

1ST ÓSCAR ESPLÁ INTERNATIONAL MUSIC
COMPOSITION CONTEST
LA MÁCULA DEL TIEMPO FOUNDATION



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1ST ÓSCAR ESPLÁ INTERNATIONAL MUSIC COMPOSITION CONTEST

La Mácula del Tiempo Cultural Foundation and the Óscar Esplá Superior Music Conservatory of Alicante join efforts to announce the [1st Óscar Esplá International Music Composition Contest](#). This first edition counts on the support from important institutions such as the ASISA Foundation, the Alicante Provincial Council, the Alicante City Council Department of Tourism, the Casa Mediterraneo Institution, the Orihuela City Philharmonic Orchestra, and cultural institutions such as the Don Biblo Foundation, all of which come together to show their commitment to current musical creation in order to emphasise the value of the cultural leaders of our cultural scene.

This award for musical composition aims to position Alicante's culture on the international stage by promoting musical research and creativity, fostering dialogue between tradition and innovation, and developing a space for the visibility of new languages of sound creation.

The name Óscar Esplá recalls artistic innovation but also the deep legacy of a composer who knew how to bridge tradition and modernity.

Esplá is one of the most relevant composers in world music history. He is linked to Alicante by birth and for his involvement in projects such as the founding of the Óscar Esplá Superior Music Conservatory, the Óscar Esplá Award (1955-1989), and the restoration and edition of the Misteri d'Elx music, among others: a leader in the Alicante cultural scene, bringing us all onto the international stage of musical creation.

Óscar Esplá was, first of all, a creator with a diverse range of interests, such as engineering and philosophy. He was in constant touch with a group of artists, writers, and intellectuals, among whom were the painter Emilio Varela, the writer Gabriel Miró, the economist and physicist Germán Bernácer, and the architect Juan Vidal. Through dialogue and shared experiences, they developed an innovative and committed interpretation of the art of their times. Esplá's music, imbued with a Mediterranean spirit, managed to capture the cadence of a sound landscape that transcends borders. His work echoes with popular melodies, ancient rhythms and the return to modal systems belonging to the cultures that share this common sea. At the same time, however, Esplá was able to look ahead: his harmonic language, his formal freedom, and the contemporary search for his own identity position him among the pioneers of modern Spanish and European composition.

In that sense, this award pays homage to a world-renowned composer and to the dialogue among different cultures, benefiting from engagement, exchange, and diversity.

In future editions, we expect this award (intended for both the national and international stages) to encourage Alicante's society to support musical creation, in order to develop an activity programme that can give the city the position it deserves on the international stage.

1ST ÓSCAR ESPLÁ INTERNATIONAL MUSIC COMPOSITION CONTEST TEAM

La Mácula del Tiempo is a cultural non-profit foundation that aims to emphasise the value of our cultural leaders from a contemporary perspective, as well as society's (as a whole) participation as a cultural asset. The foundation's work team comprises members of the cultural world, artists, and cultural managers with long careers in the arts and cultural debate (www.arteultimo.org, Debates. Cultura. Sede Universidad de Alicante). President: Eduardo Lastres, visual artist, essayist, poet. Vice-president: Elena Aguilera, visual artist. Secretary: Guillermina Perales, art critic, along with other authors from different professional sectors.

Currently, the foundation develops both exhibition projects in natural environments (www.senderosdelartetibi.es) and in audiovisual format (www.lamaculadeltiempo.org).

For this project, the 1ST ÓSCAR ESPLÁ INTERNATIONAL MUSIC COMPOSITION CONTEST, La Mácula del Tiempo Cultural Foundation has signed a collaboration agreement with the Óscar Esplá Superior Conservatory of Music. Furthermore, it has assembled a working team with Jesús María Gómez, director of the Óscar Esplá Superior Conservatory of Music and a prestigious pianist, as well as Sixto Herrero, professor at the conservatory, world-renowned composer, and conductor of the Orihuela City Philharmonic Orchestra. The project also relies on the counsel and support of Luis Ivars, a renowned composer and Honorary Vice President of the European Composer & Songwriter Alliance (ECSA).

This first edition will award a EUR 6,000 ASISA La Mácula del Tiempo FIRST PRIZE and a EUR 1,500 Casa Mediterráneo SECOND PRIZE.

The award ceremony will be held at the Chamber Hall of the Auditorium of the Alicante Provincial Council (ADDA) on 13 November 2026. The ceremony programme will be completed with a concert including both the 1ST ÓSCAR ESPLÁ INTERNATIONAL MUSIC COMPOSITION CONTEST first and second prize winners. The concert will feature the extraordinary pianist Jesús María Gómez Rodríguez and the Orihuela City Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Sixto Herrero.

The concert and the award ceremony will be recorded in audio and video and shared on the top social media platforms and cultural channels.

1ST ÓSCAR ESPLÁ INTERNATIONAL MUSIC COMPOSITION CONTEST

COMPETITION TERMS

1. Goal:

- 1.1 To recognise original musical works that reflect the union of the present, history, and research, contributing to the development of the contemporary musical landscape.
- 1.2 Innovation, based on the interpretation of current principles of musical composition, will be positively valued.

2. Participation requirements:

- 2.1 Any composer of any origin or nationality may participate, regardless of age.
- 2.2 Each composer may submit only one work, which must be original; it cannot be an arrangement, nor be part of any type of paid commission, nor have received an award in any other competition. The work, including any of its parts (if any), must not have been previously performed in a concert or any public event under any title other than the one submitted in the competition, and it must not have been previously broadcast by any means of dissemination.

Once submitted, the works may not be withdrawn from this competition or submitted to other competitions or contests before the jury decides on the present one.

3. Form and content:

- 3.1 The works must be scored for solo piano and string orchestra formed by 6 first violins, 6 second violins, 4 violas, 4 cellos, and 2 double basses.
- 3.2 The duration of the work will range from 10 minutes to 18 minutes.

4. Submission deadline:

Works may be submitted from the date of publication until 30 June 2026, 24:00 h. The postmark date will be considered the submission date; we recommend sending the work via certified mail. Entries submitted outside this strict deadline will be disqualified.

5. Submission format:

Participants will send — via mail or any type of agency which provides proof of mailing date — an envelope that must contain:

- Full score with only the title and approximate duration of

the work, perfectly legible and bound. Any other indication on the envelope or score that would reveal the contestant's identity will result in the automatic disqualification of the work.

- In addition to the score, the envelope must contain a one-page A4 description of the work, specifying the structure and origin of the musical materials used.
- Inside the envelope, in any digital format (memory card or similar), all participants must also send the full score in PDF and the instrumental parts in PDF, well edited, prepared, and designed for performance. An audio recording of the work in MP3 or a similar format, extracted from the MIDI file of the music notation software used, may be included if deemed appropriate.
- To maintain anonymity during the jury's deliberations, a second sealed envelope (the "sealed identification document"), identified only with the title of the work, must be included inside the first envelope together with the score and the A4 description of the work. This "sealed identification document" will contain two sheets of paper:
 - Author's information: full name, postal address, telephone number, email address, national identity card or passport number, age, and a brief CV.
 - A sworn statement specifying the following text:

The UNDERSIGNED hereby warrants that the work... (title thereof)... is original, of my own and exclusive authorship, unpublished, has not been submitted to any other competition, nor has it been commissioned for payment, nor has it won any prize in any other competition, nor has it been previously performed in concert or at any public event, not even in part, under the current title or any other, nor broadcast by any means of dissemination. Furthermore, its creation is not the result of the use of systems, tools, or techniques derived from or linked to Artificial Intelligence, nor is it a copy or modification, in whole or in part, of any other work, whether my own or someone else's.

- The works will be sent to the following address within the timeframe specified in this document:

Calle Belfast, 27 bajo, C.P.: 03005, Alicante, España.

Please refer to the following email address with any remaining questions:

lamaculadeltiempo@gmail.com

6. Prizes:

The contest will award a EUR 6,000 FIRST PRIZE and a EUR 1,500 SECOND PRIZE.

Amounts subject to current tax withholding. In addition, the winning work will be performed and subject to audiovisual recording.

7. Jury:

- The jury will be proposed and chosen by the organisation of this contest. Its members will be people who are relevant in the world of music composition, performance, and conducting, selected by the Óscar Esplá Superior Conservatory of Music. The jury's decisions will be final, with no appeals. The jury's decision will be announced at least 60 days after the work submission deadline. The winner will be notified personally, and the announcement will also be made through available media channels and on the organisers' website.
- After reviewing the submitted works, their quality, and the age of their authors, the jury may recommend the publication or performance of any works it deems appropriate, even if they have not received a prize. Furthermore, the jury may declare the prize void if it finds that the submitted works do not meet the minimum artistic quality standards set by the organisers.

8. Copyright:

The composer of each of the winning works will hold the copyright thereof, giving their consent for the materials submitted to be made available to the organisation for dissemination, editing, sound recording, and performance. The files will become part of the assets of La Mácula del Tiempo Cultural Foundation (the producing and organising entity), the Óscar Esplá Superior Conservatory of Music (the collaborating institution), and the Orihuela City Philharmonic Orchestra (the orchestra selected for its premiere performance). The files will be shared through the digital platforms of these institutions for dissemination.

9. Award Ceremony:

- The award ceremony will be held at the Chamber Hall of the Auditorium of the Alicante Provincial Council (ADDA) on 13 November 2026. The

ceremony programme will be completed with a concert including both the 1ST ÓSCAR ESPLÁ INTERNATIONAL MUSIC COMPOSITION CONTEST first and second prize winners. The concert will feature the pianist Jesús María Gómez Rodríguez and the Orihuela City Philharmonic Orchestra, with conduction by Sixto Herrero.

- The winner of the contest undertakes to attend the award ceremony and premiere of the work, this being an absolute prerequisite except in cases of force majeure and in duly justified cases. The winner's failure to attend the ceremony will be understood as a waiver of the prize; nevertheless, the winning work will be performed.
- The winning composer grants permission to La Mácula del Tiempo Cultural Foundation to use, free of charge, the composer's name, image, and voice to the maximum extent permitted by law with the aim of achieving the widest possible dissemination of the award. Likewise, with the same aim, the composer undertakes to participate actively and personally in the presentation, performance, and promotion of the work in those events considered adequate by the foundation, except in cases of force majeure.
- The winning author undertakes to always include the following inscription in any publicity for their award-winning work, as well as in all recordings, editions, and handbills that subsequently include the performance of said work: 1st Óscar Esplá International Music Composition Contest.
- Participation in this contest implies unconditional acceptance of these terms. The jury's decision is final. The interpretation of the competition terms will be the exclusive responsibility of the jury.

Private Data Protection

In accordance with the provisions of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data (General Data Protection Regulation or GDPR) and with Organic Law 3/2018 of December the 5th, on the Protection of Personal Data and the Guarantee of Digital Rights (LOPD), the personal data provided by the composers will be processed by the LA MÁCULA DEL TIEMPO Foundation in order to comply with the rights and obligations contained in this

document, legitimate interest being the legal basis that enables the processing of these personal data. Additionally, and only when the participants have signed their consent to do so, LA MÁCULA DEL TIEMPO Foundation will use the name and image of the author for promotional purposes of the musical composition and the award, as detailed in these terms.

Data for non-awarded candidates will be kept until the jury's decision is announced. The data of the winning composer will be kept until the next edition of the Prize is announced. Once this period has elapsed, the data will be kept blocked, preventing its processing, except for making the data available to judges and courts, the Public Prosecutor's Office, or the competent Public Administrations, for the purpose of ascertaining possible responsibilities arising from the processing, and only in accordance with the statutory time limits for such purposes. Once the specified time period has elapsed, the data will be deleted.

Participants have the right to obtain confirmation as to whether their personal data is being processed; therefore, they have the right to access their personal data, rectify inaccurate data or request its deletion when the data is no longer necessary, after showing proof of identity, as well as the right to object and to request the limitation of the processing of their data and the right to the portability of their data. Participants may exercise their rights by sending a communication to the attention of La Mácula del Tiempo Cultural Foundation, CIF: G02757102, Calle Belfast, 27 bajo, 03005, Alicante, España. lamaculateltiempo@gmail.com

Participants have the right to lodge a complaint with the Supervisory Authority if they believe that their data protection rights have been infringed.

La Mácula del Tiempo



