



joan parera

## Urbàlia Rurana in duo

**Carles Gil:** mandola, mandolina, acordeón y voz

**Toni Torregrossa:** guitarra, guitarró y voz

**Urbàlia Rurana in duo**, the Valencian and Mediterranean popular music group, comes to *Sitges '22* represented by two of its founding members: **Carles Gil** (mandolin, accordion and voice) and **Toni Torregrossa** (guitar, guitarró and voice). This band has celebrated its 32nd anniversary this year after performing at festivals throughout Spain and other European countries, and releasing 7 records. More than 30 years remaining faithful to its founding idea of bringing traditional Valencian music closer to a sound more open to influences from the countries on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea and purely acoustic instrumentation.

For this occasion **Urbàlia Rurana en duo** brings a selection of its historical and recent repertoire in which you can listen to a sample as diverse as possible of the multiple styles performed by the band (*jota*, *fandango*, *seguidillas*, *saloma*, *habanera*, *mazurca*, *pasodoble* or *albas*, on the Valencian side, but also others of the area of Mediterranean Europe).

The **Urbàlia Rurana** group, when it appeared in 1990, had an impact on Valencian folk music, since at that time most of the bands that had emerged in the 70s and 80s had stopped performing, and yet, in the years immediately after Folk groups and festivals began to emerge in Valencia with a different vision and influenced by contact with musical experiences from abroad. The members of the Urbàlia Rurana group themselves helped promote various folk music gatherings and festivals in Valencia (*Cant al Ras* at *Massalfassar*, *Festacarrer* at *Ondara*), and are currently active collaborators with the *Xàbia* Folk festival. **Urbàlia Rurana** is currently a quintet made up of musicians from different regions (*la Ribera*, *la Marina*, *el Comtat* and *l'Horta de València*) that have several active shows: "*De tornada a les ribes*", a concert based on their album by the same name; "*Sarau a la plaça*", a festive and folk dance performance based on

Valencian music styles and those from the Mediterranean regions; and “Pastorets i pastoretes”, a repertoire of Valencian Christmas songs published in December of this past year.

In previous works the group has collaborated with other artists such as Primera Nota, from Barcelona (“*Folk Nou*”, 1999); Maurizio Martinotti, from Piedmont (“*Territoris amiables*”, 2002) and the Valencians La Romàntica del Saladar (“*La vespra i la festa*”).