

# WOMEN ON THE WAVES

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ENGLISH

Women have been present in radio ever since its beginnings in Catalonia 95 years ago and yet their decisive role has received scant recognition.

Women have made an effort to be present and remain in the various historical stages of radio that have occurred over these past years. They have struggled to obtain professional respect and their presence has helped to normalise working and social conditions and equate their work with that of their male colleagues.

All these reasons have led to a need to focus on the presence of women in the history of radio in Catalonia, because it is only in this way that we can compensate them for the neglect in which they have hitherto remained, thereby honouring historical truth and responding to their efforts with true democratic justice.

## 1. The origins of radio

Radio began under the Primo de Rivera dictatorship, a political situation that restricted rights and freedoms, enforced broadcasting in Spanish and impeded the development of news radio because of censorship. Radio gradually became a true mass medium that covered the historical fortunes of the country from 14 November 1924, when listening to the call sign of EAJ-1 Ràdio Barcelona became possible and with the launch of the radio broadcaster Ràdio Associació de Catalunya (RAC) during the Republic. Women were present in radio from the very beginnings, doing sound checks, reading ads and very soon presenting programmes as announcers, as well as working behind the scenes. The Francoist Repression silenced Catalan and ruined the careers of many of these new women radio broadcasters.

### 1.1. First voices and first listeners

Against a background of political repression and strict gender norms that relegated women to a secondary role in public life, the first women brave enough to look for work began to appear, placing themselves in front of a microphone to convert their efforts into a professional communication job. Radio began to emerge as a popular medium that was able to address women as they worked around the house in the 1930s. It transmitted messages that indicated the most appropriate behaviour for women to follow.

### 1.2. Radio magazines

The first magazine, *Radiosola*, appeared more than a year before Ràdio Barcelona's first broadcast and throughout this decade magazines dedicated to the phenomenon of radio provided audiences with information about programming, often bearing the name of the station, such as *Ràdio Catalana*, *Ràdio Barcelona* or *Catalunya Ràdio*, in the case of Ràdio Associació de Catalunya (RAC). Radio magazines with excellent print runs demonstrated the interest aroused by the phenomenon of radio and confirmed the popularity of this new invention.

### 1.3. Republican radio

The Republic brought with it the popularisation of radio, a medium that helped to modernise urban society while at the same time emerging as a device for promoting women. The voices of young women broadcasters from theatrical

and cultural groups presented programmes dedicated to women, who in turn became a passionate audience for this new invention.

With the uprising of the military rebels in 1936, Ràdio Barcelona and Ràdio Associació de Catalunya (RAC) came under the jurisdiction of the news service of the Government of Catalonia. RAC's loudspeakers on Rambla balconies began broadcasting the news to the public.

## 1.4 Silenced voices

The Republic lost the war and Franco's army entered Barcelona in January 1939. Several fascist soldiers heading up the Rambla heard RAC broadcasting through its loudspeakers and immediately stopped Rosalia Rovira and Francina Boris from continuing to announce. Its broadcasting from now on would be done in Spanish and the station's name was changed to Radio España en Barcelona, with many years having to pass before Catalan was once again heard on its wavelength. Political persecution towards Catalan language and culture extended to individuals who were purged if they were not considered to be sympathisers of the new regime.

### Maria Sabater

Barcelona, 1902-1975

An outgoing girl who studied at the Culture Institute and People's Library for Women, where she learned English, French and correspondence. This knowledge led her to joining the National Broadcasters Association as an executive secretary, from where Sabater was able to lend her voice to establishing proper sound controls and also reading the advertisements of companies that advertised over the airwaves.

### Ángeles Fernández García

Malagón, 1905 - Barcelona, 2000

She was the first woman to work as a sound technician in Spain. She joined the station when she was 22 years old on the recommendation of its director, Joaquín Sánchez Cordovés. She remained at Ràdio Barcelona in the post of broadcasting manager until her retirement in 1965.

### Maria Cinta Balagué

Barcelona, 1898-1985

Ràdio Barcelona launched a section entitled *Radiotelefonía femenina de modas y ciencia doméstica* in mid-February 1927. The voice presenting it was that of Señorita Salus, the pseudonym that concealed the identity of Maria Cinta Balagué. She was a permanent collaborator at the station and also worked as a public servant in the City Council, which recognised her as the first woman public servant of the Barcelona City Council. She died in Barcelona at the age of 87.

### Rosalia Rovira

Barcelona, 1903-1982

She studied theatre at the Catalan School of Dramatic Art and became the first actress of the Orfeó Gracienc. She passed the tests to join Ràdio Associació de Catalunya (RAC) and started work there on a children's programme that was broadcast in the afternoons. Once she learned the job of an announcer, she soon became the most popular and recognised voice of RAC.

### Mercè Carbonell

Barcelona, 1916-2006

She experienced the repression of the Franco regime against people who had worked in the field of radio. She studied under

the Montessori method and joined the station as an assistant announcer in 1937. After her release from prison, she underwent a purging process that lasted some two years, until Radio España lifted its sanction and rehired her. She then worked away from the microphone by managing the station's record library until 1953, when she stopped working to get married.

## 2. In search of a female audience

The relationship between radio and a female audience soon became clear and *Charlas femeninas* began to be produced only three days after its launch. Women were perhaps the main users of this invention and this trend targeted them as the receivers of commercial, ideological and political messages, as well as the most suitable gender instructions for each historical moment. Women radio broadcasters have presented women's programmes covering traditional subjects such as fashion, beauty, health and child-rearing. They have given voice to romantic counselling talkback radio and they have also presented news programmes and sections for women. Microphones have served to disseminate slogans and behaviour aimed at both the modern woman of the Republican era and the woman of Spain's Transition, as well as "the woman as God commands" during the years of the dictatorship.

### 2.1. Programming for women

The interest in connecting with women was expressed in various ways: requesting literary participation from listeners, programming sections for women and, during the Republican era, disseminating the country's female cultural figures. Women from the fields of culture and journalism were invited to give talks at Ràdio Associació de Catalunya (RAC) and Ràdio Barcelona launched a weekly programme by the Lyceum Club in January 1936. Programming from 1939 onwards began to be filled by religion, propaganda and entertainment in Spanish.

### 2.2. Radio under Franco

All radio broadcasters were under the supervision of the Falangist Movement and everything had to pass through the censor, who had to give the green light to scripts. The 1950s are considered to be the golden age of radio because certain formats became popular and successful, such as quiz shows, romantic counselling talkback radio, serials and sports broadcasts. This form of radio was the perfect accomplice of patriarchy, at least when it came to women, considering its dissemination of slogans aimed at constructing submissive femininity.

### 2.3 Counselling talkback shows and serials: the imagined community

The first "counselling talkback show", presented by Mercedes Fortuny (an invented character), was broadcast in 1930, thereby launching a programme format that would become consolidated at most radio stations. Radio in the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s brought together housewives in an imagined community to project themselves beyond the home. Sentimentality was fully encouraged on these counselling talkback shows and serials, displaying as they did models of submissive, sacrificed and suffering femininity, in which women gave up their freedom in exchange for a good name and to avoid any scandals in order to keep their families together.

## 2.4 Women's and feminist programmes

Radio programming featured various types of shows presented by women radio broadcasters during the 1970s and 1980s. The traditional afternoon programme aimed at housewives shared radio time with evening programmes aimed at male audiences, with women's voices recreating a cliché of sensuality while presenting music. At the same time, feminist radio of the 1970s and 1980s transmitted the struggle for more egalitarian laws that the women's movement was demanding in the streets.

#### Maria Escrihuela

Badalona, 1917-2017

She joined the station Ràdio Badalona at the end of the war and her job as an announcer there consisted of reading advertisements, reciting some verse and primarily handling the song dedication section. She was also the first woman announcer at Ràdio Andorra.

#### Mercedes Laspra

Asturias, 1915

She joined Radio España by taking advantage of the fact that the station was looking for voices that did not identify it with those from the former Ràdio Associació and she was entrusted with *Radio fémina* and *El consultorio de doña Montserrat Fortuny*. "I was in charge of reading the question as well as the reply prepared by Señora Fortuny, without adding anything of my own." Fortuny was in fact a fictional character and her replies were written by the sponsor's wife and daughter. Laspra presented this talkback show from 1939 to 1980.

#### Lidia Segués

Terrassa, 1933

She started out in radio at the age of 18 as an actress in the radio station's repertory company. "I was more of an actress than an announcer for the first few years." She presented various formats and was renowned for her ability to improvise, which was not at all common in the era of censored scripts. She did *Contrapunt*, a programme on *sardanas* (traditional Catalan dance) that was on air for 25 years (1968-1993). She continued to work at Ràdio Terrassa for 42 years and became the station's female voice.

#### Maruja Fernández

Cuba, 1925 - Barcelona, 2001

She played the role of Señora Francis when this legendary counselling talkback show moved from Ràdio Barcelona to Radio Peninsular in 1965. Originally from Cuba, she knew how to play the fictional character of Elena Francis by responding in a maternal yet energetic manner to the problems of her listeners. *Consultorio de Elena Francis* was broadcast for the last time on 31 January 1984.

#### Odette Pinto

Bordeaux, 1932 - Barcelona, 2010

She began at Ràdio Sabadell at a very young age and managed to maintain a faithful, dedicated audience for many years. *Las tardes de Odette* was broadcast on Radio España, Radio Juventud, Ràdio Miramar and Ràdio Salut, where it was renamed *Odette i tu* and contained similar content. It remained on air until 1997.

#### Isabel Gemio

Alburquerque, 1961

She was one of the first women to do night-time radio with *La chica de la radio*, which was broadcast from 1 am to 6 am. She

started at Radio Extremadura, then joined Ràdio Girona (as Francisca Garbí) and Ràdio Barcelona (as Isabel Garbí). The *La chica de la radio* programme made her famous and provided her with the necessary momentum to carve out a place for herself in the field of radio. She has also worked at Cadena Rato, Radio Nacional de España and Onda Cero.

### 3. In front of and behind the scenes

Women have played various roles in front of and behind the scenes of radio over these past 95 years. They first arrived as actresses, announcers, secretaries and technicians and very soon after as scriptwriters, creators of serial and stage play adaptations and also collaborators. Women radio broadcasters presented and edited programmes; women producers undertook a crucial job behind the scenes to incorporate interesting expert voices, and women journalists sought out the news and brought to the air radio's most precious commodity: the immediacy of information. The presence of women has been gradually conquering decision-making spaces and over the past few decades they can be found as managers and executives in radio stations.

#### 3.1. Announcers

A woman announcer has to know how to read the texts of others in a clear, understandable manner. This task was initially performed by actresses and singers, although many young girls soon became fascinated about working in this new invention. Women announcers were reduced to being merely a voice accompanying star male presenters during the long period of Franco's regime, even though the simple fact of working in a public field was already beginning to contradict the mandate of the regime, which wanted to free women from working to send them back home.

#### 3.2. Scriptwriters and editors

Women scriptwriters, serial writers and adapters of dramatic texts for radio began to emerge from the 1950s onwards. Women began to acquire a presence in radio stations by assuming various less visible yet equally necessary responsibilities, such as administrators, telephone operators or managers of the station's music library. The presence of women began to increase in all professional profiles.

#### 3.3. Editors

Editing a program is about deciding on its contents and tone, as well as participating in its presentation. During the Transition, several women announcers and journalists were in charge of presenting and directing entertainment programmes and sections, assuming more imaginative formulas and acting as editors in their own programmes. The magazines that provided information and entertainment came to play a major role in programming and they worked as journalists and announcers within this format.

#### 3.4. External collaborators

The figure of an external collaborator was common in radio and this was the case of Maria Cinta Balaguer, the first woman announcer in Spain. Radio stations generally agreed on remunerating a person who could contribute to the

programme with their knowledge in a certain field or even expresses on-air their opinion about a specific issue. The figure of a "tertuliana" (talk-show guest) has become common in recent years within this professional category.

#### 3.5. Radio producers

Radio production is a crucial, less visible task than announcing or presenting, but it requires identifying specific profiles and characters that make it easier to construct a programme, debate, discussion, interview, etc. Producing a programme is not simple and a producer must ensure that a specific person is willing to participate in a radio programme in the agreed format.

#### 3.6. Technicians and directors

Women have been working in sound control, a field that calls for major responsibility, from the very beginning. María Ángeles Fernández García became the first woman technician in Spain in 1927 and Maria Jesús Roman also shone in this field during the Franco regime. It is an area that requires retraining in order to adapt to various technological changes.

#### 3.7. On-air journalists

Radio journalism is not limited to news writing, but also fills other news spaces. Journalists take part in various radio formats, such as debates, live crosses from mobile units, interviews, thematic specials, etc., and their professionalism is evident. Women who studied journalism during the years of the Transition entered the news services to play a leading role.

#### 3.8. Managing municipal radio stations

Managing municipal stations is a task that involves the responsibility of communicating with councils according to the news line of each municipality. One of the distinguishing features of Catalan radio broadcasting in the field of municipalities is the presence of women journalists managing local radio stations. Many women managed municipal radio stations in the late 1980s and throughout the 1990s and this trend has continued until today.

#### 3.9. Format creators: podcasts

Podcasts are perfect for providing feedback on the exchange between those sending and those receiving the message because it is possible to access the content whenever you want. All stations have a podcast service now, but this format has also inspired some journalists to create a specific channel to disseminate their content, try out new stories and introduce the market to another way of doing radio.

##### **Antolina Boada**

Vacarisses, 1910 – Terrassa, 1997

She joined Ràdio Terrassa in 1932 and married a journalist at the beginning of the war, but he died at the front and her subsequent grief meant the loss of the son she was expecting. "Instead of staying at home, where I would have ended up becoming desperate, I decided to continue working in radio because I could distract myself while I was there." Boada ended up becoming a mainstay at the station, where she worked not only as an announcer, but also as sound control technician, head of the record library and assistant and head of broadcasting until 1976. She received the Silver Microphone Award from the station in 1963.



## Francina Boris

Girona, 1915-2013

Boris became the first woman announcer at Ràdio Girona when it started broadcasting. She dedicated her entire life to radio and was at Ràdio Associació de Catalunya when the fascists entered Barcelona, which led to her removal from the airwaves until 1942. She received awards, prizes and tributes and worked until she was 87 years old presenting a show about *sardanas* (traditional Catalan dance).

## María Dolores Tejado

Barcelona, 1926-2005

She passed an entrance exam among 280 candidates and joined Ràdio Barcelona in 1951. Tejado talked about its requirements in the magazine *Ondas*: "A knowledge of French and English, perfect Spanish diction, pronunciation in Spanish and Catalan, and a lovely radio voice." Recognition of Tejado's professionalism grew thanks to the programmes she presented, such as *La comarca nos visita*, until she won an Ondas Award for the best voiceover artist in Spain in 1965.

## María Matilde Almendros

Manresa, 1922 - Barcelona, 1995

She joined Radio Nacional as an announcer in 1954. She presented the programme *Fantasia* with Maruja Fernández, Federico Gallo and Jorge Arandes from 1964 and also presented *De España para los españoles*, a programme that was on air for 13 years and earned her an Ondas Award in 1969. She was the voice of *Lliçons de català* and inaugurated the broadcasts of Ràdio 4 in her mother tongue, presenting the station's *Temps obert* morning show with Enric Frigola. She also presented *La veu de la sardana* and *Paraula i pensament*.

## Cecília A. Màntua

Barcelona, 1905-1974

She worked as a journalist who specialised in film during the 1930s and began writing original scripts and adaptations for radio in 1936. Fifty of her radio scripts were broadcast by Ràdio Barcelona in 1953, as she explained in an interview for the magazine *Ondas*. She also wrote for the theatre, where she acquired great renown with her play *La Pepa maca*.

## Mari Carmen García Lecha

?, 1922 - Barcelona, 2016

She worked as an editor at Radio Nacional and scriptwriter for the station's *Teatro invisible*, for which she received an Ondas Award for scriptwriting in 1954. She was the Rome correspondent for Ràdio Barcelona in the 1960s.

## Natza Farré

Barcelona, 1972

She has worked in radio, television and print media. She began by collaborating with Ràdio Maricel in Sitges in 1993, but started professionally at Ràdio 4 in 1995. She joined SER in 1996 as a collaborator and became a scriptwriter for *L'hora del pati* and *Minoria absoluta* at RAC1 in 2000. She has been a scriptwriter and co-presenter at RAC1 for the comedy programme *La competència* since 2009.

## Montserrat Minobis

Figueres, 1942 - Barcelona, 2019

She began at Ràdio Popular de Figueres at the age of 19 and then worked at Radio España de Barcelona from 1974 to 1976 before moving to RNE's commercial radio station,

Radio Peninsular, and later to RNE and Ràdio 4. She knew how to adapt to the times of the Spanish Transition in order to suggest sections with new themes and carve out a place for herself in the world of radio. She presented all kinds of formats and was also the founder of the Association of Women Journalists of Catalonia, dean of the Association of Journalists (2001-2004) and director of Catalunya Ràdio (2004-2005).

## Adelina Castillejo

Barcelona, 1952

She presented the afternoon show *Adelina y sus cosas* on Ràdio Sabadell from a very young age. She passed through several stations, from Ràdio Sabadell to Radio España and then to Ràdio Miramar before joining Ràdio Barcelona at the end of the 1970s. It was there that she made such innovative programmes as *La respuesta* and *La radio al sol*. Shortly after the inauguration of Catalunya Ràdio in the 1980s, she contributed her experience to present the programmes *Adelina boulevard* and *La solució*, among others.

## Montserrat Roig

Barcelona, 1946-1991

A journalist and writer renowned for her reports, interviews and TV programmes, such as *Personatges*. She joined Ràdio Miramar as a contributor to the programme *Radioscope* in October 1972 and was responsible for preparing and reading on-air summaries of Catalan novels that she had previously selected. Shortly thereafter, she took over the direction of the radio programme *De bat a bat*, which included interviews with women authors at the time.

## Pilar Rahola

Barcelona, 1958

She presented *Vis a vis*, a programme of interviews with only men, at Ona Catalana from 2000 to 2003. Since 2007, she has been collaborating with the radio programme *Julia en la onda* at Onda Cero, with Júlia Otero, where she gives her opinion on various subjects, such as Catalan nationalism, women's rights and the Arab-Israeli conflict. She is also currently part of the panel on the talk show *El món a Rac1*.

## Dolors Busquets

Barcelona, 1936

She began as an actress at Ràdio Barcelona and later starred in the first Catalan-language radio soap opera on Radio Nacional: *Entre dos silencis*. She was in charge of a poetry section at Radio Cadena in the early 1980s. She worked as a producer and announcer at Cadena 13 from 1983 to 1987 and was an announcer and producer for Catalunya Música from 1987 until her retirement. "I managed to become a good producer because I had a list of over 300 contacts when I left Catalunya Música," she claims.

## May Revilla

Barcelona, 1954

A journalist with extensive experience as a producer who began by working on programmes for RNE. She collaborated with Fernando Rodríguez Madero on the programme *Protagonistas Catalunya* at Onda Cero. She participated in *Les tardes amb Elisenda Roca* at COM Ràdio, was part of the team of the programme *Els matins*, with Josep Cuní, at Ona Catalana and helped to create the programme *Accents*, with Neus Bonet. She later worked at Catalunya Ràdio until her retirement.

## María Jesús Román

Almería, 1943

She began as a sound technician at a very young age at Radio Juventud and became a role model for many young girls interested in learning the technique. She worked for forty-two years at the public stations of Radio Cadena and Radio Nacional, from which she left after a provisional downsizing plan (ERE by its Spanish acronym).

## Esther Bages

Barcelona, 1965

She joined Radio Cadena Española in 1983 and sat for an entrance exam at RNE before working for two years in Tarragona. She attended several digital technology courses in 1995 and put these into practice in 1998, given that RNE in Barcelona was a pilot digital format station alongside that of its station in Toledo. Digitally broadcast programmes have since then been changing and greatly simplifying technical level functions. According to Bages: "The artistic element of radio editing has been lost and is now less creative."

## Montserrat Melià

Tarragona, 1958

A journalist who began at Cadena 13, where she worked as a news editor. She soon moved to RNE to do the news and has developed her career there. She was head of news from 2006 to 2008 and director of RNE-Catalunya and Ràdio 4 from 2008 to 2011.

## Elisenda Roca

Barcelona, 1963

She started working in radio before studying journalism at UAB. She worked as a producer at Radio Juventud and then edited and presented its news programme. She presented several programmes on Antena 3 and also worked at Ràdio Salut, where she hosted *Ràdio per un dia* with Jordi González, and at COM Ràdio, where she presented *Les tardes amb Elisenda Roca* and *Dies de ràdio*. She currently collaborates in various media as a talk show panellist and analyst. She has received various awards, highlighted by the Silver Microphone from Òmnium Cultural.

## Paloma Soler

Madrid, 1958

She worked as a producer for Luis del Olmo's program at RNE and was also at Ràdio Barcelona and Ràdio Miramar. She was director of Ràdio Ciutat de Badalona in 1983. As she explains: "They wanted someone to professionalise the station, to turn a simple municipal radio station into a radio company." Soler met the challenge by designing "a reasonable technical structure and new programming". But after three years, she moved on to other professional positions.

## Marga Solé

El Prat de Llobregat, 1947

She began working as a journalist in various print, radio and television media and joined the staff of Ràdio L'Hospitalet as head of news in 1985. She was appointed director in 1988 and held this post until 1995.

## Olga Ruiz

Barcelona, 1975

Olga Ruiz and her team of radio operators launched *Extrarradio* in 2012, a radio project with a more human touch offering quality product. Starting as a show with various thematic sections, they turned it into a podcast that audiences were

able to download. Prisa became interested in the project in 2017, so they set up Podium and set aside *Extrarradio*. They have received an Ondas for radio innovation and an Innovation Award from the Radio Academy. She currently directs and presents *Realpolitik* every evening on Ràdio 4.

## Carme Pollina

Tàrrrega-Cervera, 1971

InOutRadio is a podcast station aimed at lesbian women. Carme Pollina and Ana Satchi are at the forefront of this project, but they also have the support of collaborators such as Ajo Casals. They work to create an innovative, interactive radio in terms of both format and the programmes they produce. The station can be heard in streaming and podcast format on the [inoutradio.com](http://inoutradio.com) website.

## 4. The music box

Music is an intrinsic part of radio and broadcasts were initially live with orchestras and singers from studios or concert halls. Music continued to be featured on all stations as playback and recording systems were perfected, thereby defining radio as a means of entertainment. Requested and dedicated records have filled many hours of programming and women announcers have had a large presence accompanying audiences. Under new formats such as radio formulas since the 1960s, stations began programming various styles of music and women radio broadcasters specialising in presenting music had to make great efforts to gain recognition.

### 4.1. Music and words

Music broadcasts became spaces presented by women announcers, actresses and singers as improvements were made, combining their work of announcing with that of reciting a poem or performing a song. Radio acquired momentum with the onset of the Republic and many towns launched their own local radio station. The Republic also helped female voices to emerge, developing their work as announcers and especially presenting requested or dedicated records.

### 4.2. The most popular radio

Music programmes were a hit that connected with younger audiences. The most innovative radio stations specialised in broadcasting different types of music, which often occurred through radio formula formats. Women announcers and presenters of this type of format have had to learn broadcasting desk control since the 1970s in order to play pieces of music on the air while at the same time speaking into the microphone, just like in the 1930s and 1940s. Women professionals have had to retrain from the analogue to the digital system and they have not found it easy to gain recognition, given that a man's voice has been considered a better fit when it comes to the figure of a DJ.

### 4.3. Music in Catalan

The licence for Ràdio Associació de Catalunya (RAC) was transferred to its former partners at the end of the 1982. The Government of Catalonia signed an agreement with RAC and it began programming as Ràdio Associació de Catalunya, RAC105, on 2 April 1984, sharing its studios with Catalunya Ràdio and also marking the launch of the very first radio formula music station in Catalan. Radio formula music programming is today one of the most successful examples of radio specialisation.

## **Carme Espona**

Torelló, 1919-2010

She discovered her interest in music while she was studying at the Culture Institute and People's Library for Women. She learned piano and solfeggio and received language training to be able to sing opera. She thus became a soprano, but at Ràdio Associació she was in charge of preparing the highly detailed record files. She also presented the broadcasts to the public. At the end of the war, she was arrested and spent a night in prison.

## **Maria Tera**

Almacelles, 1912 – Barcelona, 2015

The sisters Maria and Aurora were not able to resist the call made by Ràdio Lleida looking for announcers when they were still at school. They applied and were selected. Aurora became an announcer and pianist and Maria introduced the solo singers who performed at the station. Aurora left the station in 1935 and Maria became the main announcer until a bomb silenced the radio. Franco's army conquered Lleida shortly thereafter. The family left the city and moved in to the offices of Ràdio Girona, where they remained until 1939.

## **Amàlia Reixach**

Girona, 1920-2002

Radio España de Girona was inaugurated in November 1940 and became part of the Radio España de Barcelona network. Joan Viñas, as secretary of Propaganda of the Falange, hired Amàlia Reixach, who was born in Girona and had lived in Berlin since the age of seven. She spoke Spanish without a Catalan accent and this was very important at the time for working in radio. She worked as a news announcer and presenting records until 1942.

## **Isabel Freixinet**

Reus, 1921

She came to radio from the amateur theatre group of Reus and soon became one of the most popular woman radio announcers during the 1950s and 1960s. She actively participated in night-time broadcasts as part of Ràdio Reus' repertory company and made programmes such as *El disco solicitado* and *Felicitaciones musicales*.

## **Françoise Caüet**

Montclar (France), 1948

In the early 1970s, this woman pioneer in editing and presenting music shows presented her selection during Josep Pallardó's programme, *Al mil por mil*. Caüet continued with her sensual style to communicate music culture at other stations, such as Ràdio Nacional (*A buenas horas* in the 1980s) and Ràdio Barcelona.

## **Carmen Sánchez**

Zaragoza, 1970

The first woman music presenter to hold a managerial post at Cadena SER and Prisa Radio, as regional director of music stations in Catalonia and Aragon. She began at the age of 20 in Lleida with Los 40 Principales. The fact that she likes technique has made it easier for her to carve out a name for herself as a broadcasting desk control announcer in a field of radio that viewed women music announcers as not having as much charisma as men. Sánchez has also worked in various other radio stations, such as Cadena Dial, M80, Mxima FM and Radiolé.

## **Rosa Badia**

Barcelona, 1957

She worked at Cadena Dial and Los40 from 1996 to 1999, when she presented *La cançó del dial a la primera* and *Qué hace un disco como tú en una radio como esta*. She began at Ràdio Manresa, but has been linked to Ràdio Barcelona since 1978 and continues working there today. She has participated in many programmes, both in Spanish and Catalan, and received the City of Barcelona Award for directing and presenting the programme *Tot és comèdia*, as well as a Special Mention Ondas Award for *Cap nen sense joguina*.

## **Neus González**

Lleida, 1986

She began at Ràdio Bellpuig at the age of 16 and then joined Ràdio Ponent and Ràdio Segre while completing her audiovisual communication course in Lleida. She worked at M80 until 2015, when she joined Los40 as an announcer and DJ, where she currently presents a daily programme and is a digital reporter. She has always worked as a desk control announcer, but now believes that digital radio has opened up a range of other formats to explore.

## **Esther Duran**

Barcelona, 1962

She started working at RAC105 in 1985 doing radio formula and presenting music programmes until 1998, when she continued her professional career at RAC1. She worked at Ona Música from 2004 to 2006 and returned to iCAT FM in 2006 to become an announcer at the station until 2015.

## **Blanca Busquets**

Barcelona, 1961

She worked at RAC105 from 1986 to 1987 and then went to Catalunya Música and finally Catalunya Ràdio. When she joined this mainstream radio station, she presented *Carta de clàssics*, among other music programmes. She is currently the scriptwriter of the programme *El divan*.

## **Consol Sáenz**

Buenos Aires, 1965

She began at RNE in 1986 and directed and presented the music programme *La taverna del llop* on Ràdio-4 from 1992 to 2001, as well as participating in various culture programmes, such as *Molt lluny de Manhattan* and *Nautilus*. She later edited and presented *Pachamama* and *Músiques clandestines*. She currently presents *Territori clandestí* on Ràdio 4 and *El gran quilombo* on Ràdio 3.

## **Ajo Casals**

Terrassa, 1966

She began at the music station Flaixbac FM in 1991. She later moved to other stations, such as Ràdio Olot, Ràdio Valira and Cadena 100, until arriving at the Catalan Broadcasting Corporation's music station, iCAT FM, where she presents the playlist selected by its music department from 10am to 12pm. Casals has retrained herself in ICT and is currently in charge of iCAT's website and social media.

## **Victòria Palma**

Figueres, 1965

Trained in musicology at the Conservatory of Figueres, she joined Catalunya Música at the age of 25 and passed through various sections and presented various programmes. She

won a RAC Award for her programme *Dies de música* in 2005, among other prizes. The Association of Women Journalists also presented her with an award in 2011 for her show *Femení i singulars*.

## 5. Radio entertainment

In order to achieve one of radio's objectives, which is to entertain and accompany audiences, programming included on-air dramas, competitions, crime series, magazines, humour... and it also opened its programmes to the public, often in the name of charity. Lighter, more fun content during the times of the Franco dictatorship attempted to mask the lack of information and freedom of expression, but it also allowed actresses and women announcers and presenters to bring their talents and communication skills into play. Radio formats have changed over the years, some have been transformed while others still remain viable and women play a major role in all of these, even in such male-oriented spaces as sport.

### 5.1. Listening to theatre

Actresses trying their luck in the new medium were welcomed because they provided clear diction and good voices, read scripts correctly, recited poetry and performed plays. Most radio stations formed repertory companies, the most important of these comprising professionals and others with amateurs. Adaptations of plays or original scripts, such as crime series, were performed with great success. Radio drama began to decline at the end of the 1960s as the result of TV and programming reorganisation, which was done from Madrid and franchised throughout Spain.

### 5.2. Live audience shows, competitions and radio

Radio stations opened their studios to make programmes for the public, converting radio into a show based around charity programmes, which were filled with competitions and included performances by women singers and rhapsodists. Entertainment programming in all three formats filled the wavelength with inconsequential, dull shows from the 1950s onwards, unquestioning of the state of the country thanks to the censorship already internalised by everyone involved in radio and journalism, as they meekly followed the rules.

### 5.3. The voices of sport

Sport and radio have formed a successful tandem almost from the outset. Just as concerts and plays were broadcast live, it was not long before sound teams and professionals travelled to stadiums to broadcast all the action from matches. The first football broadcast was made by Joaquim Ventalló in 1928. Women sports journalists, on the other hand, have taken a lot longer to gain a foothold in this field, given that it has been considered a professional, male-oriented domain geared towards male audiences.

#### Rosa Cotó

Barcelona, 1892 - ?, ?

She was already on stage as an actress at the age of 16 as part of Enric Giménez's company, where she became its leading actress. She began collaborating in radio while working at Teatre Romea, but soon combined both activities. Her radio work as an actress and presenter led her to

achieving considerable success since 1928. She played the character of Maria Rosa, from Guimerà, and in 1931 presented the cultural programme *Activitats*, written by Adrià Gual. She was purged by the Franco regime after the war and was fired in 1940.

#### Carmen Martínez Illescas

Barcelona, 1889-1973

She dedicated herself to the theatre and began to collaborate as an actress in Ràdio Barcelona's repertory company in 1928 after she had already established herself as an actress, as well as at Ràdio Associació. She developed a career as an announcer and actress at Ràdio Barcelona, which hired her in 1932, and she presented *Radio fèmina*, a task that she continued after the war, given that she was not purged by the Franco regime. She worked in radio until her retirement at the age of 80 and received a Medal of Merit at Work in 1969.

#### Encarna Sánchez

Barcelona, 1926-2011

She began her career in the Spanish Theatre Company at the age of 15 until she received a call from the repertory company at Ràdio Barcelona. She formed an artistic couple with Isidro Sola in the series *Taxi-Key*, as well as in others works such as *La vida es sueño*, *Hamlet*, *Don Juan Tenorio* and many more, on both radio and stage. She received an Ondas Award as Best Radio Theatre Actress in 1954 and was awarded the National Radio Actress Prize in 1967.

#### Núria Cugat

Barcelona, 1938-2019

She studied at the Theatre Institute of Barcelona and joined Radio España in 1955 as an announcer, but she soon began to shine as an actress in series and adaptations of plays, such as *En busca del culpable*. She joined the station's repertory company along with her professional and personal partner, Luis Posada, whom she married in 1960.

#### Enriqueta Teixidó

Barcelona, 1917-2002

She joined Ràdio Barcelona in 1939 and was able to combine her talents there as an actress, pianist and singer. She was the announcer voice of many shows, such as *Recortes de prensa*. Proof of her success was provided by the magazine *Ondas*, which featured her on several front covers in the 1950s. Teixidó was the first Spanish woman announcer to participate in the auditions held at the Fira de Barcelona in 1948 to launch television.

#### Pilar Montero

Barcelona, 1921-2015

Despite coming from a family dedicated to the theatre, this "serenely sympathetic" announcer, according to the magazine *Ondas*, arrived on the airwaves as a secretary at Ràdio Barcelona. She presented several programmes and worked for five hours a day at the radio station. She became famous by accompanying Enric Casademont and the adventures of his character Pau Pi. Although they ended up moving from Ràdio Barcelona to Radio España de Barcelona, they continued with Paulinet's show (which was the new name of Pau Pi, now played by Martí Galindo).

#### Isabel Bosch

Barcelona, 1956

A sports journalism pioneer in Catalonia. In 1978, she was the first woman to be part of a football broadcasting team, *Futbol*



*en català*, at Ràdio Barcelona, with Àlex Botines, José María García and Joaquim Maria Puyal, among others. The following year, 1979, she was a correspondent for Cadena SER. She joined Televisió de Catalunya in its infancy and is currently in charge of Televisió de Catalunya's External Relations as part of the Executive Board of TV3.

### **Marga Lluch**

Barcelona, 1962

She has covered four Olympic Games for RNE as a sports writer as well as other international competitions, such as the World Swimming Championships, Gymnastics World Cup, Davis Cup or cycling races in stages, such as Vuelta a España or Giro d'Italia. She also directed and presented the daily program *Més que esport* on Ràdio 4 and, displaying another professional facet, she presented the programme *L'hora clàssica* on Sundays.

## **6. News on the waves**

Radio is an ideal medium for serving the needs of citizens and this attribute has made it the object of censorship by authoritarian regimes. Primo de Rivera enforced broadcasting in Spanish and restricted its content. A parenthesis of freedom with the Republic followed before extremely strict censorship was established with the dictatorship of General Franco on the what, how and who of communication. Two moments marked the rise of news radio. The first was at the beginning of the 1930s, during the Republic, and the second was during the Transition, when Radio Nacional lost its news monopoly in 1977 and women journalists entered the newsroom. In both cases, a democratic society is the political situation that favours news.

### **6.1. The spoken word newspaper**

Ràdio Barcelona offered the first news programme, *La Palabra*, towards the latter part of the 1930s. It was a thirty-minute show that presented the most important news from Barcelona and Madrid. Radio helped to inform people who had no access to reading newspapers and opened up spaces for political understanding and participation, although in the case of women it could both encourage discourses of freedom and culture and reproduce the most antiquated values of femininity.

### **6.2. Information during late Francoism**

The Franco regime aimed to maintain control of information at the beginning of the 1970s, but pressure from media groups to break the monopoly of Radio Nacional de España (RNE) and the desire of citizens to keep abreast of the times led to some cracks appearing for news to circulate. Catalan had been struggling to reach the airwaves for many years and it was not until the Transition that two stations broadcast their entire programming in Catalan: Ràdio Olot and Ràdio 4.

### **6.3. Radio during the Transition**

The news monopoly of Radio Nacional de España (RNE) ended on 6 October 1977 and other formats began to emerge. Radio at this time would be defined by news and journalism that gave a voice to the people during the turbulent times of the Transition years. Women made their way professionally, although the line that delimits and separates radio journalism from radio broadcasting was between programmes and entertainment, on the one hand, and news services, on the other.

## **6.4 Leading radio stations in Catalan**

Catalunya Ràdio began broadcasting as Catalonia's national radio station in 1983. Its studios in Diagonal were opened the following year and these also housed the facilities of Ràdio Associació de Catalunya (RAC). Catalunya Ràdio had already opened a station in Tarragona by early 1988 and Girona and Lleida would follow soon after. The station has been consolidating and increasing its audience figures until today, when RAC1 is competing with it for leadership. Launched by Grupo Godó in 2000, RAC1 is a mainstream commercial radio broadcaster.

### **Mari Carme Nicolau**

Barcelona, 1901-1990

A journalist who wrote for *La Dona Catalana* since 1926 and came from Ràdio Associació de Catalunya. In 1932, she joined the team of *La palabra* at Ràdio Barcelona and hosted *Radio fémina*, a programme aimed at women as part of the news department, which she Catalanised as *La paraula* from 1934. After the war, in 1947, she was admitted again as an administrator at Ràdio Barcelona, where she retired as a copywriter. She won a scriptwriting award in 1952 together with fellow journalist Maria Teresa Gibert.

### **Maricruz Hernández**

Madrid, 1933

Maricruz Hernández's programme *Siete días al día* presented a summary of news from the week. As a journalist, she worked for *Tele/eXprés* as section chief (1968-70) and editor-in-chief (1970-72). She joined Ràdio Barcelona in 1972 as editor-in-chief and directed the magazine *Ondas* for two years, between 1973 and 1975, while combining this with her radio work. She moved to Radio Madrid, part of Cadena SER, in 1978.

### **Núria Ribó**

Barcelona, 1949

She began her career at Ràdio Barcelona for the Catalan-language news bulletin *Notícies a dos quarts*. The journalists Marisol Castillo and Ana Pena, who worked in the news, were also writers there. From 1984 to 1985, she worked for the show *La vida es una tómbola* on Ràdio Miramar. After a time as a TVE correspondent in 1997, she returned to radio to collaborate and participate in various sections at Ràdio 4, RNE, RAC1, Ràdio Barcelona and Catalunya Ràdio. She currently takes part in various talk shows.

### **Gaditos Farjas**

Almería, 1955

She made her debut at the age of 17 as an amateur actress in a radio soap opera on Ràdio Olot and was asked to become an announcer. She presented the show *En sintonia* from 1973 to 1976 and presented a section in the breakfast show of the time in 1978. She then moved to the news and also presented a women's programme.

### **Anna Comas**

Barcelona, 1947

After she passed an entrance exam for RNE in 1971, she began working in the news for Radio Exterior in Madrid. She moved to Ràdio 4 in Barcelona seven years later, when she developed her journalistic career in the field of political and local news as coordinator and head of its news services.

**Cristina Ferrer**  
Reus, 1957

She was a young graduate when Josep Maria Martí confided in her to present the culture section of the news services at Ràdio Reus. The station hired her in 1978 to do general AM radio news. She was head of news at Ràdio Reus, but left for Catalunya Ràdio to become one of its founding professionals and became programming head there between 1992 and 1995.

**Marta Puértolas**  
Barcelona, 1958

She began working for Luis del Olmo's programme *Protagonists* first at RNE and, from 1987, at COPE, where she was in charge of coordination and scripts and directed a section. She later went to Ràdio Miramar, where in 1987 she directed and presented a cultural news programme about Barcelona in 1988, *Por fin solos o la radio prohibida*, and a breakfast show in 1989. She joined Cadena Rato-Onda Cero Radio in that same year to direct and present a morning show. She created a section on labour issues at Catalunya Ràdio in 1993.

**Mercè Remolí**  
Barcelona, 1953

Mercè Remolí is a journalist whose long career began in 1974 on Luis del Olmo's programme at Radio Peninsular, making live connections with Mercedes Milà from the mobile unit. She presented a cultural programme on Ràdio Barcelona in 1978 and returned to RNE in 1989 to host a nationwide political panel talk show called *Las cosas como son*. She has combined radio with television by making programmes and news shows.

**Eva Algarra**  
Barcelona, 1956-1999

She began at RNE in Catalonia for the Catalan-language broadcasts that were produced from TVE in Catalonia. She joined Ràdio 4 in 1976 and became part of its news services, remaining there until 1983, when she took over the news services at Catalunya Ràdio, demonstrating the effectiveness of the news service of this newly created public radio station.

**Neus Bonet**  
Barcelona, 1959

Having lived in Reus since she was four years old, she began at Ràdio Reus and Ràdio Salou doing a music programme. She has been in charge of news sections and programmes throughout her career at Cadena 13, Ona Catalana and Catalunya Ràdio. She currently directs the weekend news services and was dean of the Catalan Association of Journalists until 2019.

**Núria Riquelme**  
Girona, 1970

Journalist Núria Riquelme's professional career began at Ràdio Olot in 1992. She then moved to SER's Ràdio Girona and was at Ona Girona from 1999 before joining Ona Catalana, where she presented several programmes from 2000 to 2007. Riquelme worked at RAC1 from 2007 to 2016, when she directed the morning news and presented the programme *El món a RAC1* during the summer, replacing Jordi Basté.

**Mònica Fulquet**  
Barcelona, 1970

Mònica Fulquet started in 1989 at Cadena 13, where she remained in its newsroom until 1992. She joined Catalunya Ràdio in 1992 and worked there on its various news bulletins

and services. She was part of the team that designed the news structure at RAC1, where she is currently the editor of the 14/15 news programme.

## 7. Women communicators today

Women's voices have been present on the radio as announcers or actresses since its beginnings. But women journalists did not become involved until the Transition, when they entered the newsrooms of public and private radio stations to acquire professional status. Now that radio shows have sections devoted to news, women journalists and communicators have made this format (traditionally led by men) their own and attracted audiences, credibility and public esteem. After having travelled a long way, women radio communicators are now present in all stations and territories, producing, scripting, presenting and directing all manner of thematic areas, from sports to music, from news to entertainment and from technology to culture, as part of debates, discussions, competitions and interviews.

**Àngels Barceló**  
Barcelona, 1963

She began as a news editor at Catalunya Ràdio in 1983. She joined SER in 2005 after a long period in television and presented *A viuir que son dos días* for three years there. She later directed and presented *Hora 25* at the same station, but this time from Madrid, replacing the late Carlos Llamas. She currently presents *Hoy por hoy*, the leading morning show on SER.

**Mònica Terribas**  
Barcelona, 1968

She began at Cadena 13 in 1986 doing news programmes and joined Catalunya Ràdio in 2013 to direct and present *El matí de Catalunya Ràdio* after a long period of television. Mònica Terribas claims: "It was exciting for me to join Catalunya Ràdio," and also states: "I don't care about the medium, what matters to me is doing journalism." She hosted the most important morning show on public radio for seven seasons.

**Gemma Nierga**  
Girona, 1965

She made her debut at Ràdio Vilassar de Dalt and joined Cadena 13 in 1985 and then Ràdio Barcelona in 1989. After 28 years of leading such emblematic programmes on SER as *Hablar por hablar* or *La ventana*, she embarked on several radio and television projects. She currently participates in *Els matins de Ràdio 4* with an interview section entitled *Cafè d'idees*. She won an Ondas Award for her career in 2007, among others.

**Sílvia Cópulo**  
Mataró, 1958

She began at Ràdio Mataró and has worked at various other stations, including Catalunya Ràdio, where she presented *Fil directe*. Cópulo's long career has always combined television and radio and is highlighted by her 13-year stint at COM Ràdio. After this time, she returned to Catalunya Ràdio in 2013 to take charge of the programme *El secret*. She currently directs and presents *El divan*.

**Julia Otero**  
Monforte de Lemos, 1959

She began at Ràdio Sabadell at the age of 17 and then joined Ràdio Miramar, where she remained for seven years. After

a successful period on television, Onda Cero contacted her to take charge of their evening timeslot. "They didn't know that I had already been working in radio for 10 years," says Otero, who was a huge hit with her evening show. The station moved her to the afternoon and she remained there for eight years as audience leader. Nonetheless, she was fired in 1999. She returned to television and from there went to Punto Radio. She now directs and presents *Julia en la onda* on Onda Cero and has been doing so since 2007.

### **Pepa Fernández**

Cervera, 1965

She initially began at Ràdio Cervera, part of Cadena 13, before moving to Catalunya Ràdio and later Cadena Nova, where she was fired three weeks before giving birth. "They told me they weren't renewing my contract and we would talk about it later, but that time never came." She signed with Ràdio 4 and RNE some time later and presented *No es un día cualquiera* for 20 years. She currently presents the morning show *De Pe a Pa*.

### **Carla Turró**

Barcelona, 1986

She studied law at UAB and journalism at UPF. She joined SER as an intern in its newsroom in 2010 and worked as a producer for *El balcó* and the news services for two seasons. She has been presenting and directing the afternoon programme *El balcó* on Ràdio Barcelona since 2014.

### **Núria Ferré**

Barcelona, 1968

She has worked for many stations ever since she joined the newsroom of Cadena 13 in 1990, including Catalunya Ràdio and RAC1, the latter of which she was a founding member. She currently presents *La tarda de Barcelona* from 5.30pm to 7.30pm on Betevé Ràdio.

### **Agnès Marquès**

Palma, 1979

She collaborated with Ràdio Llaveneres and Ràdio Estel while still a student and has professionally worked at COM, Catalunya Ràdio, Ràdio 4 and also presents the news on TV3. Since 2017, she has been hosting *No ho sé* on RAC1 every evening from 8.30pm to 10.30pm.

### **Mariola Dinarès**

Matadepera, 1971

She began at the radio station in Matadepera in 1992, but soon after joined stations in various locations, such as Flaix FM or Ràdio 4. She specialises in social media and has been presenting the technology information programme *Popap* at Catalunya Ràdio since 2016.

### **Carmen Juan**

Barcelona, 1961

She was a news editor at Ràdio Miramar and then worked on several programmes, such as *Radio Cadena al despertar* and *Lo que hay que oír*, and at different stations, such as Radio Cadena Española and Ràdio Barcelona. She has been assistant director of *Julia en la onda* on Onda Cero since 2007.

### **Raquel Garcia**

Sabadell, 1978

She began at Onda Rambla in 1998. She has combined radio and TV work but has been at Ràdio Sabadell since 2016 and currently directs and presents its daily show *Al matí*.

### **Maricel Benabarre**

Barcelona, 1968

She began working at Ràdio Balaguer and then her professional journey led her through several media and she is now currently editor of news services, editing the morning live connections of *Hoy por hoy* in the counties of Lleida, as well as the programme *Hora L* of Ràdio Lleida. She also presents the daily programme *Soroll*.

### **Griselda Pastor**

Tarragona, 1961

She began her professional career at Ràdio Reus and as a correspondent in Tarragona for Agencia EFE. Between 1990 and 1998, she was in charge of political news at Cadena SER's station in Catalonia, on Ràdio Barcelona, which allowed her to train in European issues. Since 1998, she has been the EU correspondent in Brussels for Cadena SER.

### **Teresa Ortega**

Tarragona, 1967

Coming from RNE, where she started working in its news services, she joined the municipal radio station Tarragona Ràdio in 1996 and leads the newsroom there. She is part of the team that broadcasts Nàstic's football matches and also commentates the *castellers* human castle competitions, among others.

### **Montse Candàliga**

Òdena, 1962

She began at Ràdio Manresa as a music announcer and has been working for Ràdio Igualada since 1995, involved in editing, producing and directing a variety of programmes. She currently hosts the daily music programme *Estació central* from 10am to 12pm.

### **Neus Asin**

Castellví de Rosanes, 1979

After studying journalism, she joined Ràdio Sant Joan les Fonts (Garrotxa) in 1997 to do the weekend news. The following year, she started at Ràdio Olot with the programme *Carnet jove* and was one of the station's hosts for a couple of years. She currently presents and produces the daily programme *El despertador*, with Joel Tallant and Pere Farjas, and has become the deputy manager of the station

### **Núria Mora**

Malgrat de Mar, 1967

She arrived in Tortosa in 1991 to work as a news editor at Onda Cero Radio, a job she continued until 1995, when she was appointed head of press at Tortosa City Council. Since 1999, she has been managing Ràdio Tortosa, where she presents programmes such as *Tortosa avui*, as well as news and other special programmes such as *La Parada*. She has been hosting the morning show *La punta del diamant* since the 2010-2011 season.

### **Pilar Sampietro**

Barcelona, 1962

Her beginnings were linked to free radio, but since 1983 she has been working at RNE, where she has presented cultural programmes such as *Molt lluny de Manhattan* or *Nautilus*. She coordinated RNE's news culture section in Catalonia between 1997 and 2007 and was programme manager between 2007 and 2008. She currently specialises in ecology and presents *Via verda* on Ràdio 4 and *Mediterráneo* on Ràdio 3.

**Laura Rosel**  
Sabadell, 1980

She was a news editor at Ràdio Sabadell in 2003. From 2007 to 2015, she worked at RAC1 and, after appearing on television on 8TV's *8aldia* programme and TV3's *FAQS*, she presented the news programme *Catalunya nit* with Kilian Sebrà at Catalunya Ràdio, where she chaired the current affairs panel. She is currently the director and presenter of *El matí de Catalunya Ràdio*.

**Nati Adell**  
Sabadell, 1970

She began by directing and presenting the morning show *El Vallès hoy por hoy* at Ràdio Terrassa SER-Vallès in 1995 before joining Catalunya Ràdio in 1997 as a news editor. From 2012 to 2013, she was deputy director of *El matí de Catalunya Ràdio* during the summer. She then directed and presented the programme *Economia i empresa* at Catalunya Informació for five seasons. She is currently the correspondent for Central Catalonia.

**Xantal Llavina**  
Barcelona, 1975

She joined Catalunya Ràdio in 2003 and returned there in 2017 after passing through several other stations, such as Punto Radio, RAC1 and Ràdio 4. Since then, she has been presenting *Revolució, 4.0* at Catalunya Ràdio, a programme on technology applied to business projects for which she won the ICT Communication and Dissemination Award 2019.

**Sílvia Tarragona**  
Barcelona, 1967

She joined Ràdio Antena Musical d'Horta, Ràdio Sants Canal Musical and RKOR de Granollers in 1987. She then passed through several stations, such as RAC105, in 1989, and Catalunya Ràdio, between 1989 and 1997, where she developed various types of programmes. She currently hosts the daily afternoon show *De boca a orel·la* at RNE and has been doing so since 2000.

**Marta Romagosa**  
Cornellà de Llobregat, 1967

She began at the radio station in Cornellà in 1983 and joined Catalunya Ràdio in 1990, currently editing the 24-hour news channel at Catalunya Informació. Linked to news services, she has also hosted several programmes and received the Ràdio Associació de Catalunya Award for Best Radio Professional in 2011.

**Rosa Quitllet**  
Cornellà de Llobregat, 1964

She started at Ràdio Cornellà and then moved to Ràdio Barcelona in 1987. She has been a journalist at RNE since 1990 and currently edits RNE Catalunya's weekend news services.

**Carmina Malagarriga**  
Barcelona, 1964

She has been a presenter and journalist at Catalunya Música since it was launched in May 1987 and has also presented programmes at Catalunya Ràdio. Today, she continues to host such renowned programmes as *Qui té por del segle XX?*, *Temptats per la música* and *Trobades en el temps* for the Corporació's classical music station.

**Empar Moliner**  
Santa Eulàlia de Ronçana, 1966

She began in the news services at COM Ràdio, where she presented the programme *Els migdies* in 1988. She is currently in charge of the section *La dèria de l'Empar* in Catalunya Ràdio's midday news programme *Catalunya migdia*.

**Marta Pujantell**  
La Seu d'Urgell, 1973

She began collaborating at the radio station in La Seu d'Urgell in 1991 immediately after she had just commenced her university studies. She has been the director of the municipal radio station of La Seu d'Urgell, RàdioSeu, since 1998. Some of the many programmes in which she has participated include the particularly outstanding *Arxiu obert*, between 2000 and 2010, a sound journey through the villages of the Pyrenees.

**Elisenda Carod**  
Barcelona, 1981

She made her debut at Santa Coloma Ràdio in 1996 and ended up at Grup Flaix after working for several local radio stations. She currently presents the quiz show *L'apocalipsi* with Elisenda Pineda and Charlie Pee at Catalunya Ràdio.

**Eva Hidalgo**  
Barcelona, 1985

She began at SER Penedès-Garraf in 2000 and started directing the show *L'hora L* in 2008. She moved to SER Tarragona-Ràdio Reus in 2011 and has been directing the local morning news show there for the last two years, as well as the live connections of *Hoy por hoy* and *Aquí Cuni*.