

***"¡Me toca!", the social project that brings music to children
in Barcelona, Madrid and Seville***



The Fundación Jesús Serra, of Grupo Catalana Occidente, and the International Maria Canals Competition awarded diplomas, during June, for the social project "¡Me toca!" that, for yet another year, has been run in the neighbourhoods of Verneda and Meridiana (Barcelona), Usera (Madrid) and Macarena (Sevilla). The course was completed despite the lockdown arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. Teachers and students have made a huge effort to continue training in one of their passions, the piano.

This initiative aims to promote the practice of music among children aged six to seven, while preserving the principle of equal opportunities. Music is universal and, through this project, the goal is to iterate that music understands no cultural, economic or social barriers.

With the *¡Me toca!* project the Fundación Jesús Serra and the International Maria Canals Competition grant a scholarship to children from each of the first- and second-year primary school classes in the participating schools. Students who become part of the initiative receive a weekly piano class in their own schools. Since March, all the students who were able to have continued these classes online.

The initiative is launched at the beginning of the school year, when a grand piano is placed a busy place in the aforementioned districts. Public schools are encouraged to visit with their first-year primary school classes to learn, listen and, above all, play this instrument, bringing children closer to this type of culture. In a coordinated effort with the schools, first-year students are selected from each of the educational centres, and these children receive piano classes for the entire school year.

The collaboration between the Fundación Jesús Serra and the International Maria Canals Music Competition includes providing instruments for the classes, when required, as well as the teachers responsible for informative sessions and classes for the piano students.

About Fundación Jesús Serra

Fundación Jesús Serra is a non-profit organisation created in memory of Jesús Serra Santamans, a well-known businessman and sponsor and founder of Grupo Catalana Occidente. The foundation develops and supports projects in the areas of research, education, business, social action, sports, and promotion of the arts, with a common goal: responsible commitment to society.

If you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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This programme began its pilot project in 2015, in the neighbourhoods of La Verneda-La Pau and Ciutat Meridiana, when it offered scholarships to 18 children. Five years later, this figure has grown exponentially and, in the 2019-20 academic year, 110 students received piano classes. The number of schools involved has increased from 12 in the pilot project to a current total of 19.

¡Me toca! programme for the 2019-20 academic year

	Ciutat Meridiana (Barcelona)	La Verneda (Barcelona)	Usera (Madrid)	La Macarena (Seville)	Total
Children	17	19	46	28	110
Schools	5	5	6	6	22

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