

## **Let's Play Classical Guitar Together**

*Let's Play Classical Guitar Together* (LPCGT) is a look at the history of the classical guitar, an instrument deeply rooted in European culture since the late sixteenth century, highlighting its social and cultural importance in the old continent. The project has an endowment of 120,000 euros granted by the European trust Erasmus Plus awarded by the Government of Spain.

LPCGT is an idea born at the Guitar Department of the Professional Conservatory of Music 'Hermanos Berzosa' of Cáceres (Spain) and involves, besides this institution, the Conservatory of Music of Porto (Portugal), the Musik und Kunstschule Havelland (Germany), and the Liceo Musicale 'Paolina Secco Suardo' of Bergamo (Italy).

The main aim of this project is to improve the motivation levels of our classical guitar students, so that, by establishing an incredible experience, they will be motivated to continue their musical studies in higher conservatories. On the other hand, the project aims to strengthen the profile of the guitar teachers by broadening their knowledge of the history and pedagogy of the instrument, which will undoubtedly have an impact in a day-to-day basis in their institutions.

The project is dedicated to classical guitar students ages 14 to 18, a period in which the highest levels of dropout are detected. Being part of a large-scale project such as this one will make them feel included in an experience that goes beyond music in general, which can be a determining factor in their educational success.

In order to achieve the aforementioned goals, the project is divided into six meetings, two of which, the first and the last, are exclusively for teachers in order to prepare and evaluate the project. During the other four meetings, the selected students will spend six days at the conservatories of the different countries learning and playing music together.

The four meetings for students will consist in the formation of several chamber ensembles as well as a guitar orchestra with the final goal of performing a concert in an auditorium of the city. For this purpose, the days of stay will be distributed in classes taught by the teachers of the institutions involved in the common language of the project, English. Even so, the students will have time to get to know the town and its surroundings, visiting historical monuments, museums and emblematic places.

Each meeting will have a different theme based on a relevant period in the history of music (baroque, classicism, romanticism, nationalism and twentieth century). In addition, during five of the six meetings the teachers will give lectures, which will be transcribed in English, with the intention of editing a book compiling all the material that has emerged during the project. This will gather a total of twenty lectures over two years. Some of the topics to be addressed are: the organization of music teaching in each country, the teaching of the guitar, the history of the guitar, etc., so that each meeting will also have a theme in this sense.

**Conservatorio Oficial de Música "Hermanos Berzosa" (Cáceres, Spain)**

<https://conservatoriocc.educarex.es>

The 'Hermanos Berzosa' Official Music Conservatory of Cáceres (Spain) is located in the San Francisco Cultural Complex and depends on the Department of Education and Employment of the Regional Government of Extremadura. There, it can be learned 20 instrumental specialties that cover almost the entire orchestral staff. Recently, new instrument such as Bass and Electric Guitar and Harpsichord have been added, within the policy of expanding the range of specialties in fields such as Modern Music and Early Music. The number of total students varies between 550 and 600 each year.

The conservatory has several choral and instrumental ensembles that allow students to get in touch with the dynamics and work of the orchestra, the band or choral music, such as the Symphony Orchestra, the Symphonic Band, the Big Band, the Saxophone Ensemble, the Viola Orchestra, the Flute Orchestra and the Student's Chorus. The Conservatory has a staff of 58 teachers and is host the "Isaac Albéniz" Parents Association, which maintains a close collaboration with the organization of extracurricular activities.

### **Musik und Kunstschule Havelland (Germany)**

<http://www.mks-havelland.de>

The Havelland School of Music and Art is the largest recognized music school in the state of Brandenburg (Germany) and is funded by the district of Havelland. Currently, 130 teachers teach more than 3,000 students in 11 main and 25 associated buildings. Lessons, contents and examinations are based on the curricula of the Association of German Music Schools (VdM) and work in close cooperation with the State Association of Music and Art Schools in Brandenburg.

Their main task is to find and implement the right concept for every student at all ages and levels, to develop their goals, their talent and personal disposition, as musical ability also gives the student a new form of expression that allows them to express their thoughts, ideas and feelings.

### **Liceo delle Scienze Umane e Liceo Musicale 'Paolina Secco Suardo' (Bergamo, Italy)**

<https://www.suardo.it/liceo-musicale/>

This public institution is a secondary school with two orientations: one dedicated to humanities and arts, the other dedicated to music (liceo musicale). The musical direction of the school gives students the opportunity to choose, by first passing an entrance exam, the study of a main musical instrument, which will then be complemented by a secondary one.

The 'liceo musicale' have more than thirty teachers of musical instruments, as well as approximately 240 students (generally students from ages 14 to 19). One of the main resources of this school is the possibility for students to attend the main and secondary instrument classes once a week. There are also weekly classes in chamber music, string ensembles, wind ensembles and vocal ensembles. The key point of this school is that it is not only a music-centered school, but it is a '360-degree school', that is to say, it aims to provide a complete cultural preparation for the student. For students it is also possible to participate in other musical projects such as the symphony orchestra, the wind orchestra, the 'musical' project, etc.

## **Conservatório de Música do Porto (Oporto, Portugal)**

<https://www.conservatoriodemusicadoporto.pt>

The Conservatório de Musica do Porto (CMP) is a public school established since 1917 and dedicated to the teaching of music. It welcomes students from six years of age from all over the city of Oporto and its neighboring municipalities. In recent years, the democratization of musical learning has led to a significant increase in the number of students. It now has more than 450 students in regular education, more than 600 students in complementary education, around 60 students in an articulated educational system and a total of 180 teachers.

The CMP currently has 5 guitar teachers and about 60 guitar students who receive individual lessons (45 or 90 minutes per week, depending on age, course and attendance regime). The guitar teachers organize every year the ‘Semana de la Guitarra’ which includes master classes, concerts, workshops, conferences, etc. The CMP has recently celebrated the edition of works for guitar by contemporary Portuguese composers related to this school. Seeking practices that promote equal opportunities, all students can regularly participate in auditions and concerts. The students most committed to musical learning also participate in various activities outside the school (competitions, masterclasses, etc.) with the support of their teachers.