

## **Fandangos and verdiales in the classes of the first high school in Spain that teaches flamenco**

**LOCATION:** San José de La Rinconada (Seville)

**DURATION:** 1:56

**SUMMARY:** The Institute of Secondary Education Carmen Laffón, in San José de la Rinconada (Seville), is the first in Spain to introduce flamenco as a subject in its classrooms. The students of the Theatrical Arts Sixth Form College are studying distinct types of flamenco, rhythm, playing guitar, dancing and singing. This is a pilot experience implemented thanks to the collaboration between The Cristina Heeren Foundation, dedicated to the spread of this art form, which was declared an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO. The direction centre's aim is to extend the inclusion of flamenco as a subject in following school years.

### **VTR:**

The students in this class are learning to play verdiales. And they... They are perfecting their fandango singing. This is a typical morning in the Carmen Laffon Institute, San José de La Rinconada. The first educative centre in Spain to introduce flamenco as a subject.

**FERNANDO IWASAKI**  
**Cristina Heeren Foundation**  
**Dir.**

*"The students leave secondary school, or should leave knowing what a sonata is, who Bach was... So I think it is vital that they know what a seguriya is, who Vallejo was, who Paco de Lucía was..."*

With this in mind, the Cristina Heeren Foundation has implemented this pilot experience for students from the Theatrical Arts Sixth Form College. It will last one term.

**JUAN CARLOS ESCRIBANO**  
**Principal Carmen Laffón**  
**High School**

*"What is certain is that there are children that are playing flamenco guitar, others love rock or more heavy music. It's a positive experience."*

Flamenco History and rhythm classes. These optional classes include guitar, singing and dancing. At the end they'll get their grades, although they don't affect their overall average. But that's not the most important aspect.

**EDUARDO REBOLLAR**  
**Guitar Teacher**  
**Cristina Heeren Foundation**

*"My real aim is that they fall in love with our culture more than how well they play."*

**MARÍA GARCÍA**  
**Student**

*"The verdiales are perhaps the hardest, I struggled the most with them."*

**ALBA GONZÁLEZ**  
**Student**

*"I want to be an actress, and to be an actress you have to know a little bit about everything, singing, dancing, and this is a way of learning something new."*

Flamenco is in the classrooms, and it sounds like this...

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