

COUNTRY

Spain

PROJECT TITLE

Coral Allegro ONCE Valencia

DESCRIPTION

Coral Allegro ONCE Valencia, founded in 1982, is a musical group integrated into the Spanish National Blind People Organization (ONCE). The choir roster currently consists of 40 young people of which 50% are visually impaired. Since 1982, this project has worked and shared experiences with other blind people's international associations, educational institutions, and cultural and musical agencies. Numerous concerts have occurred, including appearances on television and radio, mainly in Spain as well as Europe and abroad. This includes: "Europeades" in France and Denmark; "Young People's Music Festival" in Portugal; "Europa Cantat Festival" in Hungary; "The Three Tenors" concert (Luciano Pavarotti, Plácido Domingo and José Carreras) in Barcelona; The President of the European Parliament's Investiture Ceremony in Strasbourg, France; The Opening Ceremony of the World Championship Sports for the Blind and the Visually Impaired People in Madrid; "Europa Cantat" festival, Hearts in Harmony—Cors amb Cors in Barcelona; and I.S.M.E congresses in Spain, Beijing, China, Thessalonica, Greece, and Baku, Azerbaijan. Repertoire includes pop-rock, traditional and classical music, and modern songs. Seven CDs have been recorded, often in collaboration with well-known Spanish singers and musical groups.

Collaboration occurs with non-profit organizations or people related to inclusive education and creative therapies who are working to improve society's attitude towards people with functional disabilities. This project is often asked to participate in congresses, academic research projects, and publications related to social integration through choral singing. Since 1991, performances have promoted and reinforced the concept of inclusivity of blind and visually impaired people being integrated from different cultures and backgrounds.

NEEDS ADDRESSED

This project is based on three fundamental aspects connected to each other. First, the personal development of each member through choral music and artistic experience. This is achieved by rehearsals, social activities, and concerts where members interact and live together in an environment of cooperation and solidarity. Second, the project has developed an inclusive framework in which 50% of the group is constituted by blind or partially sighted people. This anticipates a society in which any activity is approached from an inclusion perspective and universal access. It presupposes accepting the principle of diversity as a centerpiece of the project. Finally, the project aims to promote and make visible the standardization of work

that is carried out in Spanish cultural life and to inspire other countries and institutions to develop projects with a similar spirit.

VALUES AND ASSUMPTIONS UNDERPINNING THIS PROJECT

Among the most important values that the choir supports are the following:

- Inclusion, understood as the intention to integrate all people in society, with the aim that they can participate and contribute to and benefit from this process in the most autonomous way possible. Inclusion seeks to ensure that all individuals or social groups can have the same possibilities and opportunities to fulfill themselves;
- Solidarity, support, or adherence to a cause in the interest of others. In difficult situations, solidarity values excellence, characterized by the mutual cooperation between individuals; and
- Democracy regarding participation in decision making on an equal basis, individual freedom of action and expression, and universal suffrage as key elements for the development of our society.

PROJECT OUTCOMES

The results envisaged by the project are in constant evolution and are adapted to circumstances at different stages. At the moment, the short-term objective is the planning of 11 concerts or activities at the national level. The medium-term objective is to promote the project beyond national borders, and to participate in congresses and seminars where the project's 40-year history and development can occur. The long-term goal would be to inspire and serve as a model for institutions in developing countries in the context of social inclusion and promoting the creation of similar projects.

HOW MUSIC ACHIEVES THESE OUTCOMES

Music brings people together through a communicative and expressive language. With an active and inclusive methodology, each rehearsal and concert represents a challenge where success depends on the effort, commitment, and flexibility of each member to face daily life. In addition, Coral Allegro is characterized by the performance of concerts that utilize daring stage segments where music expresses a demanding and inclusive point of view. Finally, inclusive musical groups possess a high artistic and socializing character that can be exported and adapted anywhere in the world.

WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE TO THIS PROJECT

The choir embedded in ONCE sets out detailed objectives on an annual basis, which are subsequently evaluated by a committee of experts. Based on this assessment, strengths and weaknesses are identified, resulting in the revision of project objectives.

Success is reflected in:

- The development of personal and musical skills, both at a group level and in each of its members, as well as the cohesion and satisfaction of belonging to the group;
- Public recognition after each performance, as well as national and international awards received; and
- 40 years of artistic accomplishments.

SOURCES OF FUNDING

Government and foundations.

UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS RELEVANT TO THIS PROJECT



RESEARCH AND EVALUATION

Hurtado, J. (2001). La Coral Allegro Once Valencia. *Eufonía: Didáctica de la música*, (21), 40–52.

Llopis, J. (2006). Eufonía. [Versión electrónica]. *Revista Eufonía* 37 El desarrollo de la asertividad en la Coral Allegro ONCE Valencia. https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Julio_Hurtado4/publication/259972055_La_Coral_Allegro_Once_Valencia/links/0c96052ec199b76875000000.pdf

https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Julio_Hurtado4/publication/259971898_El_desarrollo_de_la_asertividad_en_la_Coral_Allegro_ONCE_Valencia/links/0046352ec1cc247358000000.pdf La Coral Allegro o la sensibilització social mitjançant la música https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Julio_Hurtado4/publication/259971971_La_Coral_Allegro_o_la_sensibilitzacio_social_mitjançant_la_musica/links/02e7e52ec1b3fe164f000000/La-Coral-Allegro-o-la-sensibilitzacio-social-mitjançant-la-musica.pdf

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Allegrock (2019)—Coral Allegro ONCE Valencia: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UvLZP7Cpg8s>

MESSAGE ABOUT MUSIC'S CURRENT AND FUTURE GLOBAL ROLE

"Music helps to remove barriers; it encourages equality and promotes peace and unity. Music is emotion, beauty, and a universal language. Music brings things to life and gives freedom. In an inclusive world, work must happen so that music is present in all phases of personal development and in all social groups."

CONTACT INFORMATION

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