



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
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Creative Cities Network

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Seville

UNESCO City of Music

Fast facts

Seville is the birthplace and promoter of many musical genres:

- Birthplace of flamenco: in the 20th century many flamenco artists from Seville like La Niña de los peines became popular
- Seville is a place of inspiration for musicians and composers. There are close to 30 operas, symphonic music pieces (Sinfonía Sevillana de Turina, Fantasía Bética de Falla), pasodobles and fandangos (Flores Sevillanas, La Exposición de Sevilla) and old popular songs (Nana en Sevilla by Federico García Lorca).
- Spanish songwriting is a genre which reflects Seville's characteristics
- Les Sevillanas is a type of popular music that is sung and danced during celebrations (like the Rocio, the Cruces de Mayo) and its popularity has spread in the 1960's around the country with interpreters like Los Hermanos Toronjo and Los Hermano Reyes.
- Sevillian music heritage is strongly preserved and promoted.
- Pop-rock in Seville has developed very closely to flamenco, especially since the 1970's. Bands like Triana and Alameda have had a lot of success in Spain during the political transition phase towards democracy.



Musical assets

- Seville is the birthplace and/or workplace of many interpreters like Ernesto Halffter (1905-1989), Joaquin Turina(1882-1949) and Manuel Castillo (1930-2005)
- Many composers who have worked in Seville have received national and international awards, like Juan Rodríguez Romero (Sanlúcar de Barrameda, Cádiz), Miguel Angel Gris Peñas (Murcia, 1965), ou encore Alberto J. Alvarez Calero (Sevilla, 1974)
- There is currently a new generation developing chamber music and symphonic orchestras linked to theatre and film. It is the case for Elena Mendoza López, María de Arcos, Francisco J. Cuadrado et Pablo Cervantes



Major musical institutions

- It is during the 19th century that conservatory of music and philharmonic societies flourished in Seville.
- Conservatorio de Sevilla Centro Estatal was founded on 26 August 1933
- The Conservatorio Superior de Musica de Sevilla received the name of Manuel Castillo, famous composer from Seville
- Seville has 4 theatres, 5 orchestras, 3 universities and 6 conservatories including Conservatorio Superior de Musica Manuel Castillo and two professional conservatories.
- The Real Orquesta Sinfonica de Sevilla tours nationally and internationally (Festivals of Wiebaden, Stuttgart and Berlin in Germany, Vienna in Austria, Roma in Italy, tour in Japan...)

Musical and cultural events

- Seville has a tradition in hosting festivals and musical events of all categories: symphonic music festivals, chamber music, traditional music, contemporary music, jazz, world music, pop rock, flamenco, popular music, choirs, operas and

didactic music.

- Juventudes Musicales of Sevilla is an entity which started in Seville in 1954 and which in 52 years has organized more than 1500 concerts, recitals, competitions for young people etc. Its dedicated work was awarded the gold medal of merit in fine arts.
- Seville has many places to play and listen to music, whether indoors (theatres, auditoriums, cathedrals, churches, etc.) or outdoors (Auditorium de la Cartuja, Olympic stadium, monasteries, gardens, patios, public squares or at the Don Fadrique tower). Other places include civic centres and alternative spaces such as Bar El Hobbit, El Palacio Andaluz, and the “tablao flamenco” (bars where flamenco performances take place).



Cultural assets

- Fundacion Barenboim-Said was created in 2004 and its mission is to search, through music and culture, meeting places between Israeli and Palestinian musicians (and other Arab countries) joined by Andalusian musicians.
- Cultural platforms (Seville Intercultural Festival, Seville City Hall, Andalusians Agency for Flamenco)
- Platforms for new talents (e.g. Juventudes Musicales)
- International musical events (e.g. International Film Soundtrack Meeting, Jazz viene del Sur)

Education and training centres

- Since the 1980's Seville feels the necessity to expand musical education to society as a whole. Collaborations between institutions and theatres offer academic activities that include the participation of artists and creators.
- Children's programmes exist in theatres and concerts and are organized by foundations who dedicate themselves to the promotion of culture in the city and the creation of educational services aimed at offering musical training to children. The



University of Seville has set up a learning department that uses communication strategies with young audiences by focusing on musical offerings.

- The music education for children project started in July 2005. It aims at integrating music as a tool during early school years. Other similar projects encourage music professionals to take part in school's music activities.
- Seville has many music schools and musical education centres, music workshops, and various musical programmes.

Economic impact

- Seville is a production and distribution centres of musical instruments. Traditionally, Seville made zithers, trumpets, flutes, lutes. Spanish guitars are now the most manufactured pieces of instruments in Seville.
- There are 33 music instrument shops in Seville and 16 music production companies.