

Calasanzian Conservatory of Music and Dance

Pious Schools of Castellón (Spain)

Carlos Pascual. Director of the CPMD Calasanzian of Castellón



In 1979, the Castellón Provincial Council decided to create a Music Conservatory in *Escuelas Pías*. In 1983 it obtained the category of Professional Conservatory and continued to operate in the Centre until 1991 when it moved to a newly constructed building and acquired public ownership.

In 2013, musical activity returned to the *Escuelas Pías* thanks to a music and dance teaching project led by José Llácer (flutist and music teacher in Secondary Education at the Centre), which was offered to pupils at the school as well as to others in the city.

After initial authorization from the public administration, in 2014, Elementary Music and Dance Teaching was officially recognized, and in 2016 as Professional Music and Dance Teaching, the first and only center in the province of Castellón to offer it.

Under the name of **Calasanzian Conservatory**, there are currently three official centers: the Calasanzian School of Music and Dance, the *San José de Calasanz* Professional Music Centre, and the *Betania* Professional Dance Centre. The Centre has an educational offer ranging from prenatal music therapy to adult education, including a stage of artistic initiation (from 0 to 6 years old), official Elementary Education (from 7 years old), and official Professional Education (from 11 years old).

With a census of more than 400 students and a teaching staff of more than 30 teachers, its artistic activity is continuously developing. It mainly attends students from the Pious Schools, the city of Castellón, and all corners of the province.

The artistic life of our conservatory is very fruitful: the creation and promotion of *SòNatur* [Music and Dance Camp], the participation of the White Voices Choir in opera and zarzuela productions in the *Teatro Principal de Castelló* or CD recordings, and the participation of the Elementary and Professional Band and Ballet in the Disneyland Paris Performing Arts, the CD recordings of works for band by the composer Ferrer Ferran as well as its first prizes and honorable mentions in the animation contest of the Maratón BP Castelló or the *Certamen Provincial de Bandas de la Diputación de Castellón*.

The direct impact on the city and its province is far-reaching. Our symphonic band has participated in the *Certamen Internacional de Bandas de Música de Valencia* -the oldest in history and followed worldwide-. Also, the life of the College has been enriched by music and dance in all cultural and pastoral events with melodies, rhythms, and dances.

Of course, the integral development of the children is our first aim. Offering artistic training at all stages of children's, young people's, and adults' lives and integrating it into the joint educational project of the *Escuelas Pías de Castellón* is a great strength.

And there is no better testimony than that of our pupils and their families:

"The conservatory has meant an enormous academic growth for me, but above that, I take the personal and spiritual growth" (Clara, student from 2015 to 2021).

"While studying, I met classmates and teachers who loved what they did, and they have ended up being part of my life even years after finishing my studies" (Alicia, student from 2013 to 2020).

"Seeing with pride how my children learn and share music without leaving their school, as well as being able to do it together with them, has been much more important to me than even developing my musical abilities, feeling young again thanks to my classmates and teachers" (Chema, pupil, and father of two pupils from 2014 to date).



Press cutting announcing the creation of the first conservatory in Castellón in 1979.



Symphonic band (Unión Musical San José de Calasanz) at the Palau de Les Arts in Valencia.



Class of Artistic Initiation (6 years old), a stage before access to Elementary Education.



Festival of the School of Music and Dance (3-6 years old) in the Teatro Principal de Castellón.



Ballet Corps of Professional Education



Choir of white voices together with the Symphonic Orchestra of Castellón.



Band of Professional Education in Offering Flowers to the Virgin of Lidón.



Concert by the Elementary School Choir.



Concert by the Elementary School Band.