

Fundación Occident wraps up another edition of ‘Soy Clave’ with a record number of participants

The programme, which brings musical training and piano lessons to children in vulnerable communities, has awarded scholarships to over 140 pupils

Fundación Occident, in partnership with the Maria Canals International Music Competition, has concluded a new edition of ‘Soy Clave’, the organisation’s successful programme launched in 2015 which offers scholarships for music education and piano lessons to children aged between 6 and 9 in neighbourhoods with particular social needs.

During the year, participants have had the chance to take their first steps in piano playing and build their artistic skills in a supportive setting which fosters personal growth. The programme took place in La Verneda and Ciudad Meridiana (Barcelona), Usera (Madrid), the Macarena neighbourhood (Seville) and Otxarkoaga (Bilbao), bringing music education to families who usually find it harder to get involved in this sort of activity.

Through ‘Soy Clave’, Fundación Occident further cements its commitment to culture and equal opportunities with the conviction that music is a tool for social transformation that can enhance the cognitive, emotional and social development of young children.

“We firmly believe that talent should not depend on where you are born or your family’s financial circumstances,” says Laura Halpern, chair of Fundación Occident. “With ‘Soy Clave’, we encourage children to explore music as a source of learning, hard work, self-esteem and personal growth.”

“Music helps to break down barriers and change lives,” adds Jordi Vivancos, director of the Maria Canals Competition. “We don’t just teach musical notes; we pave the way for inclusion, self-esteem and a brighter future for the scholarship pupils and their families.”

The programme blends music tuition with educational support, enabling participants to acquire a basic grasp of musical theory, develop habits of discipline and perseverance, and hone skills such as concentration, creativity and teamwork.

The conclusion of this edition has showcased the efforts made by the pupils and their families coupled with the engagement of the schools and partner organisations that make it possible to run the project in each region.

In light of the outcomes achieved, Fundación Occident will continue to step up its initiatives harnessing culture as a means of social inclusion and creating opportunities for children, helping to ensure that more boys and girls can access rewarding educational experiences regardless of their social or economic background.

About Fundación Occident

Fundación Occident, formerly Fundación Jesús Serra, is a private non-profit entity, created in memory of Jesús Serra Santamans, a renowned businessman and patron, who was the founder of GCO (Grupo Catalana Occidente). Its activity consists of developing and supporting initiatives in the fields of research, business and teaching, social action, sport, and promotion of the arts, with a common objective: responsible commitment to society.