

Crece Cantando: a school choir that breaks frontiers with its values

LOCATION: Seville

DURATION: 1'45"

SUMMARY: Although it is a musical project, 'Crece cantando, crecer soñando' ('Growing up singing, growing up dreaming'), is just an excuse to achieve this goal: value education. Several Andalusian centres have joined a group of students who are among the best Spanish school choirs. The choir is composed of members from various villages in Seville and Huelva. Despite they usually rehearse separately, they coordinate thanks to new technologies. For them, voice isn't the most important feature, despite this summer they aim to succeed in their first concert abroad.

VTR:

Music in a school's corridor. That's how this project which is going beyond the classrooms sounds.

Gustavo Porras
'Crece Cantando' coordinator

"Crece cantando is a socio-educative project which teaches positive values through music and choir singing."

In 2007 a group of secondary school children approached Gustavo and told him they wanted to sing, and seriously during break time, and that's how it all started.

GUSTAVO PORRAS
'Crece Cantando' coordinator

"I was very excited, and I told them, if we stay late, would you come? And they told me, of course, we'll come in the evening."

From there, the project started to grow and work in two public schools in the province of Seville, in Valencina and Mairena, united thanks to its teachers, with the Ian Murray music school Aracena and the elementary music school of Osuna.

GUSTAVO PORRAS
'Crece Cantando' coordinator

"We work separately and independently. We create the material, we upload them to our webpage, and we share them from there. And then we put together meetings on weekends where we meet all the students from the different centres to show the project together and then we make a concert tour."

There are now 160 students between 12 and 17. They sing like angels but it's not a normal choir. The sound isn't the most important aspect.

PABLO PALACIO
IES Las Encinas Student

"Like everyone I used to sing in the shower, all the time."

GUSTAVO PORRAS
'Crece Cantando' coordinator

"There's always a group that joins for vocal reasons and another that joins for more difficult reasons, the need to integrate or kids we meet that need to be able to join somewhere."

TOTAL MARIO BOLLO
IES Las Encinas Student

"I have made some many friends and now I am much better."

And the results support this.

MARTA GUERRERO
'Crece Cantando' teacher

"Solidarity, compromise, respect, discipline as well."



TERESA RODRÍGUEZ
IES Las Encinas Student

"I think it's one of the best experiences I've ever had at school."

An experience that has been worthy of national recognition in winning the 2015 National School Choir Competition, and taking the leap abroad to perform in Scotland, invited by the International Society for Music Education. Let's hope the music doesn't stop.