

THE REINA SOFÍA

25  
YEARS  
LATER 1991.92-2015.16

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

# THE REINA SOFÍA

25  
YEARS  
LATER 1991.92-2015.16

# SCHOOL OF MUSIC

S.M. la Reina Doña Sofía y la Junta de Patronos de la Escuela. Primeros ensayos de la Orquesta con José Luis García Asensio



Alicia de Larrocha and Paloma O'Shea



First concert of the School



Aquiles Machado

*Paloma O'Shea, the director of the Albéniz Foundation, encouraged the creation of the Reina Sofía College of Music with Her Majesty Queen Sofia as honorary president.*

## 1991 - 1992

- The School embarked upon its first academic year in four semi-detached houses in Pozuelo de Alarcón (near Madrid). The campus consisted of classrooms and halls of residence, shared by staff and students alike in a convivial atmosphere.
  - 29 students from eight countries (Germany, Bulgaria, Spain, Finland, Israel, Poland, Russia and Ukraine).
  - The teaching staff adhered to the principles of teaching excellence, academic freedom and tutoring. The following leading music teachers were appointed:
    - Violin: Zakhar Bron
    - Viola: Daniel Benyamini
    - Cello: Ivan Monighetti
    - Piano: Dimitri Bashkirov
- Musicians such as Yehudi Menuhin, Mstislav Rostropovich, Zubin Mehta and Alicia de Larrocha have accompanied Paloma O'Shea on her mission along with intellectuals such as Vicente Cacho, Federico Sopena and Enrique Franco.
- A new style of patronage – a blend of sponsorship and communication - has provided the necessary resources to support all talented students regardless of their means.
  - The first four sponsors of music departments were:
    - Violin - The Endesa Group
    - Viola - Nissan
    - Cello – Sony
    - Piano - Banco Santander
- The first team from the School and the foundation, headed by chairman Vicente Ferrer (who later became the vice president of the foundation), was presented at the Real Academia de Bellas Artes de San Fernando.
- The stage is an extension of the classroom. A concert series entitled “Ciclo de Conciertos Docentes y el de Solistas del Siglo XXI” was held at the Auditorio Nacional de Música de Madrid. Over 40 public concerts were held in Madrid and other Spanish cities.
- Since that first academic year, Her Majesty the Queen has presided over the closing ceremony at the end of each academic year and awarded diplomas to outstanding students.
- Eldar Nebolsin, who was in the first batch of artists who graduated from the School, won the Santander Grand Prix, the Gold Medal and the Award for the Best Interpreter of Mozart in the Paloma O'Shea Santander XI International Piano Competition.



Daniel Benyamini



Ivan Monighetti and Mstislav Rostropovich



Eldar Nebolsin



Primera Clausura de Curso en el Museo del Prado

## 1992 - 1993

*778 students from 60 countries  
have attended the School*

■ The following professors were appointed:

- Ludwig Streicher, *Fundación Tabacalera Double Bass Department*
- José Luis García Asensio, *IBM Chamber Orchestra Department and Violin Department*
- and Natalia Gutman as Guest Artist in the *Sony Cello Department*

■ The Chamber Music Department was created – the third in the School’s three-pronged approach to instrument teaching – the other two being soloist and orchestra studies. Since then, over 500 string and mixed ensembles have been taught at the School.

- *String Quartets*: Piero Farulli
- *String and Piano Ensembles*: Marta Gulyás

■ Her Royal Highness Queen Sofía presided over the presentation of the School’s IBM String Orchestra at the Royal Palace. The orchestra, led by conductors of renown such as García Asensio, Schiff, Maazel, Berio, Barshai, Mehta, Davis, Valdés, Ros Marbà and Savall, meets several times a year. It has performed at the closing ceremony of the academic year in Reales Sitios for 23 years.

■ Launch of the “Generación Ascendente” concert series at the Auditorio Nacional de la Música. This concert series has featured highly-talented musicians from the School: Asier Polo, Aquiles Machado, Cuarteto Casals, Plamena Mangova, el Dúo del Valle ....-



Arcadi Volodos



Paloma O'Shea, Alfredo Kraus and Juan Manuel de Mingo



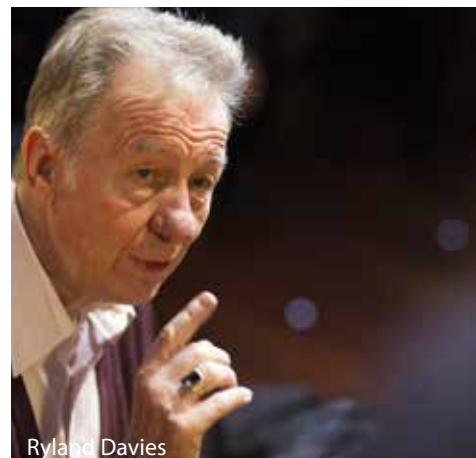
Yehudi Menuhin and Zakhar Bron



Lorin Maazel



Ana Chumachenko



Ryland Davies

*500 chamber ensembles*

## 1993 - 1994

- Alfredo Kraus told Paloma O'Shea he would like to teach at the School. The **Voice Department** was created and sponsored by the Ramón Areces Foundation. The maestro taught until 1998.
- Raphael Hillyer and Gérard Caussé were both **Viola professors**.
- During this third academic year, the following were invited to the programme of master classes: Fleisher, Menuhin, Barker, Caussé, Santiago, Perennyi, Gutman, Zafer and de Larrocha. Over the last 25 years, 229 teachers from across the music spectrum have taught students new technical and artistic perspectives.
- Yehudi Menuhin, who gave violin classes at the School and conducted the orchestra, was awarded the School Medal by Doña Sofía who has awarded this medal over the years to distinguished artists and patrons in recognition of their constant support for the School.



Péter Eötvös y la Sinfonietta de la Escuela



Piero Farulli



Ciclo Da Camera. Quinteto Danzi

## 1997 - 1998

4,100 concerts

- Frans Helmerson was appointed **professor of cello** during the previous academic year.
- The *Prosegur* Cuarteto Albéniz was created, followed by the Cuarteto Casals composed of Vera Martínez Mehner, Andoni Mercero and Abel and Arnau Tomás who are brothers. A few years later, the School also programmed the Cuarteto Quiroga which boasts a huge international profile. The **Chamber Music** Department formed the nucleus of the Madrid International Chamber Institute which was established a few years later.
- This year saw the start of a new concert series for children “Conciertos para Escolares” which was created with the aim of attracting new audiences. These concerts took place in the Círculo de Bellas Artes and the Auditorio Nacional de la Música in Madrid.
- Paloma O’Shea was awarded the UNESCO Gold Medal.

## 1998 - 1999

More than a million concertgoers

- Teresa Berganza became Head of the “Alfredo Kraus” **Vocal Department**.
- The sponsorship model at the School was such that businesses become involved in the organisation of concerts and this proved to be a highly efficient system of marketing and communication. Over 100 concerts took place each year in a variety of spectacular venues ranging from the Alcázar in Seville to the Roman amphitheatre in Mérida or even the Espiel power plant. BP, Iberdrola, Prosegur, Canon, Banco Santander, Sony and Deloitte, and years later BBVA, Atos, Enagas, Banesto and others have been actively involved in plans for the School’s future and modernization.
- The School created the Yehudi Menuhin Prize for the Integration of Arts and Education, and that same year Alfredo Kraus received the prize. The following maestros have also been awarded the prize: Farulli Piero, Carlo Maria Giulini, Sir Colin Davis, Alice Larrocha, Claudio Abbado, José Antonio Abreu, Zubin Mehta, Menahem Pressler and Teresa Berganza.



Teresa Berganza



Yehudi Menuhin y la Orquesta de Cámara Freixenet de la Escuela



Walter Levin



Duncan McTier

*Concerts in 717 venues in Spain and 95 abroad*

## 2000 - 2001

- This year marked the Tenth Anniversary of the School with key structural developments.
  - A technological project "The Virtual School of Music" was created featuring a programme entitled [www.MagisterMusicae.com](http://www.MagisterMusicae.com) whose aim was to offer high-quality music on the internet related to education, research and concerts.
  - The first edition of the Encuentro de Música y Academia de Santander took place with the support of the Government of Cantabria and the Santander City Hall. The School invited the best music Schools in Europe to be involved in this venture which enables outstanding teachers and students to collaborate both in the classroom and on stage. Claudio Martínez Mehner was the Artistic Coordinator.
  - Mozart's "Cosi fan tutte" was the first opera to be produced at the School. Teresa Berganza was artistic director, Antoni Ros Marbà musical director and Vincent Boussard stage director. Design by Christian Lacroix. Palacio de Festivales de Cantabria and Teatro de la Zarzuela de Madrid.
- The School created wind sections in various departments featuring
  - Hansjörg Schellenberger, **Oboe**
  - Radovan Vlatković, **Horn**
- One of Rostropovich's favourite pupils, Natalia Shakhovskaya, became a teacher at the School. Galina Eguiazarova has twice the number of students in her piano class. The School took a quantum leap - 76 students from 13 countries were studying at the School.
- That year 247 concerts were held in 68 venues in Spain and abroad. The School recorded eight CDs to add to the 22 previously recorded. 16 concerts were recorded and broadcast by RTVE.
- Professor Ludwig Streicher was awarded the Commendation of the Civil Order of Alfonso X the Wise.



Cuarteto Casals de Prosegur



Galina Eguiazarova

Ópera Così Fan Tutti. Ana Lucrecia García y Ana Mª Häsler



Gérard Caussé



Encomienda de la Alfonso X El Sabio a Zakhar Bron y Dimitri Bashkurov

## 2001 - 2002

*Over 3,000 scholarships and 1,500 concerts thanks to the 252 sponsors*

- Rainer Zepperitz, professor of the **Double Bass department**.
- Students from the School won prestigious awards such as the X Arthur Rubinstein International Piano Master Competition which was won by piano student Kirill Gerstein; the International Competition of Musicians and Performers of a Stringed Instrument (Almaty, Kazakhstan) was won by viola student Natalia Tchitch, and the Pablo Sarasate International Violin Competition was won by violin student Leticia Muñoz.
- Péter Csaba became artistic director of the Encuentro de Musica y Academia de Santander. He held auditions to select the most outstanding students from leading European music Schools: the Sibelius Academy (**Helsinki**), the Royal Academy of Music (**London**), the Orchester-Academy (**Berlin**), the Hochschule für Musik (**Cologne**), the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse (**Paris**), the Jesús del Monasterio Music Conservatory, the Ataulfo Argenta Municipal Conservatory of Music. Artists-in-residence were also invited to the Encuentro which organises over 50 concerts in the Cantabrian region.

## 2002 - 2003

- A tribute to Professor Cacho Viu, vice president of the School. The following work by Viu was published: *The Spanish Liberal Tradition* and later *The Free Educational Institution*. A series of lectures and concerts aimed at intellectuals was organised.
- A concert series entitled "Clásicos en RUTA AIE" was held. Other concert series took place in collaboration with cultural institutions such as the Fundación Juan March, Casa Cantabria, Fundación Marcelino Botín, Museo del Prado, Centro Cultural Galileo.





Michel Arrignon



Cuarteto Quiroga de Prosegur



Jordi Savall



Asier Polo



Günter Pichler



Márta Gulyás

*129 students won 172 Spanish and international awards - 29 chamber ensembles won 34 awards*

## 2003 - 2004

- Maestro Rainer Schmidt became professor of violin and chamber music. A year later he created the Camerata orchestra at the School to enable a medium-sized orchestra to perform a chamber repertoire.

## 2005 - 2006

- MUSIC FOR A School: The School commissioned work from 16 international composers (Camarero, Corigliano, de Pablo, del Puerto, Eötvös, García Abril, Gubaidulina, Guinjoan, Hosokawa, Kröpfl, Marco, Nobre, Panisello, Penderecki, Saariaho and Stockhausen) to celebrate Paloma O'Shea's 70th birthday. The works were aimed at soloists, chamber groups and orchestras and were premiered by students and teachers from the School in later years in concert series in both Madrid and Santander.



S.M. la Reina Doña Sofía y los Duques de Soria inaugura la nueva sede de la Escuela



Jesús López Cobos



José Luis García Asensio



Zubin Mehta and Ana María Valderrama



Octeto de Violonchelos Boccherini de Sony

620,666 visits to the website since 2004

## 2006 - 2007

- The School created the Madrid International Institute of Chamber Music in collaboration with the *Caja Madrid Foundation*, the Ministry of Culture, the Madrid Regional Government and the Madrid City Council. The institute entrusted its academic direction to the Reina Sofia School. The heads of department were: Hansjörg Schellenberger, *Wind instruments*, Rainer Schmidt, *Stringed instruments*, and Ralf Gothóni, chamber *groups with a piano*. The Camerata inaugurated the first academic year at the Institute, under the baton of Ralf Gothóni at the Auditorio Nacional de Música.
- The Commendation of the Civil Order of Alfonso X the Wise was awarded to teachers Dimitri Bashkirov and Zakhar Bron who were both involved in founding the School.

## 2007 - 2008

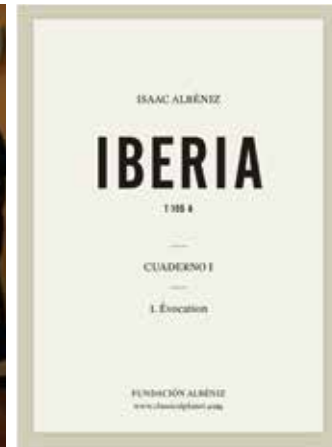
- Professor Marco Rizzi was appointed professor of violin and Duncan McTier professor of *Double Bass*.
- The *Freixenet Symphony Orchestra*, under the baton of chief conductor, Professor Antoni Ros Marbá, was presented at the Gran Teatro del Liceo in Barcelona and at the Auditorio Nacional de Música in Madrid. Vladimir Ashkenazy also conducted the orchestra at the Palacio de Festivales in Santander and at la Salle Pleyel in Paris.
- José Luis García Asensio was awarded the Commendation of the Civil Order of Alfonso X the Wise.



Presentación de la Orquesta Sinfónica Freixenet  
Antoni Ros Marbà y Pablo Ferrández



Inauguración del Aula Zubin Mehta



*11,505 downloads of the Iberia score*

## 2008 - 2009

- This year was a turning point in the history of the School. Inauguration of a new building in the Plaza de Oriente in Madrid which houses the Albéniz Foundation, the School and the institute on 17 September 2008 with Her Majesty Queen Sofía as president and in the presence of the Duke and Duchess of Soria. An open day at the School for sponsors, patrons, musicians and the media.
- Inauguration of the Sony Auditorium at the headquarters of the Albéniz Foundation in the Plaza de Oriente under the presidency of the King and Queen of Spain. The Sony Chamber Orchestra under the baton of Zubin Mehta. Soloist: Ana María Valderrama, violin.
- Inauguration of the following classrooms: Mstislav Rostropovich, Telefónica Alicia de Larrocha, Banco Santander Zubin Mehta and Ramon Areces Foundation Alfredo Kraus under the presidency of Her Majesty Queen Sofia and Her Royal Highness Infanta Doña Margarita.
- The new building housed three new wind departments:
  - Flute: Jacques Zoon
  - Clarinet: Michel Arrignon
  - Bassoon: Klaus Thunemann
- Gunter Pichler, former first violin with the Cuarteto Alban Berg, became head professor of the string quartet department at the Madrid Institute of Chamber Music. The Institute started to become a focal point for highly-talented young string quartets from all over the world who wished to undertake music training in Madrid.
- The Cuartetos Schumann, Benewitz, Amber etc and for other formations the Dúo del Valle and the Trio Concordia. The "Da Camera", "de Órgano" and "Preludio" Concert Series commenced this year, culminating with "Recitales de la Plaza de Oriente in 2012" which formed part of the Auditorio Sony programme.
- Presentation of the Albéniz Biennium on the centenary of the composer's death: the Albéniz Foundation commissioned pianist Luis Fernando Pérez to create a new edition of the music score for Iberia which could be consulted and downloaded for free. "Albéniz en Abierto" on the [www.ClassicalPlanet.com](http://www.ClassicalPlanet.com) website contains lecture series and concerts which were held in collaboration with the Auditorio Nacional de la Música, as well as master classes by Alicia de Larrocha about Albéniz, which were donated by his daughter Alicia Torra.
- Paloma O'Shea was awarded the Madrid City Hall Gold Medal.



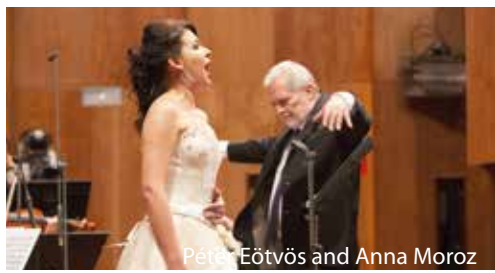
*Our alumni have performed in over 100 orchestras all over the world; over 40 are prestigious soloists, and more than a hundred are outstanding teachers*

## 2009 - 2010

- Presentation of the [www.ClassicalPlanet.com](http://www.ClassicalPlanet.com) website at the CeBIT Fair in Hannover, Germany. The School orchestra performed a programme of music by Mozart, Turina and de Falla under the baton of maestro Csaba at the Beethovensaal Congress Centrum. Various technological projects led by the School and the foundation were acknowledged by the European Commission as "Model Projects which impact on Union policies".
- An agreement was reached with the Spanish National Heritage to hold concerts in the Reales Sitios: the first series of concerts at the Casa de las Flores in La Granja de San Ildefonso.

## 2010 - 2011

- The Third **Violin Department** was inaugurated with Professor Ana Chumachenco.
- A tribute concert to Yehudi Menuhin by his disciple Vadim Repin with Her Majesty Queen Sofia as president. This was the inaugural event for the concert series dedicated to sponsors of seats in the Sony Auditorium as a means for the foundation and the School to proffer thanks to each of the benefactors of the School for their commitment to the project.
- Presentation of the School Sinfonietta – an ensemble dedicated to contemporary music. The Sinfonietta embodies the final link in the arc of orchestral formations in the School which includes the Symphony, Chamber and Camerata orchestras. Since then, the Sinfonietta has been led by maestros Nagy, Eötvös (artistic advisor to the ensemble), Rophe and Asbury.
- Inauguration of the Enrique Franco Classroom with Her Royal Highness Infanta Doña Margarita as president. The former vice president of the foundation, a thinker and great defender of Spanish and contemporary music received a posthumous Commendation of the Civil Order of Alfonso X the Wise.



Peter Eötvös and Anna Moroz



András Schiff



Marco Rizzi



Jesús López Cobos, Orquesta Sinfónica Freixenet y el Coro de la Comunidad de Madrid

## 2011 - 2012

- The School celebrated its Twentieth Anniversary with Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. The orchestra was conducted by Jose Luis López Cobos and the following soloists from the Vocal Department performed - Iwona Sobotka, Anna Moroz, Francisco Corujo and Isaac Galán as well as the ORCAM choir.
- Presentation of the Festival Euroclassic Online - the first music festival to be created specifically for the internet. This is a European Commission project led by the School in conjunction with the Sibelius Academy, Helsinki, the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London, the Royal Conservatory of Brussels, the Santa Cecilia Academy in Rome, the Porto School of Music and Performing Arts and the Brussels Koninklijk.
- ClassicalPlanet.com received the ICMA Award (International Classical Music Award) for the best website specialising in classical music on the web. Nantes, France.
- The School became associated with the ENOA European programme - a network of academic, artistic and management institutions which promote young people's work in the professional world of opera.

## 2012 - 2013

### *Constant media presence*

- This year, as in previous years, students from both the School and institute won numerous international awards in prestigious competitions for their performances both as soloists and as members of chamber music groups. This particular year, the following 17 students received awards for their solo work: Buenos Aires (Erzhan Kulibaev), Poland (Elinor d'Melon, Elina Sitnikava, Maria Florea and Victor Garcia), Mirecourt and Zagreb (Eri Masaoka), Kiev (Maksym Diedikov), Lisbon (Juan Tormo), Manchester (Victoria Vassilenko). And the following **Chamber Music Awards: Hamburg** (Cavaleri Quartet), Bulgaria (the Arte), Bordeaux (the Schumann), Vinaròs (Duo Satz) and in Trasmiera and Almería ( the Enara Wind Quintet). Bruno Vlahek won first prize in the Cristóbal Halffter Organ Composition Competition in El Bierzo, León.
- The Sony Auditorium programmed over one hundred concerts that year amounting to a total audience of 44,000. More than 25% of these performances were broadcast on the Live channel on [www.ClassicalPlanet.com](http://www.ClassicalPlanet.com). These concerts were uploaded to the Auditorium channel on the same website which has received over 200,000 visits a year and featured over 1000 works.



Dimitri Bashkurov



Diemut Poppen



Jacques Zoon

*171 teachers and 220 imparting Master Classes*

## 2013 - 2014

- Inauguration of the Lorin Maazel classroom. Maestro Maazel advises the **Telefónica Violin Department**. Maazel gave one master class in Violin at the School.
- The School and the Spanish World Heritage Cities Group signed an agreement whereby students from both the School and the institute could perform in 15 cities thereby providing added value to stunning theatres and venues in Ávila, Alcalá de Henares, Baeza, Cáceres, Córdoba, Cuenca, Ibiza, Mérida, Salamanca, San Cristóbal de la Laguna, Santiago de Compostela, Segovia, Tarragona, Toledo and Úbeda.
- A collaborative agreement between the School and the **Silos Foundation** in Burgos to enable concerts to take place on an annual basis at the Forum Evolution. This particular year, the **Camerata E.ON** performed under the baton of Gordan Nikolić and the Freixenet Symphony Orchestra led by Jesús López Cobos.
- The presentation of the first digital free edition of the music score of Albéniz's Iberia. The Foundation commissioned Luis Fernando Pérez to undertake this. The [www.ClassicalPlanet.com](http://www.ClassicalPlanet.com) website had 6. 000 downloads in the first few days.

## 2014 - 2015

*94 cd and dvd*

- A new era. After 25 years as chairman and later as vice president of the foundation, Vicente Ferrer retired. Paloma O'Shea appointed Julia Sánchez Abeal as chairman of the foundation and also appointed Fabián Panisello (previously academic director) as the new director of the School. Paloma O' Shea in the meantime continued overseeing the project in her role as president. She defined the challenges of this new era: maintaining a commitment to musical excellence and improving this if possible; applying this commitment to other aspects of the project (organization, communication, digitalisation ...) and increasing the impact on all aspects of the School and related programmes.
- Ivan Monighetti joined the **Viola department**.
- Under the presidency of Her Majesty Queen Sofía, presentation of the School's International Circle composed of international businessmen and philanthropists with the aim of consolidating the School's institutional profile and nurturing its sustainability.
- Juan Pérez Floristán, a former student of the School, won the XVIII Santander International Piano Competition which had huge media coverage. The various stages of the competition were broadcast live on [www.ClassicalPlanet.com](http://www.ClassicalPlanet.com) and [rtve.es](http://rtve.es)
- Natalia Shakhovskaya was awarded the Commendation of the Civil Order of Alfonso X The Wise.



Klaus Thunemann



Hansjörg Schellenberg



Juan Pérez Floristán, Primer Premio del XVIII Concurso de Piano de Santander

**2015 - 2016**

*The School celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

- The School celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year. During this academic year, 71 teachers are teaching 147 students. Nearly 800 students have studied at the School over the years, many of whom enjoy successful careers as soloists or perform in some of the best orchestras in the world – 8% of the students are members of Spanish orchestras -and win highly- prestigious, international awards. These students provide the link between excellent teaching and new generations of musicians. The former students of the great maestros in our School are continuing the teaching tradition and teach in conservatories throughout the world.
- The School includes in its preparatory and development programmes, the official degree in music as defined by the Bologna process. The degree will enable students to develop their professional profile. The School has also presented a development plan showing the gradual incorporation of the remaining brass instruments (trumpet, trombone and tuba), percussion, harp, composition and conducting.
  - This is the first academic year for the choir department which is led by maestro Andrés Máspero. The range of core subjects (11), optional (8) configure the academic plan of this new phase.
  - Nobuko Imai has joined the *BBVA Foundation Viola department*.
  - An agreement has been signed with the Teatro Real with the aim of consolidating the training of students of voice and other specialities who will have the opportunity to work with some of the artists, singers and directors whose work is programmed at the Teatro Real.
- A Friends' Programme has been developed promoting rapprochement with society in general.
- This year, the Reina Sofía Alumni Programme has been launched which enables former pupils to create a professional and artistic network. These very students may become the mentors of the students who are currently studying at the School. The programme includes the Alumni Concert Series.
- The School organizes an open day to enable the public to learn about its teaching methods which include attending master classes, and educational concerts featuring soloists and ensembles from the School.
- Three great conductors visit the School this year: in October -Stefan Lano, in April Zsolt Nagy and in June Juanjo Mena. At the Encuentro de Música y Academia, composer and conductor Krzysztof Penderecki will conduct the Encuentro Symphony Orchestra which will perform music by Dvořák and also his own work.



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Paloma O'Shea, President

Julia Sánchez Abeal, Chairman

Fabián Panisello, Director

Juan Mendoza, Artistic Director

Alvaro Guibert, Content Director

Cristina Pons, Director of International Relations and Communication

Susana Fernández, Chief of Staff

Fernando Gallego, Finance Director