

# THE SYSTEM OF YOUTH ORCHESTRAS IN VENEZUELA AND ITS IMPACT RESULTS

In 2019 the [National System of Youth Orchestras and Choirs of Venezuela](#), a social and cultural initiative of the State of Venezuela, continued reinforcing its impact results across the whole country.

Founded by the musician [José Antonio Abreu](#) in 1975, the System implements the collective and individual practice of music through symphony orchestras and choirs, as instruments of social organization and human development. The National System of Youth Orchestras and Choirs of Venezuela is managed by the *Simon Bolivar Music Foundation*, attached to Ministry of Popular Power of the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

The System gathers children and youth of all social levels. It is composed of a complex structure of pedagogical spaces designed to ensure an educational sequence and the academic, professional and artistic growth of children and young participants. It includes Cores, Modules and Schools [that operate in all areas of the country](#), in addition to Academic Centers, Conservatories and the Universities where the Professional and Regional Groups develop, forming a complex national network of youth and children's orchestras and choirs.

Today the System is composed of 443 core groups of academic music development, which in turn include 1.704 modules that allow to train more than 1.012.077 girls, boys, adolescents and young people all over the country.

In particular, the System includes 1.722 orchestral groups, 1.772 groups of beginners, 1.426 choral groups and 694 groups of traditional music. The academic staff consists of 5,021 teachers, distributed in the 24 regions of Venezuela.

The System organizes every year a high-level calendar to present the symphonic and popular music orchestras and choirs in different events and cities of the country. It also uses its spaces for meetings, thematic conferences, master classes, instruments festivals and international visits. These activities make it possible to enhance the very high quality achieved by the musicians and singers and at the same time encourage the participation of new young people and children in the orchestras and choirs.



[The System operates through 12 Programmes](#) that cover the different levels and aspects of musical training. These programs, however, include other components that ensure a broader social and educational impact, as the *Academic Penitentiary Programme* that operates in prisons to contribute to the rehabilitation of people and their future productive reintegration into society; as the *Hospital Care Programme* that ensures music education classes to children and young people who have to stay for long periods of time in hospitals; or the *Special Education Programme* which works to develop the potential of children, young people and adults with disability problems.

Among these thematic initiatives, the *Alma Llanera Programme* was created in 2007 to preserve and disseminate the great cultural capital of Venezuelan traditional music. The Program has managed to implement 694 *Alma Llanera Groups* throughout the country, making known to the new generations the musical traditions of all regions and their typical instruments.

Another initiative of great impact is the Academic Program of *Lutería*, created in 1982 to meet the growing domestic demand for musical instruments and their accessories generated by the System. The Program includes the maintenance, repair and construction of symphonic and popular musical instruments used in the different orchestras.

Through the [Academic Centre of Lutería](#) and other initiatives directed to young artists with a vocation in art and crafts it provides a technical, historic, scientific and artistic training high level professional lutieres, with a bachelor's degree. This initiative of the System has contributed to create in Venezuela a capacity for repair and construction of musical instruments that generates employment and at the same time allows to recover the technicalities and artistic dimension of traditional offices.

The pedagogical, artistic and social approach of the National System of Youth and Children's Orchestras and Choirs of Venezuela has already achieved a worldwide significance. More than 70 countries are undertaking youth musical orchestras, and musical training programmes inspired by the Venezuelan System. In all those countries the purpose is to use orchestras and music as instrument of integration, social organisation and artistic education as a means to overcoming poverty and marginalization.

On the international stage, the System provides the required support through technical exchanges and organizes concerts of its orchestras in different countries. In addition, within the framework of these collaborations, visits of international testimonials, teachers and music artists internationally renowned, are arranged to participate in the activities undertaken in Venezuela.

#### To know more

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