

**“It only took one song
to change everything.”**



Ballad for Sophie

FILIPE MELO
JUAN CAVIA



*“I imagined what it would be like to play like him. To be like him.
Sometimes, it felt like I was the only one who really understood him.”*

When a young journalist prompts a reclusive musical superstar to finally break his silence, he pours out an astonishing saga of rivalry and regret, starring child prodigies and bitter old men, beautiful dancers and demonic managers, Nazi commandants, compassionate nuns, and lifesaving animals.

Ballad for Sophie is a sweeping tale that spans the twentieth century, packed with all the drama of a rock & roll biopic and more twists than a night at the opera. Filipe Melo and Juan Cavia have composed a stunning graphic symphony exploring a lifetime of ambition, betrayal, compassion, anguish, long-buried secrets, and flying pianos.

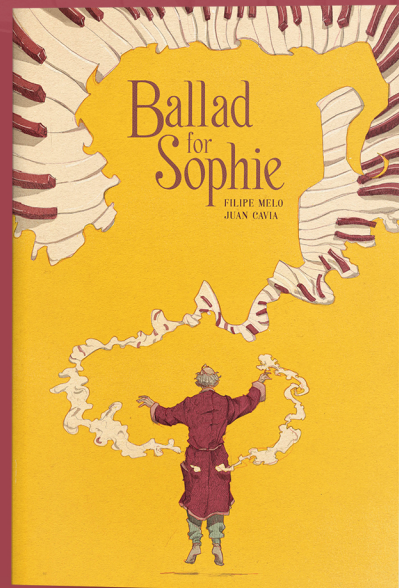
1933. In the small French village of Cressy-la-Valoise, a local piano contest brings together two brilliant young players: Julien Dubois, the privileged heir of a wealthy family, and François Samson, the janitor’s son. One wins, one loses, and both are changed forever.

1997. In a huge mansion stained with cigarette smoke and memories, a virtuoso who hasn’t played a note in decades is shaken by the unexpected visit of an interviewer. Somewhere between reality and fantasy, Julien begins to relate a complex and moving story about the cost of success.

When all is said and done, did anyone ever truly win? And is there any music left to play?

**“Filipe Melo & Juan Cavia form what is probably the
most talented and productive duo in the recent
Portuguese graphic novel scene.”**

— JOSÉ MÁRIO SILVA, *EXPRESSO*



Ballad for Sophie

Filipe Melo • Juan Cavia
978-1-60309-498-6
6.75" x 10" • 320 pages
full-color graphic novel
\$24.99 US • \$33.99 CAN
September 2021

FILIPE MELO is a musician, film director, and author. With decades of experience in classical and jazz piano, he teaches music at ESML, a university in Lisbon. He has developed commercials, music videos, and award-winning short films such as *I'll See You in My Dreams* and *Sleepwalk*. His international writing career includes the *Dark Horse Presents* anthology, a career award from the Amadora comics festival, and several projects with Juan Cavia.

JUAN CAVIA has worked as an art director and illustrator since 2004, after studying illustration and painting with the Argentinean artist Carlos Pedrazzini. His work includes graphic novels, advertisements, TV, music videos, theater and nine feature films, including Juan José Campanella’s Oscar-winning *The Secret in Their Eyes*.



For more information, contact Leigh Walton at Top Shelf Productions.
leigh@topshelfcomix.com

Distributed to the book trade by Penguin Random House
Publisher Services and available from all major wholesalers.
csorder@penguinrandomhouse.com; library@penguinrandomhouse.com; 800-733-3000