
Director of Photography	Xavier Gil
Production Director	Isidro Terraza
Scriptwriter	Alberto Sabaté & Antonio A. Farré
Original idea	Alberto Sabaté





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Co-produced by:



With the collaboration of:

