

Augusta Read Thomas wins the first edition of the Moliner International Percussion Composition Award

The Moliner International Percussion Composition Award (MIPCA) announces that the American composer **Augusta Read Thomas** has been selected as the **winner of the first edition** of the award.

This international call, open to composers worldwide, received a total of **247 submissions**, consisting of **recent works written for percussion**, reflecting the growing global interest in the development and visibility of this repertoire.

The award, **endowed with €1,000**, was granted following an evaluation process carried out by the percussionist, composer, and artistic director of the competition, **David Moliner**, who assessed the works anonymously according to artistic, structural, and technical criteria.

In addition to the main prize, **48 outstanding works** were selected. Their composers will receive professional support, international visibility, and promotion opportunities. The selection of a single winner does not diminish the importance of the other awarded works: **one of the fundamental aims of MIPCA is to actively promote all selected composers**, fostering the dissemination of their music in professional, educational, and artistic contexts worldwide.

The Moliner International Percussion Composition Award was created with the mission of **placing percussion—and especially the marimba—at the center of the musical landscape**, at the same level of recognition and visibility as instruments such as the piano, violin, or cello. The project seeks to expand the repertoire, encourage new works, and strengthen the presence of percussion in concert halls, institutions, and international circuits.

This vision is closely connected to the artistic career of David Moliner, who has contributed to positioning the marimba on major international stages, performing in leading venues such as the **Berlin Philharmonic**, the **Elbphilharmonie**, and the **Musikverein**.

As part of the recognition, **Augusta Read Thomas will compose a new percussion concerto** for David Moliner. This commission represents a strong commitment to expanding the major solo repertoire for percussion and to fostering a direct artistic dialogue between composers and performers, reinforcing the international projection of the instrument.

David Moliner stated: *“Augusta Read Thomas brings extraordinary clarity of vision and expressive depth. Her music opens new artistic paths for percussion and embodies the spirit of this award.”*

Augusta said: *“Deeply humbled, grateful, and moved to receive The Moliner International Percussion Composition Award. Means the world to me, especially coming from a performer and composer as exceptional as David Moliner. I offer my hearty congratulations to all the other finalists.”*

Augusta Read Thomas (b. 1964, New York) is an internationally recognized American composer and Professor of Composition at the University of Chicago. She was the **longest-serving composer-in-residence at the Chicago Symphony Orchestra** and has created an extensive body of work performed by major orchestras, conductors, and ensembles worldwide. Her music is distinguished by its **expressive intensity, rich sonic color, and structural sophistication**, and has been acclaimed by both critics and leading artistic institutions. Thomas is also a member of the **American Academy of Arts and Letters** and has received numerous prestigious awards and commissions.

David Moliner (b. 1991, Cuenca, Spain) is a percussionist and composer. His music has been performed by orchestras and ensembles such as the **Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin**, the **Ensemble Intercontemporain**, the **SWR Vokalensemble**, and at the **Lucerne Festival**, among others. He has appeared as a soloist on major international stages including the **Philharmonie Berlin**, the **Musikverein Vienna**, the **Elbphilharmonie Hamburg**, and the **Philharmonie de Paris**.