



THE TRANSFORMING
POWER OF MUSIC



FUNDACIÓN NACIONAL BATUTA

In 1991, the Colombian government, in alliance with the private sector, founded Fundación Nacional Batuta. Led by Ana Milena Muñoz de Gavira, first lady at the time, the project was influenced by El Sistema in Venezuela, through the supervision and advice of Professor José Antonio Abreu.

The main goal of the founders was to strengthen and enhance the enjoyment, practice, and teaching of music in the country, and to provide more opportunities for Colombian children to exercise their cultural rights.

The National System of Symphonic Orchestras for Youth and Children – Batuta has allowed the implementation of musical education projects and has increased its presence in the country through the cooperation of Batuta regional organizations: Fundación Batuta Caldas, Corporación Batuta Risaralda; Corporación Batuta Huila; Corporación Batuta Amazonas, and Corporación Batuta Meta.

Fundación Nacional Batuta contributes significantly to the improvement of musical education in Colombia, not just through its educational project, but also by developing training workshops for teachers, directors and luthiers (explain what this is) for all of the symphonic projects in the country. These activities, which are executed in association with public and private institutions, allow orchestral activity to grow and guarantee the sustainability of the System.

Objective

Directly or through its support of related organizations, Fundación Nacional Batuta aims its efforts mainly at Colombian boys, girls, adolescents, and young adults, and through them, at their families and communities.

Through work teams composed of music teachers and professionals from various disciplines, Batuta works hand-in-hand with the Colombian Government, local governments, private companies, and other non-profit organizations to take priority action for the benefit of more vulnerable or unfortunate groups.

Batuta contributes to the comprehensive development and improvement of the quality of life of children and youth in vulnerable areas; to the construction of a social fabric; to opening spaces for reconciliation and coexistence; to building useful individual capacities for active participation in society; to give all children, youths, and communities access to cultural offerings; to social integration; to strengthen cultural and educational processes in the country; and to promote cultural diversity.

Principles

- Batuta believes in the transforming power of music.
- Batuta believes in the socializing value of the group musical education.
- Batuta sees in musical education a stimulus for all the faculties of a human being.
- Batuta focuses on creating of youth and children symphonic orchestras.
- Batuta believes that the musical instruction of children and youth benefits their families and communities.

Lines of action

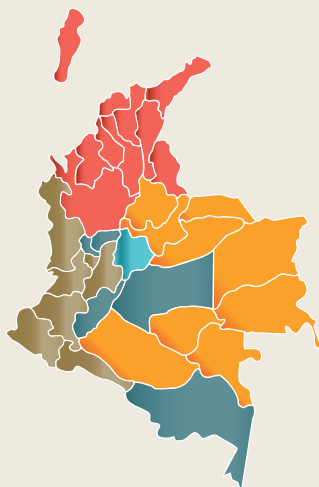
The Foundation operates as a:

- Promoter and manager of musical centers, symphonic orchestras, choirs, and youth and children's ensembles of musical initiation.
- Liaison and unification agent of similar systems and organizations.
- Researcher and designer of instructional methods and systems of musical development with social impact.
- Promoter of musical and educational materials.
- Bidirectional connection with higher education institutions.
- Trainer of trainers.

Batuta operates 184 musical centers in 95 municipalities of 32 Colombian states, in which 39,710 children and youth are part of 44 symphonic orchestras, 17 groups of symphonic ensembles, and 678 ensembles of musical initiation. They are transforming their lives and that of their communities.

32	States.
95	Municipalities.
184	Musical centers.
468	People work directly at the musical centers.
85	People work in the Office of the National Director.
39.710	Children, youth, and adolescent beneficiaries.
18.235	Students from population groups identified as victims of the internal armed conflict.
44	Youth Symphonic Orchestras.
17	Groups of Symphonic Ensembles.
678	Ensembles of Musical Initiation.
340.343	Attendees to 1,370 concerts per year.

*Source: Human Resources Division / Students Management and Information System (SIGE)
Updated on December 31, 2013.



ORGANIZATION	Total Beneficiaries
Fundación Nacional Batuta	31.156
Organización Departamento Batuta Amazonas	713
Fundación Batuta Caldas	1.517
Corporación Batuta Huila	1.185
Corporación Batuta Meta	4.808
Corporación Batuta Risaralda	331
National Total	39.710

Table 1: Children and Youth Population Served By Different Batuta Organizations 2013 - Source: SIGE

Fields of action

Fundación Nacional Batuta operates in various sectors, including education, culture, and social development and, through musical education, it contributes:

- To the comprehensive education of undeserved population groups.
- To build and execute public policy aimed at granting access to the enjoyment, knowledge, and practice of symphonic music to all Colombian children and youths.
- To protect the rights of children, adolescents, and youths.
- To build social fabric.

The model of musical education

To reach the goals set forth by its founders, Fundación Nacional Batuta bases its actions on building, developing, and implementing an intervention model named “Orchestra-School”, an educational approach based on collective musical actions.

The model implementation takes place in an environment of excellence, uses specific and documented processes, and is committed to advancing values such as respect, honesty, equality, tolerance, harmony, and solidarity.

The programs that make up the Education Plan are based on group musical education where the active participation of students in collective musical practice allows them to develop and test their skills and abilities while simultaneously applying the knowledge and experience specific to musical activity.

Batuta Musical Education Programs for children and youths

Musical Stimulation Program (Batubebés) for children between 2 and 4 years old.

With 271 children enrolled in Arauca, Barrancabermeja and Bogotá, this program seeks to develop aesthetic perception, creativity, and contact with the surrounding world through music and body language. The program works through various entertaining musical activities. This stage stimulates aspects such as expression, affectivity, self-esteem, creativity, language, laterality, dissociation, pulse, body rhythm, height, and length, among others.

Musical Transition Program for children between 4 and 6 years old.

With 440 children enrolled in Arauca, Barrancabermeja and Bogotá, this program stimulates motor, rhythmic, auditory, and language development, emphasizing contact with vocal work, Orff instruments, and with Orquesta de Colores bowed string toy instruments. This stage prepares participants for entry into the Early Childhood Symphonic Initiation program.

Children who enter this program need not have participated in the Stimulation Program. However, contact with music from an early age allows children to attain optimal development of their skills when growing up.

Both the Stimulation and the Musical Transition Programs seek socio-affective, creative, physical, rhythmic, vocal, and auditory development, as well as to develop creativity, musical language and instrument skills.

¹The set of instruments proposed by the Orff Schulwerk method is a set of instruments that offers great variety of sounds through various shapes, materials, and timbres. In this sense, one might find the instruments of undetermined sound such as maracas, claves, and tambourines, and those of determined sound such as the.

Musical Initiation Program for children between 6 and 16 years old.

In this program, children acquire knowledge in musical literacy and basic skills for motor, rhythmic, auditory, and vocal development through collective musical practice and through the active participation in initiation ensembles and choirs.

Choir Training Program for boys, girls, adolescents, and youths.

This Program complements and supports both the Musical Initiation and the Symphonic Training Programs. Through choirs, the program works intensively to develop the participant’s musicality through voice management, group singing and listening to others, and developing a sense for group work and attachment.

The repertoire, which is composed of Colombian, Latin-American, and global works and includes popular and classical music in Spanish and other languages, enhances the musical experience and strengthens personal confidence and collective creation of the participant.

Symphonic Training Program for boys, girls, adolescents, and youths.

Group work is a fundamental driver of the Foundation’s educational model and the Orchestra-School methodology allows participants to develop teamwork skills and significant life experiences. The Foundation achieves this through the creation of Children and Youth Symphonic Orchestras that develop abilities in the symphonic instruments with a strategically selected repertoire.

Teacher Training

- Training of teachers in choirs, initiation ensembles, vocal techniques, and symphonic instruments.

Advising Services for Music Groups

- Choirs, bands, folk music initiation ensembles, urban groups, and symphonic orchestra.

Other programs of interest

- Artistic activity workshops for parents.
- Musical production: Fundación Nacional Batuta created a model for live musical production as a response to the need to guarantee the minimal technical requirements of group presentations. The model coordinates work teams quickly, flexibly, and efficiently, applies procedures and creates an institutional document of each presentation.



Social impact of Batuta in the country

- In order to practice music in a symphonic orchestra and to master a musical instrument, a person requires discipline, dedication, perseverance, and great passion. In children, adolescents, and youths, these values create capacities and skills that positively influence their academic performance, their interpersonal skills, and their leadership. Studies developed in Colombia by the National Department of Planning support this.
- Children and youths who have experienced music have shown significant improvements in their appropriation of school curricula and their permanence in the school system has increased to levels above 97%.
- A recent study commissioned by Fundación Luker in Manizales, proved that Batuta students performed better in the mathematics and language sections of the Saber 11 national examinations when compared to other students who took the same test between 2008 and 2011.
- Boys, girls, adolescents, and youths who have participated in musical and education programs of Batuta Musical Centers show responsibility, integrity, and respect.

Direct contributors

- Departamento para la Prosperidad Social – DPS (Department for the Social Prosperity)
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs • Ministry of Culture
- Ecopetrol • Fundación Bolívar Davivienda
- Secretaría de Cultura de Bogotá: Orquesta Filarmónica de Bogotá-Idartes (Office of the Secretary of Culture of Bogotá: Philharmonic Orchestra of Bogotá-Idartes)

Supporters

Corporación Andina de Fomento – CAF / Findeter / Cine Colombia / Chevron / Pacific Rubiales / Vetra / Fundación Metropolitana de la Música / Fundación Arpamérica / Fundación Caucaerata.

Allies at the state and municipal levels

Office of the Mayor of Puente Aranda of Bogotá / Office of the Mayor of Kennedy of Bogotá / Office of the Mayor of Sincelejo / Office of the Mayor of Valledupar / Office of the Mayor of Agustín de Codazzi / Office of the Mayor of Fusagasugá / Office of the Mayor of Villa del Rosario / Office of the Mayor of Los Patios / Office of the Mayor of Maicao / Office of the Mayor of Puerto Asís / Office of the Mayor of Ipiales / Office of the Mayor of El Tambo / Office of the Mayor of Tumaco / Office of the Mayor of Quibdó / Office of the Governor of Arauca / Office of the Governor of Caquetá / Office of the Governor of Sucre / Office of the Governor of Vichada.

MUSIC FOR RECONCILIATION PROGRAM

Departamento para la Prosperidad Social – DPS (Department for Social Prosperity)

General Objective of the Program

Provide musical training to enrich the lives of boys, girls, adolescents, and youths who have been victims of the internal armed conflict, or who belong to more vulnerable sections of the population, through a model of high-quality comprehensive musical-psychosocial service that guarantees their rights and their integral development as part of the psycho-social care offered by the Departamento para la Prosperidad Social – DPS (Department for Social Prosperity).



Specific Objectives

- Offer, through music, psychosocial care for children, adolescents, and youths with a restorative approach, using a musical-psychosocial work model that seeks an integral action that favors their development.
- Develop musical, citizenship, and cognitive skills in the children, adolescents, and youths who benefit from the Program.
- Connect and mobilize families and the immediate community around musical training and effective enjoyment of rights by boys, girls, adolescents, and youths who benefit from the Program.
- Work together with the Office of the Director of Special Programs, the Offices of the Regional Directors of the DPS and other Government agencies to strengthen and build social fabric.
- Keep the children as much as possible in the centers as a means of prevention and protection.
- Develop local and inter-institutional management strategies to safeguard the sustainability of the centers.

MUSIC AT THE BORDER PROGRAM – BORDERS FOR PROSPERITY PLAN

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

General Objective of the Program



The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through its revolving fund, and the Fundación Nacional Batuta signed in 2013 an Association Agreement, to join human, technical, administrative, and financial efforts in order to extend coverage and provide sustainability to the Binational Orchestra Centers and for the Musical Initiation Projects for children and youths in national border zones. The agreement is part of the Borders for Prosperity plan aimed at promoting and supporting activities that bring border populations closer through musical culture, as well as promoting social development of children and youth in these areas.

Specific objectives

- Strengthen cultural promotion scenarios that favor binational integration of Colombo-Venezuelan and Colombo-Ecuadorian border areas by benefiting 480 children, adolescents, and youths of Guajira (Maicao and Paraguachón), Cesar (Agustín Codazzi), Chocó (Riosucio and Unguía), Nariño (Ipiales), Arauca (Arauca), Norte de Santander (Villa del Rosario and Los Patios), San Andrés, Providencia, and Santa Catalina (Providencia).
- Promote musical group training to influence students, their families, their communities, and their surroundings.
- Enhance symphonic music processes by bringing together and coordinating the initiatives of various actors and promoting common ground between popular and academic knowledge.



STRENGTHENING THE NETWORK OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH ORCHESTRAS OF COLOMBIA

Ministry of Culture

General Objective of the Program

Over time, the Ministry of Culture has supported different Fundación Nacional Batuta projects, especially those aimed at improving the quality, coverage, and impact of the youth symphonic orchestras in Colombia.

The project to strengthen the National System of Children and Youth Symphonic Orchestras, developed in 2012, aimed to guarantee the continuation of students of the pre-orchestra musical initiation program into the symphonic training program, by implementing training, resource, circulation, and research components.

Specific objectives

- Training component: operate 22 orchestra centers in 22 Colombian states, 25 cities and 35 centers, through the symphonic orchestra training program and by strengthening teacher aptitudes in order to enhance skills related to generation of knowledge and creative capacity to set up effective teaching methods.
- Resources component: acquisition of instruments (woods, metals, percussion, and bowed strings) for 44 orchestras in the country.
- Circulation component: make the activities of Fundación Nacional Batuta more visible, particularly those developed under this project by organizing concerts and musical events to support the learning process of the beneficiaries.

The Ministry of Culture has also contributed to the international tours of Fundación Nacional Batuta's flagship orchestras, to supporting the research of the intangible musical heritage of Colombia, and to strengthening concentrations of symphonic orchestras, such as those of the Colombian Pacific Coast.

COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN, ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTHS THROUGH MUSICAL TRAINING AT THE BATUTA ORCHESTRA CENTERS

Ecopetrol

General Objective of the Program

Ecopetrol, as part of the actions of its Social Responsibility office, has supported the development of the Musical Training Programs since 2006, at the Batuta Music Centers located within the company's areas of influence, in order to contribute to the improvement of the quality of education and culture in Colombia.



Specific objectives

- Provide continuity to the Musical Initiation Program that Fundación Nacional Batuta carries out with the Departamento para la Prosperidad Social - DPS (Department for Social Prosperity), in order to guarantee their subsequent inclusion in the symphonic training process at the Orchestra Centers of Ecopetrol areas of interest.
- Guarantee Symphonic Musical Training for 80 children and adolescents in 9 Batuta Orchestra Centers within Ecopetrol's area of interest, benefiting 720 children and adolescents who have benefited from previous agreements linked to the pre-orchestra program, and who will participate in the Symphonic Musical Training process.
- Guarantee the participation of music coordinators, orchestra directors, and symphonic instrument teachers and students in each Batuta-Ecopetrol Orchestra Centers, in workshops or events that enhance their education and training.
- Supply, repair, and maintain instruments in each Batuta-Ecopetrol Orchestra Center.
- Perform concerts for the families of beneficiary children, adolescents, and youths, their communities, and institutions closest to each Batuta-Ecopetrol Orchestra Center.
- Promote the creation of the Batuta-Ecopetrol National Orchestra to perform regional and/or national concerts, and important events such as Ecopetrol's birthday and Bachilleres por Colombia (High School Graduates for Colombia), which promotes the integration of children and youth beneficiaries.
- To shape oversight committees in each Orchestra Center to guarantee the participation and support of beneficiary communities.

SYMPHONIC ORCHESTRA LIBRE OF QUIBDÓ

Findeter

General Objective of the Program

The Symphonic Orchestra Libre of Quibdó is a response to the need to design a model that can maintain and increase the economic and physical resources and alliances that support the sustainability and development of musical processes that take place in the municipality of Quibdó.

The Symphonic Orchestra Libre of Quibdó is a response to the historic isolation suffered by the state of Chocó. It is a musical education model based on quality, the development of talent and artistic potential the children and youths of Chocó, and it seeks to be a national and regional artistic point of reference as a result of the free nature which incorporates traditional Pacific music formats.

The project of the orchestra raises a new opportunity for community inclusion, involving children, youths, and adults indistinctly to musical initiation projects and choir and symphonic orchestra training.

Specific objectives

- Supplement educational development of orchestra members, by enhancing, through an artistic project, the values and benefits that the formal education offers.
- Become a national artistic reference in the short term.
- Support the social reintegration processes and the strengthening of peace in Quibdó and its area of influence.

40X40 HOURS SCHOOL DAY PROJECT FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA OF BOGOTÁ

Instituto Distrital de las Artes - IDARTES (District Institute of Arts)

General Objective of the Program

Since 2013, the Philharmonic Orchestra of Bogotá, Idartes, and Fundación Nacional Batuta worked together to develop a musical training program for the new district public school schedule under the service component for boys, girls, and youths.

The programs set in motion by Fundación Nacional Batuta for this project are Musical Initiation in Initiation Ensemble and Choirs, using Orff and folkloric percussion instruments, plates, and flutes.



Specific objectives

- Contribute to the development of cognitive, socio-affective, and physical-creative characteristics in children, adolescents, and youths that participate in the Project, through the practice of collective music.
- Promote comprehensive development of children and adolescents in Bogotá, in four aspects typically related to artistic education: development of sensitivity, ability to enjoy the aesthetic experience, creative thinking, and symbolic expression.
- Contribute to the development of citizenship values through the practical and permanent exercise of values inherent to structured group music in a structured manner, including respect, solidarity, discipline, team work, honesty, tolerance, and leadership.
- Develop basic musical skills in singing (tuning, sound, controlling singing voice, and ensemble).
- Maximize the basic rhythm skills (pulse and metric, rhythm patterns, understanding and reading various rhythmic cells, and synchrony).
- Master the basic instrumental technique of the instrument chosen by or assigned to the student.

MAIN GROUPS

Youth Philharmonic of Colombia

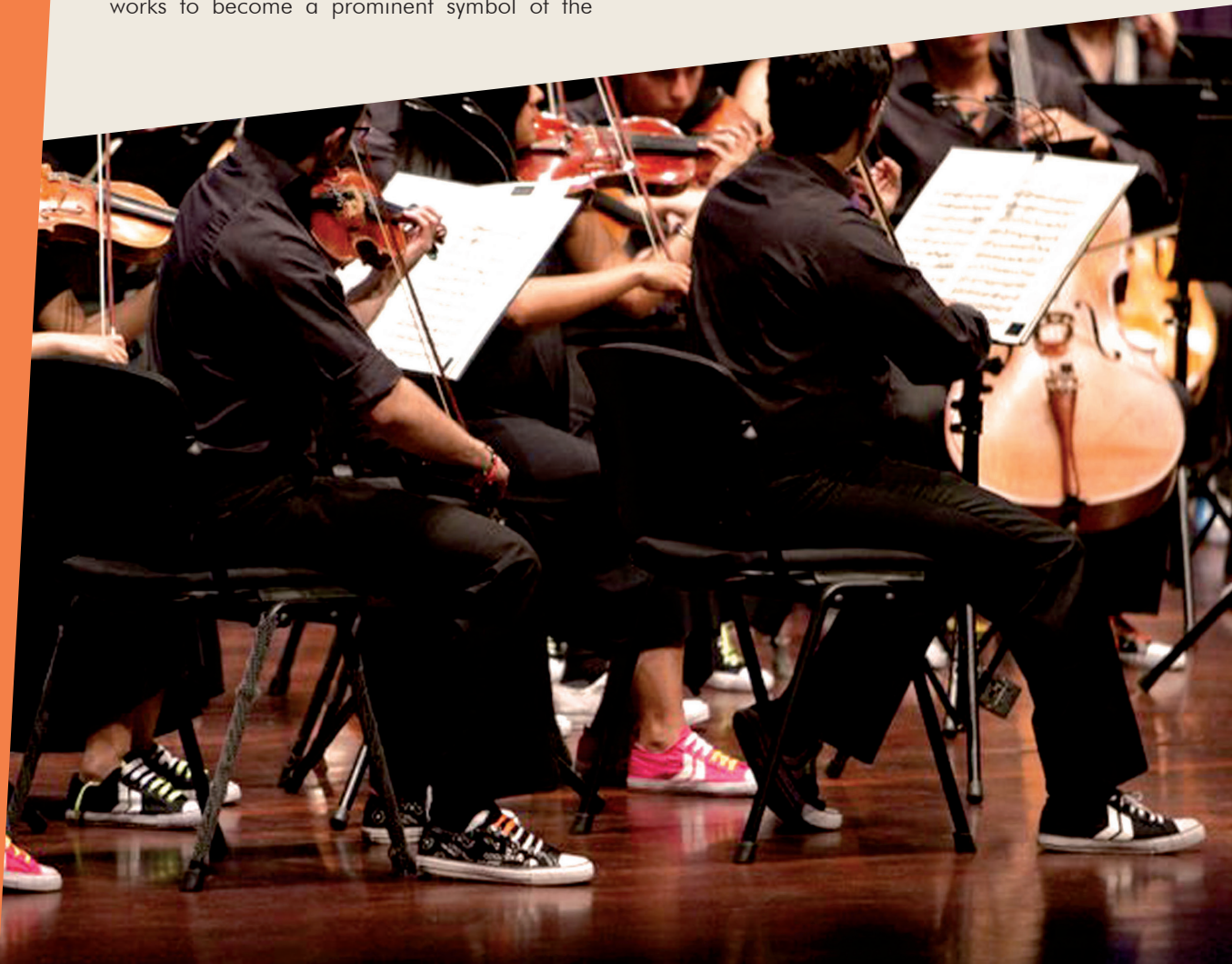
In the interest of promoting culture and supporting the construction of artistic life projects and social fabric in Colombia, Fundación Bolívar Davivienda created the Youth Philharmonic of Colombia in 2010.

Fundación Nacional Batuta and the Orchestra of the Americas (YOA) also participated in this project. This alliance, led by Fundación Bolívar Davivienda, is an innovative coalition that connects the corporate support, knowledge, and an international image towards a common goal of building a better country.

The Youth Philharmonic of Colombia represents a unique social initiative in the country and works to become a prominent symbol of the

national musical culture abroad. The project is an opportunity for youths who wish to make symphonic music their life project. The project becomes their ally and works hand in hand with them to achieve international impact.

The call for the orchestra is opened annually, and the youth who are selected have the opportunity to train with world-class professors. This call is aimed to youth between 16 and 24 years old who want to belong, through their merits, to a world-class orchestra that has no precedent in the country.



Batuta Metropolitan Youth Symphonic Orchestra



The Batuta Metropolitan Youth Symphonic Orchestra (OSJMB), was established as the Batuta Orchestra of Bogotá in 2002 with the objective of creating an academic space for advanced symphonic musical development of outstanding students of Batuta Music Centers in Bogotá's Capital District. The orchestra is composed of youths aged between 15 and 23 years from the Batuta Music Centers of Fontibón, Puente Aranda, Kennedy, Ciudad Bolívar, Gaitana, Teusaquillo, San Rafael, and Santa Bibiana, as well as by youths who have received musical training in the city's other institutions and universities.

The OSJMB is considered the most iconic high level orchestra of Fundación Nacional Batuta and has become a tool to enhance the visibility and promotion of the potential of our children, adolescents, and youths who, through hard work and with the support with our teachers and a demanding orchestral repertoire, strengthen their teamwork skills and self-esteem. Through this, the orchestra becomes a force of cultural transformation and a social school that promotes consensus, harmony, and solidarity in each of its members.

Throughout its artistic history, the OSJMB has actively participated in the Berlin Young Euro

Classic Festival, where it has been praised by German critics, and in the first edition of the itinerant Italian Festival *La Via dei Concerti*. It has interacted with the National Symphonic Orchestra of Colombia, the Philharmonic Orchestra of Bogotá, the Youth National Orchestra of the Basque Country – Euskadi, the Orchestra of the Medellín Music School Network, the Orchestra of the Trento Conservatory, and the Youth Symphonic Orchestra of Caracas, with whom it performed Tchaikovsky's N° 5 Symphony in a never before seen concert under the slogan *Music Unites Us*. This performance took place in the Simón Bolívar Hall of the *Centro de Acción Social por la Música* (Center of Social Action for Music), in Caracas, Venezuela.

"This concert seals, now and forever, the always prolific and fraternal musical friendship between Colombia and Venezuela" José Antonio Abreu - December 18 of 2013.

Currently, the Batuta Metropolitan Youth Symphonic Orchestra is directed by the Venezuelan professor Manuel López-Gómez, who is also National Director of the Department of Orchestras, Choirs, and Ensembles. This represents a unifying act between the National Orchestra System of Venezuela and the National Orchestra System of Colombia – Batuta.

Guillermo Uribe Holguín Youth Symphonic Orchestra

The Guillermo Uribe Holguín Youth Symphonic Orchestra was established in 2011 with the goal of gathering young talent from around Bogotá and uniting talent, experience, capacity, and effort. The Orchestra brings together students from several Batuta Musical Centers in Bogotá and is composed of children and youths enrolled in the Musical Centers of La Gaitana (symphonic), San Rafael and Santa Bibiana (strings); Ciudad Bolívar, Teusaquillo (symphonic) and Puente Aranda (strings); Kennedy (symphonic) y Fontibón (strings).

The Guillermo Uribe Holguín Young Symphonic Orchestra is part of the groups that represent Bogotá, and is composed of children and youths from the Batuta Musical Centers, who have been chosen for their abilities and musical advancement, allowing them to perform a more demanding repertoire.

The representing groups lead and invigorate the processes at the Musical Centers, becoming a reference and opportunity to make Fundación Nacional Batuta's actions more visible.



Binational Tricolor Symphonic Orchestra

This group was established through an initiative of the Office of the Mayor of Ipiales (Nariño), the Ministry of Culture, and the Colombian Chancellor's Office.

It began operating in 2012, in Ipiales and has attained high musical and social impact. The orchestra was created through the Batuta Musical Initiation program in 2009, and serves children aged 7 and older, who live in the municipalities of Tulcán and Ipiales.



Symphonic Orchestra Libre of Quibdó



The Symphonic Orchestra Libre of Quibdó was established as an initiative of the Office of the Mayor during the administration of Zulia Maria Mena García, in cooperation with Nelly Valencia Caizamo, choir direction specialist; professor Mary Nancy Moreno Perea; and singer Norberto Rodríguez Padilla. All three had been developing musical education activities with children and youth in the city of Quibdó.

When Fundación Nacional Batuta's programs ended in Quibdó, the team was motivated by the talented children and youth who had been educated through these programs to continue

vocal training of the children, formulating and building this project.

This initiative served as a beachhead to obtain support from organizations such as Findeter, the Ministry of Culture, the Office of the Mayor of Quibdó, Fundación Nacional Batuta, and Universidad Tecnológica del Chocó, in order to continue strengthening the musical training of the Orchestra. Through these sponsors, the program has been particularly active and today 200 children and youth of Chocó perform on stage under the direction of the professors Nelly Valencia Cáizamo and Aldara Velasco.

Buenaventura Orchestra

With 10 years of life the Buenaventura Orchestra is composed by youth of the lowest socioeconomic levels of the Alberto Lleras Camargo and Jorge neighborhoods.

Mariscal Sucre Youth Orchestra

This group was established in 2013 and serves boys, girls, and youths from the Musical Centers located in Sincelejo and Sincé. The orchestra was created to guarantee continuity of programs and agreements in the state of Sucre, and is currently complemented by the Strings Symphonic Orchestra of Corozal through a contribution of the Office of the Governor of Sucre.

Youth Symphonic Orchestra of Barrancabermeja

The Youth Symphonic Orchestra of Barrancabermeja was established in 2009 with children and youth coming of communes 3 and 7 of Barrancabermeja, in a joint project between Fundación Ecopetrol and Fundación Nacional Batuta.

In 2012, the orchestra's artistic and musical dynamics grew strong through the support of the Ministry of Culture.

The orchestra has represented the city of Barrancabermeja in important events, including the *VIII Festival de la UNAB* and the *III Concurso de Interpretación de Instrumentos de Arco* (Interpretation Contest of Bowed Instruments), where Batuta students participated in five categories, and won in four. Several of its members have also participated in the Travelling Notes International Festival, which gathered youths from around the world and which took place in Colombia in 2011. That year, six pupils were selected to participate in *Iberorquesta*, a project organized by UNAB and the Ministry of Culture in Bucaramanga.



Francisco de Paula Santander Metropolitan Orchestra

This orchestra was established in 2012 to promote a scenario of regional musical development in the metropolitan area of Cúcuta in order to articulate several city processes with those of the municipalities of Villa del Rosario and Los Patios.

This orchestra receives inputs from the initiation orchestra and other sources for the various instrumental areas that are part of the orchestra.

In 2012, the Metropolitan Orchestra performed two important concerts: one in the municipality of Los Patios to celebrate the anniversary of its founding, and another in Villa del Rosario. Both concerts took place under the Borders for Prosperity Plan.

Allegro



To speak of Allegro is to speak of a group that has, for 15 continuous years, done what every Colombian child should have the choice of doing: to perform great music.

Under the direction of Martha Sofía Rivera, this pre-orchestra has maintained high musical standards that have remained over time and that allows spectators to enjoy the superb musical interpretations achieved by these young artists. Allegro has become a remarkable reference for many Batuta pre-orchestras around the country. For this reason, the group has been allowed, for the third time, to participate in a Fundación Nacional Batuta recording project.

Many children and youths have passed by Allegro in the last 15 years. Today they are engaged in many activities and professions, including, of course, music. Many of them work with music at a professional level, in various disciplines, and

some who belonged to Allegro in the past are now members of professional orchestras in Bogotá. Allegro has represented Batuta in a large number of important national and international musical events, setting a milestone of musical quality, not only for the Batuta pre-orchestra area, but for the musical education around the country. It has performed alongside musical celebrities such as Joan Manuel Serrat, Andrea Echeverri, and Carlos Vives. It had the honor of performing a concert to welcome the Simón Bolívar Symphonic Orchestra of Venezuela in its visit to Bogotá in 1996.

The group has performed many times, yet the following venues stand out for their importance: Casa de Nariño, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Luis A. Calvo Auditorium at the UIS Bucaramanga, the Sala Luis Ángel Arango under the Young Interpreters event of 1999, the 2006 International Latin American Musical Education Forum in Bogotá, as well as all significant venues of Bogotá.

Batuta Metropolitan Choir of Bogotá

The Batuta Metropolitan Choir of Bogotá is composed of 160 children and youths from Bogotá's Music Centers as well as guests from the Universidad de Cundinamarca choir.

Working closely with the directors of the choirs of the Bogotá Regional Office, the Batuta Metropolitan Choir of Bogotá debuted with a cappella and symphonic-choral concert in 2013, which they performed in Universidad Nacional's León de Greiff Auditorium to celebrate this venue's 40 years.



Batuta San Rafael Choir

The Batuta San Rafael Choir of Bogotá has become one of the most representative groups of Batuta's choral work in Bogotá.

Two performances stand out from the group's presentations: a concert with the Bogotá Philharmonic Orchestra and one with the National Symphonic Orchestra of Colombia in the Julio Mario Santo Domingo Theater. The choir performed *Carmina Burana*, by Carl Orff, and *War Requiem*, by Benjamin Britten, respectively. The reviews praised the artistic and scenic quality of the choir.

Batuta Gran Santander Choir

The Batuta Gran Santander Choir is composed of 95 children and adolescents of the Batuta Music Centers in the cities of Cúcuta, Villa del Rosario, Barrancabermeja, and Bucaramanga, and is accompanied by the Batuta Children-Youth Symphonic Orchestra directed by professor Nora Lucía Alfonso. The group performed the main concert of the Fourth Children-Youth Coral Event and the Eight Choirs Festival in Santander, which took place on Wednesday, October 2, 2013 in the Luis A. Calvo Auditorium of Universidad Industrial de Santander.





BATUTA GOES BEYOND BORDERS

- As part of its 20 years' celebration, Batuta did two international tours to Germany, France, Spain, and Italy, sponsored by the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, providing a glimpse of what the National System of Children and Youth Orchestras of Colombia is and means, and the social impact that Fundación Nacional Batuta provides through its activities.
- In 2011, the second version of the Hey Mozart! contest took place, with the participation of 3100 children under 12 years from all the regions of Colombia. Hey Mozart! is a contest created by the University of North Carolina at Greensboro in the United States and seeks to stimulate creativity and talent for composition. In Colombia Hey Mozart! is the outcome of the work of more than 125 teachers associated with the Orchestral Centers of Batuta, eight composition students of the Universidad Javeriana, EAFIT and Universidad Pedagógica, two doctoral students of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and the artistic and educational work of the teachers committed to the project.
- In 2012, From the Top, one of the most prestigious and popular classic music stations in the United States, choose Colombia as the venue to record its international debut, giving young Colombians the opportunity to demonstrate their talent. The recording was broadcast by more than 200 National Public Radio (NPR) stations in the United States. Colombia From the Top was possible through the activities of two organizations: Fundación Bolívar Davivienda and Fundación Nacional Batuta. These organizations led this initiative to introduce to American public radio the quality of the musical interpretation of Colombian youth who have been musically training in Colombia.
- The Batuta Metropolitan Youth Symphonic Orchestra, Fundación Nacional Batuta's main Orchestra, participated in the Berlin Young Euro Classic Festival; in 2012 it toured 12 cities in the itinerant Italian Festival La Via dei Concerti; in 2013 it performed two concerts in Bogotá with the prominent Japanese violinist Ryu Goto; and in December 2013 it was the protagonist of the Binational Concert in Caracas (Venezuela) along with the Youth Symphonic of Caracas.
- In October 2014, some musicians of the Batuta Metropolitan Youth Symphonic Orchestra participated in the UN Day celebration and the reopening of the main hall of its New York headquarters. This event was celebrated with a symphonic concert of a youth world orchestra, composed of musicians from Brazil Peru, Venezuela, and Colombia, under the direction of the Batuta Artistic Musical Director Manuel López-Gómez, and the prominent pianist, Lang Lang.
- During 2014, the Batuta Metropolitan Youth Symphonic Orchestra has participated in binational musical events with the DC Youth Orchestra of Washington and Winchester College. The orchestra also experienced one of its most anticipated events: a rehearsal under the direction of the renowned Venezuelan master Gustavo Dudamel. Orchestra violinist musicians also received lectures from the prominent French violinist Michael Barenboim.

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