



Valencia (Spain), 6th of March 2010

MUSIC, in the Region of Valencia, is an artistic expression that goes beyond being merely a cultural and festive manifestation. It is also the way that its people relate to their environment and their fellow people, the way they learn and grow. Its main exponent are the Musical Societies with their music schools, bands, orchestras, choirs and all types of instrumental groups, entities that have contributed to conserving our cultural and musical heritage and have articulated our territorial and social structure, reinforcing our identity, as music is one of the most deeply rooted arts and one of the essential features of the idiosyncrasy of the Region of Valencia.

**More than Music.** The 525 Musical Societies of Alicante, Castellón and Valencia, with over 200,000 members and 40,000 musicians (50% nationals), have been represented for more than 40 years by the **Federation of Musical Societies of the Region of Valencia (Federación de Sociedades Musicales de la Comunidad Valenciana - FSMCV)**, and have created an associative, cultural and formative fabric that is unique in the world.

**More than Music.** In the Region of Valencia the Musical Societies are indigenous cultural heritage, forged for hundreds of years, for which the declaration of Property of Cultural Interest has been requested, a request which many towns and associations have supported.

**More than Music.** On the pedagogical and didactical side our music schools, with more than 60,000 pupils, provide theoretical-practical musical training as well as a comprehensive education for coexistence and social participation; they promote values such as team work, collective effort, tolerance, solidarity and flexibility, important elements when forming part of an artistic association and key factors for individual and collective development.

However, the Regional Government of Valencia (La Generalitat Valenciana), with its inadequate educational and cultural policy, neither supports nor guarantees the development of our associative movement. It offers no efficient response to the needs posed by the collective in the last years and breaches signed agreements, this has provoked the protest of the FSMCV, associated Musical Societies and their music schools.

This social movement which has historically reached agreements with governments of all colours causing us to have a legal framework, the Valencian Law of Music, approved unanimously by the Regional Parliament of Valencia (Las Cortes Valencianas), is today in danger of disappearing. A real danger given that the resources of the regional funding programmes have alarmingly been reduced by 35% in the 2010 budget and account only for 22% of the financial needs estimated by the FSMCV for the collective of the Musical Societies.

**FOR THIS REASON, WE ASK FOR THE SUPPORT FOR THIS MANIFEST**  
of all the people, entities and collectives that form our society,

**that they demand that the public institutions fulfil what is established in the Valencian Law of Music,**  
**the agreements signed with the FSMCV and with the adequate upgrading**  
**of the institutional programmes that can guarantee the future**  
**of this heritage which we understand as universal.**

**More than Music**

*"When governments do not protect and develop the culture of their own people, they lose the dignity to govern them"*

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