

Lecture given by :

Consuelo Díez

Director of the Centro para la Difusión de la Música Contemporánea
(Center for the Diffusion of Contemporary Music)



YOUTH ORCHESTRAS

AND

CONTEMPORARY MUSIC EDUCATION IN SPAIN

In Spain nowadays we have 33 youth Orchestras which are spread all over the country. Specifically the number of Youth Orchestras in every region are the following:

Andalucía: 4 Orchestras; 1 in Jaén, 2 in Málaga and 1 in Sevilla.

Canarias: 2 Orchestras in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria.

Castilla y León: 2 Orchestras; 1 in Salamanca and 1 in Valladolid.

Cataluña: 9 Orchestras; 6 in Barcelona, 1 in Gerona and 2 in Lérida

Comunidad de Madrid: 6 Orchestras. Comunidad Valenciana: 2 Orchestras.

Galicia: 1 Orchestra in La Coruña País Vasco: 3 Orchestras; 1 in Guipúzcoa and 2 in Vizcaya.

Principado de Asturias: 2 Orchestras; 1 in Oviedo and 1 in Gijón.

Region of Murcia: 2 Orchestras.

From these Orchestras we can detail the ones that are school orchestras:

Andalucía: 3 Orchestras.

Canarias: 1 Orchestra.

Castilla y León: 2 Orchestras.

Cataluña: 3 Orchestras.

Madrid: 3 Orchestras.

Valencia: 2 Orchestras.

País Vasco: 1 Orchestra. Asturias: 1 Orchestra.

Murcia: 1 Orchestra

The rest of them are Orchestras maintained by State, Regional or Local Governments.

Probably the best one that we can take as an example is the Joven Orquesta Nacional de España (JONDE) (National Youth Orchestra of Spain) which is part of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport; it is inside of the autonomous group of Instituto Nacional de las Artes Escénicas y de la Música (INAEM).

It has an artistic director and a musical conductor, 132 members who proceed from all over Spain (and must pass an entrance exam to be part of the orchestra), 13 teachers, and 2 young composers in residence every year, which receive a grant for their work in the Orchestra.

In 1999 they had 7 encounters and one of them was dedicated to Contemporary Music. In every encounter they do a media of four Symphonic Concerts and two chamber concerts, one of them recorded. In their symphonic repertoire they have 10 Contemporary pieces and in the chamber repertoire 17 ones.

They collaborated with 16 vocal and instrumental soloists, 12 invited conductors and 2 choirs.

They did: -14 tours around Spain -1 tour abroad, and -12 recordings of Contemporary Music over all.

This Orchestra has a total budget of 246 millions of pesetas from which 173 millions comes from the Ministry of Education, Culture, and Sport, and the rest comes from three main sponsors. The Orchestra's staff (direction and administrative personal) counts with a total of 13 persons.

This Orchestra usually does from 2 to 4 commissions every year to their resident composers. The facilities of this orchestra are located in the building of the Auditorio Nacional of Madrid, which is also part of the INAEM.

Another examples could be:

1.- Youth Symphonic Orchestra of the Community of Madrid. It has members who are currently students of the 12 Conservatories that are located in the Community of Madrid. To become a member they must pass an entrance exam. It has 93 students with ages from 18 to 26 years old

The students can be members of this Orchestra from 1 year to a total of 3 years. It has 2 conductors, Vicente Sempere and Giuseppe Mancini

This Orchestra has beautiful facilities in the outskirts of Madrid with a very nice hall for rehearsals. They usually perform 2 to 4 times a year in the main Madrid Hall: Auditorio Nacional, Symphonic Hall.

It has been working since 8 years ago. They do several encounters each year, mainly during vacation periods, and in every encounter they have individual studies with teachers of the different instruments. They also have a Percussion Ensemble with a great contemporary repertoire. In every concert the Orchestra usually plays one Contemporary Music piece. They do not usually do commissions to composers but they perform for the first time at least three or four pieces every year, which they rehearse with the advise of the composers, if they are alive, taking good account of their suggestions.

The funding of this Orchestra comes from the Regional Government of the Community of Madrid. They have a staff of 4 people. Every year they do exchange concerts with other countries. For example: in 1998 they went to Denmark (Copenhagen), and in 1997 to Germany (Berlín).

2.- Youth Symphonic Orchestra of Cataluña.

This Orchestra has recently performed a concert to close their encounter dedicated to music of the 20th Century in the Auditorio of Barcelona, with pieces by Charles Ives, Pierre Boulez, György Ligeti, Joan Guinjoan and Jonathan Harvey. Joint it can be found a list of the Youth Orchestras existing in Spain at the moment with addresses, phones, etc. The day of the public lecture I will have with me several graphic examples from these orchestras (program notes, catalogs with photos, etc.).

CONSUELO DIEZ - Biography

Practicalities such as the balance of violinists, cellists, bass players and pianists in the school - currently 33 violinists, 10 cellists, 3 bass players and 11 pianists (all violinists play viola as well during their time at the school) - may need to play a part in the selection process - also gender, when we are sorting out living accommodation.

Staffing

Born in Madrid, Spain, and graduated in Composition, Piano, Music Theory (Royal Conservatory of Madrid), and Art History (Complutense University, Madrid). She studied composition with G. Abril, Alís, Bernaola, De Pablo, and C. Halffter, and later on electronic and computer music at Hartt School of Music of the University of Hartford (USA) with Sellars, Carl, Diemente and Gryc, being a Fulbright fellow, and getting a Master and the Doctorate in Musical Arts. In 1986 she received the "Real Art Ways" prize, in 1987 the "Norman Bayles Memorial Award", and the diploma "Pi Kappa Lambda" (USA).

In 1988 she was awarded on the "II Panorama de Jóvenes Compositores" and the Bolonia Bienale (Europe). In 1989 she received the "Young Creators" award (Madrid). In 1992 she represented Spain on the Unesco, International Rostrum of Composers, and in 1994, 1998, and 2000 she was selected for the ISCM Festival. She has participated in festivals, concerts, lectures, and seminars in Europe, America, Asia, and Australia. Her works range from solo, chamber, dance, and orchestral music, to electronic and computer music. She produced an electroacoustic music programme ("El canto de los adolescentes") in RNE-Radio2 (Spain National Public Radio) from 1989 to 1991. She has been musical adviser on TVE (Spain National Public Television), and writes regularly in specialized publications.

She was Dean of the Comunidad de Madrid Conservatory (1992 - 1996), where she taught Composition and Electroacoustic Music during 9 years.

Since 1997 she is Director of the Centro para la Difusión de la Música Contemporánea (CDMC) of the

Ministry of Education and Culture of Spain, and Director of the Festival Internacional de Música Contemporánea of Alicante.

In 1998 she was elected member of the Executive Committee of the European Conference of Promoters of New Music (ECPNM). In 1999 she received the Prize " Viva el Espectáculo" (Spain) for the 15th edition of the Alicante Festival.

Discography:

- "Ecos" LP, CBA-8, 1989
- "Naggareth" CD, RTVE-Musica, 1991
- "Sad" CD, RTVE-Musica, 1991
- "Vida" CD "Presencia de Luigi Nono", UM-ACA, 1992
- "Tu y yo" CD "Hyades Museum", Hyades Arts, 1993
- "Sabor a Cristal" CD, Fundación Hyades, 1994
- "Saxo, mentiras y cinta de audio" CD, Comunidad de Madrid, 1996.
- "Río IRo", CD "Música electroacústica Española", Vol. I. AMEE, 1997.
- "Voz y sabor, es", CD Hear 103. The Electroacoustic Music Studio of the Hungarian Radio (HEAR), 1997, Hungary.
- " Saxo, mentiras y cinta de audio", CD, MAE CD-1, 1998