



# OPEN TO PEOPLE

 Fundació  
Crèdit Andorrà

Activities report 2008

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# 1 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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## 2 INTRODUCTION



Students in the Computer Centre

**F**or over twenty years Crèdit Andorrà Foundation has been carrying out a constant task, essentially through its own social initiatives, but also by giving support to others. All this work is aimed at providing the citizens, and Andorran society in general, with activities and instruments designed to achieve better general welfare and greater personal growth, especially in the field of knowledge.

In 2008, the crucial area of work was to consolidate and publicize all the projects included in the three basic spheres of action of the programme: the social, the educational and the cultural. But with a determination to provide the widest possible range of activities, we at the Foundation have undertaken new projects and broadened the areas of work that make up the different programmes. In the main section of this Report all the activities that have occupied the attention of the Foundation this year are set out in detail. However, we feel that a brief summary may also be of interest.

When referring to the social programmes, we should point out that senior citizens have been among those deserving greater attention. The Foundation's L'espai social activities and training centre for senior citizens has been operating at full strength with the organization of a large number of courses, workshops and events of all kinds and implementation of the initiatives promoted by the Crèdit Andorrà Foundation Senior Citizens Voluntary Association (AVIM). In the social section, public interest in and acceptance of the programme focusing on diseases of great social concern has been a decisive support for our work –notably the lectures for a non-specialist

audience and workshops designed for sufferers and carers– concerned with Alzheimer’s disease, multiple sclerosis, fibromyalgia, chronic fatigue syndrome and breast cancer, as well as mental illnesses and Parkinson’s disease, which we have added to the programme this year. Lastly, among the social issues we should also mention the support given to different entities such as the Crèdit Andorrà Foundation Scholarship Holders Association or the Andorra Special Olympics Sports Federation, and the national strategy for nutrition, sport and health, promoted by the government of Andorra with the Foundation.

The educational programmes have rested on two fundamental pillars: the grants for professional or postgraduate studies and cooperation with the University of Andorra. We at Crèdit Andorrà Foundation have continued to offer grants for hotel and tourism studies and for postgraduate training and have given our support to the joint sponsorship of the two grants awarded annually by the Fulbright Bilateral Committee. In this sector we have also opened up two new areas of work: the signing of a cooperation agreement with the government of Andorra to offer assistance for postgraduate students and the institution of the Calvó Armengol International Prize for studies in social interactions. As part of our cooperation with the University of Andorra, we have supported a number of training programmes, both general and specialized, and have taken part in others in the field of publishing.

Concerning the cultural programmes, we should first mention the notable way in which we have continued to support the musical arts. The main actions in this field have been participation in the projects launched by the ONCA Foundation, notably the seasons of concerts with the participation of the Andorran National Classical Orchestra and the Andorra National Youth Chamber Orchestra, and the issue of a CD, recorded by ONCA, containing the Symphony “Andorran number 2”, and an operatic composition entitled “Charlemagne’s Dream”. We have also worked with the Ordino Festivals Association, especially on the programming of the Narciso Yepes International Festival; with the Principality of Andorra Catalan Culture Centre on the convening of the Carles Sabater Prize; and with the Friends of the Organ Foundation, amongst other things, on the organization of the International Organ Season. In addition to cooperation with entities and institutions, the activities of the Foundation in the field of culture have been rounded out by our participation in the Andorra National Stage Foundation on tasks involved in producing and publicizing a number of initiatives in the performing arts.

As can be seen, the efforts made in 2008 towards the accomplishment of the aims of Crèdit Andorrà Foundation have been significant and intense. From the Board we will continue to work, year after year, with the dedication required to meet the challenges we set ourselves, because our purpose is to continue to make a steady, tangible contribution to the growth of the country and the welfare of its inhabitants, guided by the sense of service which has always been one of our distinguishing features.

**The Crèdit Andorrà Foundation  
Board of Trustees**

# 3 SOCIAL PROGRAMMES



### 3 SOCIAL PROGRAMMES

The universal nature of the concepts behind the actions promoted and organized by Crèdit Andorrà Foundation in the framework of the programmes developed has a special orientation in the social programmes. Although this facet is not dispensed with in the activities as a whole, our intention is to have a fuller effect on particular aspects, which usually affect specific groups not always adequately served by society. However, the fact that many of the activities carried out in this framework are aimed at the citizens as a whole has a positive effect on that universal character we have referred to. And with our social programmes, we at the Foundation keep our commitment to society as a whole, contributing to progress and the improvement of the conditions and quality of life of all citizens.

Two of the most important areas of the Foundation's social programmes –those devoted to two special groups: senior citizens and people affected by diseases of great social concern– have seen their field of action broadened this year. First, new centres of interest for the activities of L'espai designed for senior citizens have been introduced and, second, the range of illnesses included in the various areas of work relating to diseases of great social concern has been widened. As part of the activity connected with the social programmes, we should also mention the continuation of a number of already consolidated cooperative ventures –such as the one established with the Crèdit Andorrà Foundation Scholarship Holders Association– and the expansion of the contents of those initiated in 2007 with the government for the promotion of the projects that make up the national strategy for nutrition, sport and health, and with the Andorra Special Olympics Sports Federation.

## SENIOR CITIZENS

The number of senior citizens who take part in the activities organized in the framework of L'espai, the Crèdit Andorrà Foundation social activities and training centre, is growing day by day and has a constantly renewed dynamic. This has inevitably brought about a greater involvement of the Foundation in the organization of activities and the provision of resources designed for this sector of the population. Although most of them have taken a well-deserved retirement from their jobs, they continue to show their interest in acquiring new knowledge and working actively with society.

### L'espai: the nerve centre

When L'espai, the Crèdit Andorrà Foundation social activities and training centre for senior citizens opened in 2007, it was equipped with premises ideal for organizing the many initiatives started by the Foundation and by the Senior Citizens Voluntary Association (AVIM), through an agreement with Crèdit Andorrà Foundation. The three organizational sectors in which activities that take place in this facility are structured have attracted an intense and ongoing participation throughout the year.

### L'espai computer centre

As happens every year, computer-related activity has been very well received by the over-60s, for whom the courses and workshops were designed. This is undoubtedly the most consolidated initiative of the Foundation programme for senior citizens; over the years it has been operating, the number of participants registering has reached over 2600.

In 2008 computer courses have been put on for beginners and those wishing to increase their knowledge, as have the workshops on internet, basic and advanced digital photography, accounting and desktop publishing.



Students rehearsing at theatre workshop



## New activities at L'espai

In addition to receiving people interested in putting into practice the knowledge they have acquired at L'espai computer centre and the activities and workshops organized by the AVIM, L'espai media library has been the scene of considerable activity this year. Among the activities proposed by the Foundation we should mention a course in spoken Catalan and one in written Catalan, put on in association with the government of Andorra. There has also been a season of legal talks given by the lawyer Daniel Arqués, in order to provide some basic knowledge of various subjects: "Arranging a will", "Accepting an inheritance" or "Renting and ownership" were among lecture titles.



Lawyer Daniel Arqués during talk on legal matters

At the same time, the over-60s have been able to enjoy a wide range of activities that have given L'espai a great boost. Outstanding among them are a theatre workshop, a workshop on basic e-credit, and another concerning the CASS web portal, organized in association with Caixa Andorrana de Seguretat Social (CASS). A course on how to do photo reportage was also organized in association with Fotolab, and another, an introduction to first aid, with Andorra Red Cross.

A series of talks on nutrition given at different sessions have dealt with aspects such as healthy eating for the elderly, the weekly menu: variety and balance, food for the memory, and handling food at home.

## L'espai volunteers centre

L'espai facilities have also housed the activities of the AVIM. At L'espai volunteers centre, where it has its headquarters, the association plans and runs a wide range of cultural, recreational and educational events for the members, provides support for the other activities organized by the Foundation at L'espai and performs a major task of volunteer work. So that the AVIM can carry out all those activities in good conditions, the Foundation supplies the space with all necessary technical resources.

## Activities of the Senior Citizens Voluntary Association (AVIM)

The AVIM has also been extremely active this year. As well as playing a vital part in the organization of the events at L'espai computer centre and promoting L'espai media library, it has concentrated mainly on workshops and activities concerned with culture and solidarity.

### Workshops

One of the main activities of the AVIM is the support it provides for the course at L'espai computer centre. So that students can continue to broaden the knowledge they have acquired on the courses, as in other years, the AVIM organized a series of revision workshops for beginners and intermediate courses. This year they added revision of the workshops on the Photoshop and Excel programmes.

The workshops related to creative manual activities also came under the interest of the AVIM; those dealing with bookmarks, collage, needlework and artistic drawing are some of the possibilities available in this area, sometimes followed by an exhibition of the works produced. The film workshop, with showings in the multipurpose room at L'espai followed by a discussion, also continued this year. In this field we should not forget the workshop which led to the public performance, by the participants in the first theatre workshops held at L'espai media library, of Santiago Rusiñol's play "Gente bien".

Special mention should be made of the workshops given by the AVIM volunteers for the patients of the Mental Health Services of Nostra Senyora de Meritxell Hospital. Continuing with an initiative that began some years ago, the workshops have provided students with a knowledge of computers and the new technologies, or have simply served as a therapy in their treatment.

### Cultural excursions

The cultural excursions organized by the AVIM always arouse particular interest since, as well as enabling those taking part to discover places, landscapes and buildings that are well worth a visit, they provide them with an opportunity to share experiences and engage in enriching discussions.

Two excursions were scheduled this year. The first took the participants to Berguedà, with stops at the Guardiola railway station and the mining heritage of Saldes. The second provided a first-hand view of the works along the Railwaymen's Sculpture Itinerary in Llorçs, and some knowledge of the concepts that led the artists to bring them into being.

## DISEASES OF GREAT SOCIAL CONCERN

One of the major tasks of Crèdit Andorrà Foundation over time has been to develop a series of programmes and activities that particularly deal with issues in the social sphere. One that deserves our full attention is the kind of disease which, as well as affecting the patient, has clear repercussions on those around him or her, both the closest –family, carers– and other people outside that immediate circle. Society is increasingly aware of the seriousness of those illnesses and the emotional suffering they bring with them and their effect on the personal environment. We feel that we cannot flag in our efforts and that we must continue to take decisive action to make these diseases and their repercussions familiar to everyone and to offer those suffering from them indirectly all the means they need to cope in the best possible way.

Along the lines just mentioned, the Foundation worked throughout 2008 to achieve those aims. Alzheimer's disease, multiple sclerosis, breast cancer, fibromyalgia, chronic fatigue syndrome and celiac disease, to which we have added Parkinson's disease and mental illnesses, have been the focus of our attention once again and we have persevered with the initiative already undertaken. On the one hand, we have worked at making these diseases better known among the general public, and on the other, at supporting all those affected by the eruption of these afflictions in family circles, and cooperation with the associations that generously devote their efforts to overcoming the difficulties encountered by patients and their families in the daily struggle against them.

### Alzheimer's disease

The cooperation launched some time ago between Crèdit Andorrà Foundation and the Andorra Alzheimer's Disease Association (AAMA) also continued this year with the aim of promoting a number of actions relating to the disease. They have taken the shape of a general lecture on "New techniques in the diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease", given by the distinguished neurologist Rafael Blesa, director of the Neurology Service at the Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau in Barcelona. He talked about the major advances made by the medical profession in achieving a better and faster diagnosis of Alzheimer's.

The workshop "Relaxation and breathing", designed to teach relaxation techniques to relatives and carers of sufferers from Alzheimer's, was another initiative organized by Crèdit Andorrà Foundation in association with the AAMA. The physiotherapist Glòria Lerin was in charge of the workshop, which set out to teach a set of practices that make it easier to live with the patient.

## Multiple sclerosis

This degenerative disease continues to raise many questions. In order to find out more about it and provide people affected with practical tools, this year the Foundation, in association with the TRANA Multiple Sclerosis Association, organized the lecture "Food and quality of life", which was given by an expert on diet and nutrition, Maria Josep Rosselló. The talk emphasized the fact that controlling diet avoids the fluctuations in weight which patients often suffer from owing to the pharmacological treatment they have to follow to deal with multiple sclerosis. Eating properly is fundamental in avoiding a deterioration of the organism in general and the muscles in particular. Moreover, the diet must be accompanied by regular physical exercise to keep the muscles in good condition.

One of the most popular workshops organized in relation to the diseases of great social concern is the performing arts workshop. For that reason this year we repeated this activity designed for people affected by multiple sclerosis. As on previous occasions, the workshop, directed by the educationalist and contemporary dance and body theatre choreographer Jordi Milián Batista, introduced those taking part to a set of techniques from the performing arts that help develop skills for improving their quality of life.

## Fibromyalgia and chronic fatigue syndrome

These illnesses, unknown until recently even though they affect many people, have been a focus of attention for Crèdit Andorrà Foundation for several years. Working closely with the Association of Sufferers from Rheumatism, Fibromyalgia and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (AMARE), in 2008 we continued to organize activities designed for the general public and people who suffer from these diseases.



Mrs. Manuela de Madre at the lecture "Living with fibromyalgia"

On the occasion of World Fibromyalgia and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Day the public was invited to a lecture entitled “Living with fibromyalgia”, given by Manuela de Madre. The speaker’s fame increased the chances of her message reaching a wider audience. In her speech she essentially gave advice from her own experience –a process that sets an example of striving and overcoming–, with the aim of helping those people affected to live with the illness from day to day.

At the same time, thanks to the success of the first “Methods of relaxation and energy” workshop in 2007, the Foundation and AMARE have scheduled a repeat for this year. The workshop is designed for people affected by fibromyalgia and chronic fatigue syndrome.

At the workshop, the contemporary dance and body theatre choreographer Jordi Milian Batista explained techniques designed to relieve the pain and exhaustion among people affected by these illnesses.

## Breast cancer

The collaboration begun in 2006 involving the Crèdit Andorrà Foundation and the Alba Group of the Andorran Women’s Association (ADA) continued during the year with the organization of a workshop on “Dynamic Relaxation and Well-being” given by psychologist Montserrat Ferraro. The aim of this workshop was to help those suffering from breast cancer to learn a series of simple techniques for acquiring the emotional balance needed to deal with their situation in the best possible way.

## Parkinson’s disease

This year Crèdit Andorrà Foundation decided to open up new lines of work on the diseases of great social concern programme. One deals with Parkinson’s disease, a feature of which, like the other illnesses on the programme, is that it produces psychological disorders and problems of coexistence in the people affected and those closest to them. The project includes lectures, practical workshops and material that provides information about how to improve the sufferers’ quality of life.

For the inaugural event to present the project, and with the aim of providing a better knowledge of the essential aspects of the disease, the Foundation commissioned the neurologist Miquel Aguilar, head of the Terrassa Mútua Hospital Neurology Service, to give an overview of the disease and its effects. During the lecture “Parkinson’s disease today and challenges for the future”, the speaker defined it as a chronic progressive neurological disorder which affects the central nervous system, leading to loss of control of movement, stiff muscles and difficulties with balance and coordination, which has a severe impact on the patient and his or her family. He also made it clear that although the illness is easy to diagnose, for the time being it is incurable. Nevertheless, many medicines are available to control it and with the right pharmacological and chemical treatment the affected person may still have a good quality of life.

## Mental illnesses

Mental health is an essential part of global health, but society does not always see it that way. In order to raise public awareness of the importance of mental health, Crèdit Andorrà Foundation, in association with the Andorra Relatives of Mental Patients Association, organized the lecture "(Ele)mental health", given by the psychiatrist Joan Obiols, director of the Andorra Health Care Mental Health Service (SAAS). With that event, organized on the occasion of World Mental Health Day, the Foundation gave the signal for its new line of work with these illnesses to begin, as part of the diseases of great social concern programme.

The speaker talked about the vital importance of mental health for any individual and insisted on the fact that mental suffering can be worse than physical. He also referred to the definition and classification of mental illnesses and the problem of the stigma attached to mental illness, a major obstacle that makes it difficult for the problem to be fully accepted and therefore solved.

## SOCIAL COLLABORATIONS

In addition to the major work done directly by the Foundation in the social field, related to senior citizens and diseases of great social concern, we have been working for years with institutions and entities to provide support for other initiatives touching on that sphere. As well as continuing to take part in activities like those carried out by the Crèdit Andorrà Foundation Scholarship Holders Association, this year we maintained and consolidated projects launched last year, such as cooperation with the Andorra Special Olympics Sports Federation and the national strategy for nutrition, sport and health (ENNES).

### Crèdit Andorrà Foundation Scholarship Holders Association

Along the line of cooperation established with the Crèdit Andorrà Foundation Scholarship Holders Association, we should mention the support given at the IV Conference on the Dissemination of Knowledge, organized by the Association. The conference included lectures on various issues of general interest given by members.

The first lecture, "Can an Andorran family hotel business survive?", given in late 2007 by Marc Armengol, was mentioned in the Foundation report for that year. The second was given by the dietician and nutritionist Maria Marqués. In this talk, entitled "Food and menopause", with the aim of informing the female population of the importance of a complete balanced diet during menopause, the speaker gave some basic tips about calorie requirements and the kinds of food that cannot be omitted from the diet of women at this stage of their lives. She also insisted on the importance of gentle, regular physical exercise during the menopause since, besides fostering a good state of physical and mental health, it helps maintain muscle tone, body weight and bone health and helps prevent loss of energy.

The third and last lecture in the season was given by digestive surgeon Pere Jordi Galais who, under the title “Colorectal cancer”, explained what a cancer is, its origins and treatment, especially cancers of the colon and the rectum. He emphasized early detection as the key to success in subsequent treatment.



Mrs. Maria Marqués at the lecture “Food and menopause”

## National strategy for nutrition, sport and health

In order to have a direct effect on the promotion of health by acquiring good habits, last year the government of Andorra approved a plan called National strategy for nutrition, sport and health (ENNES). Determined to take a decisive part in this initiative, the Foundation established a level of cooperation with the government, which this year showed up in various activities.

### National sport for everyone day

First among the measures promoted with ENNES was the holding of National sport for everyone day on 24 May. The aim was to raise public awareness by offering a wide range of popular sporting activities, which would demonstrate the benefits of physical activity, and to encourage people to maintain a healthy lifestyle. The day closed with an institutional statement by Roser Bastida, minister of Education, Professional Training, Youth and Sport. A number of Andorran entities and communications media took part in the organization of the event.

The day made it quite clear that sport is healthy at all stages of life and for all kinds of people, since it provides an opportunity to take part, while adapting the form and intensity chosen to each person's needs.



Wheel-chair basketball game on National sport for everyone day

## Health and senior citizens

Enjoying a good state of health is one of the conditions essential to obtaining a better quality of life, especially for the elderly. Although risk factors outside our control have an obvious effect on our health, adopting healthy habits is an efficient way of achieving a considerably longer life expectancy and keeping in good physical shape. Starting from those premises, Dr Carles Vallbona gave the lecture "Health and senior citizens", another of the activities the Foundation has supported in the framework of the national strategy for nutrition, sport and health.

Raising public awareness of the positive effects of adopting a healthy lifestyle, such as gentle physical exercise, which were given particular emphasis by Dr Vallbona, is one of the priorities of the ENNES. Along the same lines we should point out that this public presentation also served to highlight the progress made in preventive medicine, one of the most notable successes of medical science in the 20th century and an essential factor in the attainment of the results sought by the ENNES.



## Andorra Special Olympics

Within the framework of the cooperation agreement between Andorra Special Olympics and Crèdit Andorrà Foundation signed in February 2007, according to which the Foundation would become the official sponsor of the sports federation, this year we supplied a new “people carrier”, which can be used to take the athletes to their training sessions and the competitions they enter in Andorra and abroad. With that gesture, Crèdit Andorrà Foundation has taken one more step in its support for the efforts and the overall task carried out by Special Olympics.

The vehicle, which holds nine passengers, is the second of its kind which the Foundation has supplied to Andorra Special Olympics. The association, which has the status of a sports federation, organizes continuous training in different sports disciplines and provides the mentally handicapped with an opportunity to take part in national and international competitions.

## Andorran Science Society

The 14th Workshop of the Andorran Science Society, organized with the collaboration of the Ministry of Government Spokesman, Ministry of Economic Development, Tourism, Culture and Universities and Crèdit Andorrà Foundation, held this year under the title of “Values in Andorran Society Today”; enjoyed the participation of some twenty professionals from various sectors under the coordination of Carla Riestra González de Ubieta, graduate in geography and history, professor of social sciences and aid worker.

The main theme of the workshop was an analysis of the values guiding Andorran society today, which provoked discussion about the educational approach needed for new generations in order to promote more human models in the future.

# 4 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES



## 4 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES

Educational programmes also received special attention from Crèdit Andorrà Foundation during the year. Knowledge and training are essential if we are to develop a harmonious and caring society. The education of young people, who will have to contribute to the growth of the country and the opening up of new opportunities tomorrow, is a challenge, and in order to meet it we all need to make a decisive commitment. Learning throughout one's life, both professional and personal, is another task we cannot overlook. We at the Foundation want to help by opening up new prospects for each and every citizen and society in general.

Over the year in review, we continued to support the ventures launched in previous years and we have undertaken new ones. Among the former, we should mention the upkeep of the Foundation scholarships for professional hotel, catering and tourism studies and postgraduate studies, participation in sponsorship of the Fulbright scholarships, as well as cooperation with the University of Andorra on the implementation of a number of initiatives, such as the higher professional studies cycle at the Computer Sciences and Management School, the postgraduate course in Andorran law, the midwife training programme, the Open Opera course or the *Universitarts* Programme. In terms of new initiatives this year we took an active part in a postgraduate scholarships programme promoted by the government of Andorra and in the research prize which, with the government and the Barcelona Graduate School of Economics, we have decided to institute in memory of the former Foundation scholar, Antoni Calvó Armengol.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

### Crèdit Andorrà Foundation Scholarships

From mid-April to mid-June, the young people of the country had an opportunity to apply for one of the scholarships offered by the Foundation each year –this is the 21st – for professional hotel and catering and tourism studies and postgraduate training. The aim of the programme, which earmarks the resources required to fund five scholarships in each field, is to provide suitable means for young people in Andorra to acquire the best possible professional training in one of the country's main sectors of activity and to broaden the education they have received in any field with specialized studies and PhD and post-doctoral courses.

The scholarships cover all expenses for training, both the academic fees and travel, accommodation and living expenses, and are awarded by an independent jury. From the candidates who applied for one of the professional training grants, four were finally selected; three of them followed hotel and catering studies and the other tourism. They have all been studying in Barcelona. There were five candidates for the postgraduate grants, four of whom did specialized studies in music, tax administration, sustainability and matter and energy sciences in Cologne, Barcelona and Toulouse, and one did a PhD in cellular biology, also in Barcelona. With this year's new scholars, 162 young people have now enjoyed the benefits of the Foundation scholarships since 1988, the year in which this programme was launched.



New winners of Crèdit Andorrà Foundation's 2008 scholarships

## Fulbright Scholarships

Crèdit Andorrà Foundation has once again taken part in the joint sponsorship of the two scholarships awarded each year by the Fulbright Bilateral Committee – created through a cooperation agreement between the government of the Principality of Andorra and the government of the United States of America – for young Andorrans holding higher qualifications who want to do postgraduate studies, both specialized and PhD, at any university in the USA.

Participating in the funding of these scholarships enables the Foundation to help increase the country's human capital in substantial and positive ways and thus have a decisive influence on an aspect that has always been one of its priorities: the education and training of the young people of Andorra. Our participation will supply future generations with sufficient guarantees to meet the challenges they will have to face. For the academic year 2008-2009, the Fulbright Bilateral Committee decided to renew a scholarship already awarded for 2007-2008 for a Master in Business and Administration at the University of Arizona, and grant another for a Master of Education in Comparative and International Education at Columbia University.

## Andorran Government postgraduate scholarships

This year the Foundation took its first steps along a third path in the chapter of scholarships designed for postgraduate studies. The signing of an agreement between the Andorran Government and Crèdit Andorrà Foundation led to participation in the funding of occasional aids for postgraduate studies. Thrown open for the first time last year, these scholarships are intended to promote the professional careers of young people with higher degrees who want to continue their education in the field of research through postgraduate studies that culminate in a defence of their PhD theses. In that way, they make their own contribution to strengthening the scientific and technological base of Andorra and fostering the knowledge society.

The awards for the academic year 2008-2009, designed for Andorran students who want to begin or continue their postgraduate studies, have been able to include a special aid for renewal. That aid takes the shape of 1,200 euros a month for one year, from October to September, according to the academic calendar at the university. The first person to benefit under this scheme in which the Foundation plays a part will be studying information and communication technologies at Ramon Llull University in Barcelona.

## CALVÓ ARMENGOL INTERNATIONAL PRIZE

In 2008 the Foundation, together with the Government of Andorra and the Barcelona Graduate School of Economics, launched a new initiative designed to promote studies in the economic and social fields. It took the shape of the Calvó Armengol International Prize. The name has been adopted in honour of the Andorran economist, the late Antoni Calvó, a Crèdit Andorrà Foundation scholar who in 1992 was the winner of one of the first awards made.

The prize, to be offered every two years, is valued at 30,000 euros and is open to economists or social scientists under 40 years of age who have been outstanding for their contribution to the study of social interactions. With this new initiative, the Foundation broadens the scope of the matters it deals with and obtains greater international resonance for its decisive and permanent promotion of activities in the field of training and research which are crucial for growth and progress.

The winner of each prize will direct a scientific seminar to be held in Andorra the year after his or her appointment.



Signing of the agreement for the Calvó Armengol International Prize with the presence of Andreu Mas-Colell, rector, Barcelona School of Economics, Hon. Juli Minoves, Minister of Economic Development, Tourism, Culture and Universities, and Josep Peralba, chairman of the Delegate Committee, Crèdit Andorrà Foundation

## COOPERATION WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF ANDORRA

Once again this year the Foundation kept up the support it provides for a number of activities at the University of Andorra. As well as continuing with programmes launched in previous years listed below, we have now embarked on a new project, *Universitarts*, which consists of bringing music into the university lecture halls.

This act of sponsorship and cooperation with the University of Andorra is part of Crèdit Andorrà Foundation's wish to support education and training initiatives promoted by other entities or institutions, whose aims are in complete harmony with our own purposes of promoting knowledge and creativity.

### Higher professional studies cycle

In 2008 the higher professional studies cycle, organized in the last quarter of the academic year by the University of Andorra Computer Sciences and Management School, once again received assistance from the Foundation. The cycle, designed for students in their final year at the school but also open to professionals in the country, has provided the students this year with specialized training in different spheres of business and the information and communication technologies. It has dealt with subjects as diverse as company assessment, household automation technology, knowledge management in business environments or the virtualization of machinery.

### Open Opera

As announced in the report on the activities carried out in 2007, Crèdit Andorrà Foundation supported the 2007-2008 Open Opera continuing education course, put on by the University of Andorra and led by the Gran Teatre del Liceu in Barcelona. The Foundation also took part in the 2008-2009 season.

The course sets out to broaden students' knowledge of this musical genre from many different points of view, primarily composers and their works, but also the background and the time at which they were written. As well as an introductory lecture, the sessions include watching performances of operas relayed live from the Gran Teatre del Liceu.

In the 2007-2008 course, participants had the chance to see broadcasts of Giuseppe Verdi's "Aïda", Gioacchino Rossini's "La Cenerentola", Richard Strauss's "Elektra", Richard Wagner's "Tannhäuser" and Benjamin Britten's "Death in Venice".

The performances scheduled for the 2008-2009 course before the end of the year are Eugen d'Albert's "Tiefeland" and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's "Le Nozze di Figaro".

### Course in Andorran law

The need for an education in law adapted to the social environment led the University of Andorra, in association with other institutions and bodies, to organize a specific course in Andorran law. Once again this year Crèdit Andorrà Foundation has worked on this educational initiative, which has a significant impact on the entire country.

The course has followed the parameters set in earlier years: a total number of 240 hours distributed over an academic year leading to a postgraduate diploma or certificate of participation in Andorran law.

### Midwife training

For the second year running, the midwife training programme, promoted by the University of Andorra with the academic cooperation of the University of Barcelona, which also has the support of the Foundation, has enabled future professionals in the speciality to begin their training. The success of the venture has been demonstrated by the fact that eleven people have applied for the two grants awarded by the Foundation, which cover half the academic costs of the training course.

The programme involves the annual selection of two people from the various candidatures submitted. To follow this training they must hold university diplomas in nursing. Training lasts two academic years, in the obstetric and gynaecological nursing speciality. The University of Andorra, in keeping with its philosophy of satisfying the training needs of different social and professional sectors in the country, and Crèdit Andorrà Foundation, true to its commitment to improving the citizens' quality of life and contributing to the social progress of Andorra, have jointly promoted these studies because of the care needs of users of the Andorran Public Health System and the lack of specialists in the fields of obstetrics and gynaecology.



## Universitarts's Programme

This programme offers a series of activities designed to open up the world of music to university students – bringing symphonic music into their everyday environment – and provide them with an opportunity to attend concerts and discover how symphonic music reflects our present day world.

The educational aims of *Universitarts* are: to foster a taste for symphonic music, to learn how to listen to music, to discover the basic elements of symphonic music and its instrument, the orchestra, and simply to enjoy the music. In this field two projects were carried out in the lecture theatres of the University of Andorra in association with Crèdit Andorrà Foundation. First, two quartets from the Andorra National Youth Chamber Orchestra (JONCA) performed before an audience of students. Later a percussion workshop was held to teach the participants how to make music with objects from everyday life. The workshop was organized by the Vallès Symphony Orchestra.



Andorran Junior National Chamber Orchestra (JONCA) during a concert

# 5 CULTURAL PROGRAMMES



## 5 CULTURAL PROGRAMMES

Programmes developed within the framework of culture are an essential complement to the other two major segments of the Foundation's activity. The extent of our work in this area is an even more direct way of being involved in all sectors of society. The promotion and spread of culture, as a theoretical and practical tool for the development of personality and as a factor favouring community life and dialogue, has always been a challenge to the Foundation. We believe that through this process the development of the person is made complete while at the same time it opens up new social perspectives, and even economic perspectives, that can only result in benefiting personal growth and that of the society as a whole. For us, meeting this challenge becomes an obligation constantly stimulating us to put it into practice in the best possible way.

Many of our programmes in this sphere are already solidly established and we aim to keep improving them year after year. At the same time, our new programmes also form an important part of this effort. With this in mind, we should like to outline the scope of our activities during the year underlining our strong commitment to music through the years, while not forgetting other areas such as theatre or making our own heritage and history better known. We are well aware that these matters deserve a place among the initiatives directly developed by Crèdit Andorrà in the cultural sphere.

## MUSIC

### ONCA Foundation

This year the ONCA Foundation, formed by the Government of Andorra and Crèdit Andorrà Foundation, faced an unbeatable perspective with the National Classical Orchestra of Andorra in its chamber format enthusiastically facing its 15th season, with that orchestra now fully consolidated in its classic format and the Andorran Junior National Chamber Orchestra and the training of soloists well under way. The dedication and constant work of both orchestras has also made it possible to see how the work of these groups, both in Andorra and abroad, has greatly developed so that they have become a reference within the musical world.

Among the main activities undertaken during the year we should underline the different concert cycles, with broad repertoires and appearances on prestigious concert stages, along with increased performances by ONCA in its classic format, the commissioning of an opera and the recording of a compact disc of the Andorran Symphony No. 2 by Sergio Rendine interpreted by the Andorran National Classical Orchestra. In analyzing this busy activity in detail, we should say that this year has also involved considerable effort aimed at ensuring the success of a project to bring music to the public and provide the country with an orchestra of unquestionable standing that can act as cultural ambassador for Andorra abroad.

### ONCA concert cycle in Andorra

Some of the ONCA concerts in Andorra have now become traditional and are keenly awaited by music lovers. Among these concerts we should mention the *Concert de Sant Antoni* which has the honour of opening the orchestra's annual activities. The concert, organized by the ONCA Foundation in collaboration with the Comú de La Massana, this year was held in a new location, the Theatre de les Fontetes. Conducted by ONCA concert master Gerard Claret, this chamber orchestra concert included works by Vivaldi, Barber and Suk, with the participation of JONCA soloists Jordi Claret and Daniel Claret.

The programming for the year included a novelty – the “Concert de la neu”. The performance of ONCA in its chamber format, with Gerard Claret as concert master, took place on a new stage – the church of Sant Serni de Canillo. The programme included compositions by Mozart, Turina, Grieg, Barber and Pau Casals.

This year's “Spring Concert”, in which 39 musicians took part, is another of ONCA's most anticipated musical events. Under the direction of Marzio Conti, the orchestra offered a work it had never before performed, Mozart's “Symphony 40 K550 en G minor” along with “El amor brujo” by Manuel de Falla with mezzo-soprano Mireia Pintó as soloist.

The “Concert d’Estiu Nit Italiana” is another classic gem in our music programming. For the occasion, ONCA, under the direction of Marzio Conti, assembled 47 musicians. The evening’s programme was largely made up of well-known arias of a decidedly popular nature. The soloists this time were the versatile sopranos Gabriella Costa and Gabrielle Mouhlen.

For the “Concert Jardins de Casa de la Vall”, ONCA remounted the piece of musical theatre produced in 1999 on the occasion of the Meritxell festivities “Andorra màgica en vuit dies”. The text is by Miquel Desclot and the music composed by Pere Bardagí, a member of ONCA since its formation. Direction was by concert master Gerard Claret and, as in 1999, the performers were Jordi Bosch and Ester Nadal.

As is customary, the Concert de Santa Cecília, to celebrate the feast day of the patron saint of music, was performed by ONCA and the children’s and youth orchestras of the Institut de Música i Dansa del Comú d’Andorra la Vella. Under the direction of Gerard Claret, concert master of ONCA, and Jordi Albelda, director of the children’s and youth orchestras of the Institut de Música i Dansa, the young musicians were able to play with the ONCA chamber orchestra in works by Mendelssohn, Vivaldi, Haydn, Gossec and Rose, among others.

This year, the traditional Christmas Concert offered something new in that it was presented by a classical orchestra of 35 musicians directed by Marzio Conti. It involved the participation of the Cor Nacional dels Petits Cantors d’Andorra under the direction of Catherine Métayer and included Ottorino Respighi’s “Trittico Botticelliano” and the “Christmas Oratorio” by Camille Saint-Saëns.

As well as participating in these concerts, the Crèdit Andorrà Foundation also organized others (involving ONCA and JONCA) through the ONCA Foundation and the Associació Festivals d’Ordino. Details of these performances may be found in this section under the headings related to JONCA and the International Narciso Yepes Festival.



A moment of the “Concert de Primavera”

## ONCA concert cycle abroad

ONCA performances outside Andorra have also been notable this year. The first of the concerts given was the educational work produced by the Auditori de Barcelona "The Sound of Strings" made up of twelve sessions for primary school children and one for families. Under the musical direction of Gerard Claret with stage direction by Montse Colomé, it offered a repertoire from various periods and styles played by fifteen musicians. The idea was to teach children about musical training and different instruments without any direct explanations. The sessions this year took place at a new location, the Auditori de Barcelona.

During 2008, Barcelona's Palau de la Música Catalana was the locale for a number of ONCA concerts. The first took place in the Sala Gran under the cycle "Evenings at the Palau" during which ONCA in its classic format, under the direction of Salvador Brotons, with the participation of guitar soloist Jaume Torrent, offered works by Wagner, Villa-Lobos and Mendelssohn. The cycle "Sundays at the Palau" also included a concert by ONCA in its classic format along with the Palau Chamber Choir directed by Daniel Mestre, with the participation of viola soloist Paul Cortese. The programme in the Sala Gran included works by Elgar, Britten and Vaughan Williams. The ONCA chamber orchestra also performed at the Palau de la Música Catalana in a concert organized by a private institution. In the Sala Gran, the orchestra performed Vivaldi's Four Seasons featuring soloist Gerard Claret with Jordi Reguant at the harpsichord.

Also at the Palau was the concert for the 13th cycle/competition organized by the Orfeó Català Foundation (Palau de la Música) with ONCA and young soloists Vicent Montalt (oboe), Guillermo Pastrana (violincello), David Pons (saxophone) and Dario Mariño (clarinet) directed by Marzio Conti.

Barcelona, specifically the AXA Auditorium, also welcomed another performance by ONCA chamber orchestra. The concert, in aid of the Ictus Foundation, was participated by two oboes and two horns and cello soloists Jordi Claret and Daniel Claret. The programme included works by Vivaldi, Barber and Mozart.

Another notable event during the year involved the participation of ONCA in the inaugural concert of the 33rd Joan Brudieu Music Festival in Seu d'Urgell. Under the direction of concert-master Gerard Claret, the concert took place in the Sant Domènec hall. ONCA, in chamber format, performed works by Ricciotti, Cervelló, Barber and Suk.

The ONCA chamber group, for the second year in a row, offered a performance at the Monastery of the Jerónimos in Lisbon, a concert organized by the Andorran ambassador to Portugal in memory of Antoni Calvó Armengol, former ambassador of the Principality in that country. On this occasion, the orchestra played compositions by Grieg, Turina, Barber and Suk with Gerard Claret as concert master.

Celebration of Andorra's National Day at the Zaragoza Expo in Spain included a performance by the ONCA full orchestra in the Congress Hall. The 42 musicians taking part were directed by Marzio Conti, ONCA's principal director. On this occasion, the audience was able to hear "Andorran Symphony No.2" by Sergio Rendine commissioned by the ONCA Foundation in 2007 on the occasion of the orchestra's 15th anniversary and the establishment of its classic format.

On earlier occasions, ONCA had performed at the Pau Casals Festival in Prades but this year it had the honour of giving the festival's inaugural concert in the Abbey of Sant Miquel de Cuixà. Under the direction of Marzio Conti, the full orchestra offered two works by Mozart and one by Schumann with cellist Gary Hoffman as soloist.

ONCA'S international work also included participation in an unrepeatable event, the concert offered to celebrate the 15th anniversary of Sant Cugat's Teatre Auditori – "15 years, 15 songs". A number of artists were invited for this performance including Jaume Sisa, Lluís Gavaldà, Maria del Mar Bonet, Martirio i Amaral. Raül Fernández (Refree) was responsible for musical direction and arrangements while the orchestra in its chamber format was directed by concert master Gerard Claret.

### Concert cycle in the Petit Palau

In the first quarter of 2008 ONCA presented most of the programming in the fourth season of the cycle "Concerts al Petit Palau". The first concert in the cycle, "L'ONCA convida" took place at the end of the previous year, as noted in the annual report of Crèdit Andorrà Foundation for that year. On this occasion, the orchestra had the support of the pianist Josep Maria Colom.

The "L'ONCA presenta" concert was devoted entirely to the interpretation of Vivaldi's "Four Seasons" with soloist Gerard Claret.

The third concert in the "L'ONCA estrena" cycle presented Vivaldi's "Concert for 2 violoncellos F. III No. 2 in G minor" with soloists Jordi Claret and Daniel Claret along with "15x15x15" by García Demestres and "Serenata Op.6" by Suk.

The final event in the fourth season was "L'ONCA proposa". For the occasion, the orchestra presented "Andorra màgica en vuit dies" with text by Miquel Desclot and music by Pere Bardagí. The actors appearing in the work were Jordi Bosch and Ester Nadal.

### Production and recordings

The heavy load of performances offered by ONCA did not mean that the Foundation left aside other initiatives aimed at promoting the work of the Orquestra Nacional Clàssica d'Andorra.

In order to extend ONCA's musical repertoire, the Foundation commissioned composer Sergi Rendine to write an opera based on a libretto by Albert Villaró to be called *El somni de Carlemany* (Charlemagne's Dream). This commission will make it possible to add an original operatic work not yet premiered to the orchestra's repertoire to be preformed by soloists, choir and orchestra. This will be Sergio Rendine's second commission for the ONCA Foundation following his "Andorran Symphony No.2" presented in 2007.

In this section we should also mention the presentation of a CD. Promoted by the ONCA Foundation and published by the Naxos music production house, the CD includes a recording of "Symphony No.1" and Andorran "Symphony No. 2" by Sergio Rendine, the latter work inspired by traditional melodies of the Principality. The CD was recorded at the end of 2007 in the Auditori Nacional d'Andorra under the supervision of producer and recording technician Gerard Font Espí. Interpretation of the two works was by ONCA's full orchestra with 49 musicians performing under the baton of Marzio Conti, ONCA'S resident director.

Finally, we should refer to the recording by the full ONCA orchestra under the direction of Marzio Conti of the hymn of the Andorran Police Force under a commission from that body. Orchestration of the work was by ONCA violinist Pere Bardagí.

## The JONCA

The Andorran Junior National Chamber Orchestra (JONCA) maintained its many activities during the year. Playing a positive part in this was the impetus given by the ONCA Foundation to create a breeding ground for future fine musicians able to contribute to the continuity of ONCA as well as providing Andorra with a second orchestra. This in itself presents a perfect platform for involving young musicians in the discipline of musical training while opening up future possibilities.

Among other activities, as on previous occasions, JONCA took the lead in the "Concert de Meritxell". Under the direction of Gerard Claret, the 21 young musicians taking part in the concert in the Auditori Nacional d'Andorra performed Mozart's "Divertimento en C major KV 157", Grignon's "Suite a l'antiga de Lamote", Genzmer's "Sonata prima" as well as "La Provença" and "L'Havana de Tres postals il·luminades" by Montsalvatge.



A moment of the "Concert de Meritxell" with the JONCA



Among the activities of JONCA, we should also point out the work of the Soloists. This group was formed in 2007, initially as a sextet, with a repertoire made up of the compositions "Sextet num.1 en B flat major Op.18" by Brahms and "Sextet for strings" by Martinú. The addition of two new members in 2008 meant a widening of the repertoire with Mendelssohn's "Octet i Quartet Op.110", in its version for eight strings, by Shostakovich. Other works have also been included in the Soloists's repertoire in performances given as a quartet.

The first appearance of the JONCA Soloists took place at a concert organized at the Comella Penitentiary under the auspices of the Ombudsman to mark the Christmas season with the performance of a work by Brahms. Two segments of this work were also broadcast direct on Catalunya Radio's morning programme from the Andorra la Vella Congress Centre. The third performance of the year was at the University of Andorra, part of the Universitarts Programme. The group, divided on this occasion into two quartets, treated students to attractive and easy-to-listen-to works by Mozart, Shostakovich and Toldrà, along with brief explanations of the music.

The next public appearance of the JONCA Soloists took place in the Young Artists Circle at Sant Quirze del Vallès organized by the local council's Department of Culture. The group offered sextets by Brahms and Martinu. As a quartet, the Soloists also performed at private functions such as the Pyrenees Business Gathering that took place at Seu d'Urgell, the inauguration of the new president of the Andorra Rotary Club and the cycle organized in August by Sport Hotels Resort & Spa at Soldeu during which they performed works by Mozart, Corelli, Shostakovich, Mascagni, Toldrà, Grieg, Bach, Vivaldi, Haendel and Pau Casals. Finally, although this event is fully set out in the section on the International Narciso Yepes Festival, we should also refer to the concert given by the JONCA Solists within the framework of this festival, with the interpretation of works by Mendelssohn and Shostakovich.

## Ordino Festivals Association

The Ordino Festivals Association, made up of the Comú d'Ordino and the Crèdit Andorrà Foundation, maintained its activity in 2008. Part of this work was the organization of the "New Year's Concert" as well as the programming of the International Narciso Yepes Festival which has now been operating for more than 25 years.

### New Year's Concert

The first of the annual activities in which the Foundation participates took place on New Year's Day in the Auditori Nacional d'Andorra. As is traditional at this concert, the Vallès Symphony Orchestra offered a programme of waltzes and dances.

During the concert the public was treated to works by Gioacchino Rossini, Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, Johannes Brahms, Johann Strauss and Joseph Strauss. The orchestra was directed by the well-known conductor José Antonio Sainz Alfaro.

## International Narciso Yepes Festival

This year again saw the participation of the Foundation in organizing the International Narciso Yepes Festival. In line with previous years, the programming was more eclectic than ever thus keeping the festival faithful to its aim of reaching the widest possible audience and satisfying the musical tastes of all. Classical music was combined with other kinds such as popular song (in this case, Italian), gospel and jazz, thus offering a broad range of interpretive periods and styles of leading performers and composers.

The opening concert in the festival was one of the most celebrated. The nature of the work presented, the level of the various groups taking part and the ample attendance made it a memorable performance. The National Classical Orchestra of Andorra (ONCA), along with the Chamber Choir of the Palau de la Música Catalana, the Orfeó Català and the Children's Choir of the Orfeó Català, directed by Marzio Conti, presented the Carl Orff's famous "Carmina Burana". The concert's soloists were soprano Marta Cases, baritone Toni Marsol and countertenor Toni Gubau.

Italian song was brought to Andorra in the second concert by the Sanremo Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Antonio Manuli with soloists Enrica Pintus and Andrea Vassalini. The orchestra presented popular Italian ballads that have taken part in the well-known Sanremo Festival. Among others, the programme included "Ancora, Nel blu dipinto de blu and Vivo per lei", songs originally sung by Eduardo de Crescenzo, Domenico Modugno, Andrea Bocelli and Giorgia, respectively. The concert made it possible to bring music to a wide public through well-known Italian songs in a classical instrumental interpretation.

One of the festival's big attractions is the concert aimed at making known new artists and offering them support at the beginning of their professional careers. In this respect, this year the ONCA Soloists (who made their debut on the same stage last year) again had an opportunity to perform as a string octet, with Sergi Claret, Francesc Planella, Àlex Arajol and Josep Martínez (violin), Elias Porter and Silvia Garcia (viola) and Jordi Claret and Daniel Claret (cello), under the artistic direction of Gerard Claret. They chose a repertoire that included Octet for strings Op. 20 by Felix Mendelssohn and "Quartet Op. 110", in the version "Octet for Strings" by Dmitri Shostakovich.

Aware of the interest gospel singing has always enjoyed in Andorra, the festival organizers invited the Campbell Brothers from the United States. This recognized group is made up of six singers, four from the same family. In the concert, under the name of "Gospel Night", the public could enjoy the interpretation with pedal guitars and voice of Blues and music of the Pentecostal faith such as "I've got a feeling" by The Beatles, "What a friend we have in Jesus" by Joseph M. Scriven and "None but the righteous" by Ricky Dillar & New Generation Choir. The energy, rhythm and feeling demonstrated in the performance proved contagious to the audience.

The close of the festival was entrusted to pianists Bebo Valdés and Chucho Valdés in one of the performances most awaited. While Bebo Valdés had previously appeared at the festival, on this occasion father and son performed together for the first time in Andorra. The guiding thread of the concert "Cuban Jazz Rhythms" was the first (and so far, only) disc recorded jointly, namely "Always Together". At this last performance in the 2008 International Narciso Yepes Festival it was possible to enjoy both the strength and subtlety of Cuban jazz rhythms as well as the superb technique developed by these two great masters of the piano.



Bebo and Chucho Valdés, at International Narciso Yepes Festival

### Friends of the Organ Foundation

For the past nine years, the Friends of the Organ Foundation of Valls d'Andorra (involving the Archpriesthood of Andorra and Crèdit Andorrà Foundation) has organized a series of activities aimed at making known work written or adapted for the organ as well as showcasing the many possibilities of this particular instrument. As well as following the programming style of other years, the Foundation took a new step aimed at allowing children and young people to gain a specific knowledge of the organ to help them fully appreciate the richness and peculiarities of the instrument.

## International Organ Cycle

The International Organ Cycle in the Principality of Andorra this year celebrated its ninth event with an attractive and varied programme made up of music from Russia, Italy, Germany and Spain from the 16th to the 20th century. This year, the Friends of the Organ Foundation of Valls d'Andorra wanted to include very different musical styles in order to reach a wide public and made a special effort to bring the best organ players from around the world. This year's cycle specially served to show the enormous versatility of the organ when combined with voice and other instruments.

The inaugural concert in the cycle took place at St. Steven's church in Andorra la Vella with a recital devoted to Russian melodies – "From Orthodox songs to Russian opera". The organ played by Slava Cheliakov and the voice of bass Vadim Artamonov combined to transport the public to the emotional but little known world of Russian music. Under the suggestive title "The Splendour of Italian Music for the Organ from the 16th-18th century", the second concert in the cycle was held at the church of St. Peter the Martyr in Escaldes-Engordany where organist Enrico Vicardi performed works and transcriptions of Italian music by prestigious composers. At the third event, "Music for organ and percussion", the public enjoyed one of the most notable concerts in the cycle both because of the bold and fascinating dialogue between organ and percussion instruments as well as being present at the world premiere of the work "Els temps", by the cycle's artistic director Ignacio Ribas. Organist Juan de la Rubia, with percussionists Santi Molas and Joan Torras, presented this work at St. Stephen's church in Andorra la Vella. The last concert, "Sonin les fanfàrries!", programmed for August and performed in St. Iscle and St. Victoria church in La Massana, was based on a combination of the organ with Baroque and modern trumpets. Organist Irmtroud Krüger and trumpeter Edward Tarr, performed Spanish and German works from the 17th -20th century. Finally, in the now traditional event on St. Stephen's Day in the church of the same name in Andorra la Vella, Ignacio Ribas presented the concert "Evocation and Description in Organ Music" with his interpretation of pieces composed in the 19th and 20th centuries.

## Autumn Organ Cycle

For the second year in a row, the Comú de La Massana, with the collaboration of the Friends of the Organ Foundation, organized the Autumn Organ Cycle at which the public could attend four concerts with the instrument at St. Iscle and St. Victoria church in La Massana. At the first concert, "Contrasts in sound: music for the organ from the 16th-21st century", Jean Pierre Leguay, resident organist of the huge organ of Notre-Dame in Paris, gave a recital that included the world premiere of "Et puis, et puis encore?" written by Leguay himself as a commission from the cycle.

The second offering combined the sound of two instruments, the organ and the Baroque violin played by Ignacio Ribas and Luca Venturi, respectively, who performed works by composers from the 17th and 18th centuries: "From the Renaissance to the Baroque in Italy and Spain". At the third concert, "Sacred Romanticism in Menorca in the 19th century", organist Tomé Olives shared the stage with baritone Lluís Sintes. Finally, under the suggestive title "De chanzonetes, villancicos, tonadas y batallas", organist Miguel Bernal showed how vocal and instrumental music in the vernacular tongue had influenced music for the organ.

## Organ sessions

Under this name, the Friends of the Organ Foundation of Valls d'Andorra this year developed a new programme aimed at bringing schoolchildren closer to the magic and beauty of organs and their musical repertoire. Through live sessions, children were able to discover the instrument and become more aware of this much appreciated but little known music. These sessions took place over a month at the churches of St. Stephen in Andorra la Vella and at St. Iscle and St. Victoria de La Massana. In the organization of this programme, the Foundation had the collaboration of the Ministry of Education, Formació Professional, Joventut i Esports along with the support of the Grup Pyrénées.

The sessions, which lasted for 45 minutes, were aimed at children and young people studying at various schools in the country. Some 1,062 students participated, 900 from primary schools and 162 from secondary schools. The content of the sessions was adapted according to the age of each group and the content of music classes given at each school. Under the guidance of Ignacio Ribas, musical director of the Friends of the Organ Foundation, the experience allowed participants to see the organ close-up and to learn about the instrument and the complexity of its construction as well as to hear works by recognized composers.

The sessions have been planned as a surprising and enjoyable extra-curricular activity, a point of reference for children and young people to learn to value and understand the organ's musical tradition as well as learn about music in a broader sense. In order to underline the enjoyable and interdisciplinary nature of these sessions, a drawing competition was also organized, the theme of which was the organ itself and the musical compositions the students had heard. In the 236 drawings submitted those taking part broadly illustrated with complete technical freedom what they had learned during the sessions.



An organ session at La Massana

## Carles Sabater Prize

As announced in last year's Foundation report, it was not until 2008 that the jury of the 9th Carles Sabater Prize for the best song of the year in Catalan announced its verdict. Thirty songs were submitted, with many Andorran groups taking part. The winners chosen by the jury were the Anímic group from Esparreguera, with the song "Hospital per a animals". The jury appreciated its "originality, sensitivity, poetic lyrics and a tone that connects with the most contemporary trends in pop". The runners-up were the DO group from Caldes de Montbui, who won the second prize with "Cridem la nit". The winning songs had their first performance in the Principality before an audience at a concert in the Apolo Andorra hall in November.

This award, instituted in memory of the singer Carles Sabater, is offered by the Principality of Andorra Catalan Culture Centre. Its purpose is to support the creation and dissemination of contemporary music with lyrics in Catalan. The contest is organized in association with Crèdit Andorrà Foundation, the entity providing the prizes. For the tenth awards in 2008, September 30 was the deadline for entries from singers in whatever style. The jury finally judged 35 projects submitted by 14 different singers or groups. The winner was the Wantun group from Blanes, with a piece entitled "Spectiu", and the runners-up were the Èrase group from Alella and El Masnou, with the composition "Aquesta nit". This time the jury singled out the winning composition for "its quest for a contemporary language in rock expressed in Catalan, as well as the tonal quality of the work".

## THEATER

### Andorran National Stage Foundation (ENA)

In 2008, the patrons of the Andorran National Stage Foundation (the Government of Andorra, La Massana Council and Crèdit Andorrà Foundation) decided to give their support and provide the Andorran National Stage (ENA) with the resources the institution, established the year before, would need to firmly lay the foundations of this important new theatrical undertaking.

The programme set for 2008 was both ambitious and prestigious for such a young institution as the Escena Nacional d'Andorra (ENA). One of the outstanding elements in the programme was the combination of recognized actors and directors with emerging young talents. We should also mention the incorporation of different genres and the interdisciplinary nature of the productions, which spanned a wide range of the performing arts.

As complementary and essential elements of the activity promoted by ENA, we must also note its cooperation with other institutions and the support of activities linked to the world of theatre intended for young audiences as well as the international impact of work performed. All these factors add up to the achievement of something Andorran society had insistently demanded. This exciting, innovatory project on the national cultural scene had now become a reality.

## The ENA programme

The eagerly awaited premiere in Andorra of Vicent Andrés Estellés' play "Coral Romput", the first to be coproduced by the Andorran National Stage opened in January. The work, directed by Joan Ollé had a cast that included actors Montserrat Carulla, Eduard Farelo, Pere Arquillué and Joan Anguera with live music by Toti Soler. We should also highlight the participation of Ester Nadal as assistant director, actress Marta Roure and musician Lluís Cartes. The production and performance of the work, a clear example of successfully surmounting the challenge of converting poetry into theatre, confirmed that ENA made the right choices in its first production.

The second coproduction in which ENA took part was also performed in Andorra this year. "Roses de gos", a project that combines different theatrical and musical languages in a contemporary opera based on the myth of Dido and Aeneas and the original work by Henry Purcell, was warmly received by the audience. The libretto for Roses de gos was the work of poet Albert Roig with music by Francesc Capella. The musical director was Gorka Sierra and the stage director Iban Beltran. The piece was an ambitious show with ten musicians, three soloists, two actors (among them the Andorran actress Irina Robles), and singers from the Coral Carmina and the Andorra National Children's Choir. The aim of the work was to encourage the participation and combination of various artistic genres on the same stage.

The programme of the Teatre de les Fontetes de La Massana opened ENA's new season with a dramatized reading of "Quan encara no sabíem res", by Josep Maria Miró Coromina, which won the Andorran Literary Night Crèdit Andorrà's 50th Anniversary Theatre Award in 2007. This dramatic poem was presented by six urbane voices and a musician. The work plays with fiction, language, chance, the unexpected and the impact of isolated events as motors for change in everyday life. Casting was done in Andorra and the author-director chose Xavi Fernández, Mari Carmen Garcia and Jaume Llauradó to take part in the reading with other actors from the original cast.



Production of "A Streetcar Named Desire" by Tennessee Williams

ENA's second event of the season at Les Fontetes was the recital "Música i paraula", with music by Toti Soler and Lluís Cartes and lyrics by Joan Ollé. The concept for this moving, intimate concert was a result of the encounter of the three artists in the ENA coproduction of "Coral Romput". After that venture, the musicians felt the need to continue working and creating together. At this concert Joan Ollé accompanied them with his subtle words, some borrowed from other poets and others written specially for his two colleagues and for Andorra.

Among the activities programmed at the Teatre de les Fontetes, film also had a place, specifically a short by Alfons Casal and Hèctor Mas. "El comte Yàcula", is a tribute, in comic vein, to the vampire movies which were produced under the labels of two production companies from two different periods: Universal in the early 20th century and Hammer in the century's middle years. The short is packed with references to those films, as well as the elements, names and situations that have characterized the Gothic horror genre, in both literature and the cinema. The actor Mateu Ubach plays the part of Yàcula.

One of the great challenges this year for ENA was the production and performance of Tennessee Williams' "A Streetcar Named Desire", one of the most important works in the history of modern theatre, for which the author won the Pulitzer Prize for drama in 1948. The play was directed by Ester Nadal. Lluís Cartes was musical director and the cast included Jorge Picó, Pepa Plana, Hans Richter, Irina Robles, Sergi Vallès and David Verdaguer. Lluís Cartes, Pedro Cornago and Marc Prat provided the music. The work was given two performances in November at the Teatre Comunal in Andorra la Vella.

### Other ENA activities

As well as tasks related to programming and production, the Andorran National Stage (ENA) has played a leading part in other events connected with the performing arts. Among them we might mention the collaboration with the Andorran National Classical Orchestra in the "Jardins de Casa de la Vall Concert", for which ONCA revived the production "Andorra màgica en vuit dies", conceived and presented in 1999 on the occasion of the Meritxell festivities. With a script by Miquel Desclot and music by Pere Bardagí, in this musical and dramatic show two characters played by Jordi Bosch and Ester Nadal, the same actors from the 1999 production, tell a story woven around legends of Andorra.

Since its establishment, ENA has also undertaken distribution of "Borís I (el rei d'Andorra)", a play by Beth Escudé directed by Ester Nadal. The final performance was given at the Perpignan Municipal Theatre in May, the last stop on a tour that, since 2006, has taken the work, coproduced by Somhiteatre and Ennev Teatre, to theatres in Andorra, Catalonia and France.



The ENA Foundation was also responsible in 2008 for organization of the 11th Andorra Youth Theatre Festival. Taking up that challenge involved a change in the concept of that event. The aim is to turn it into a platform for drama teaching for young people and the promotion of theatre in schools and amateur groups. The essential purpose of the new concept is for drama to be an educational tool so emphasis is placed on improving the teaching process in drama study for younger students, as well as providing teachers with planned, ongoing educational, artistic and technical advice from a professional of the dramatic arts and theatrical education. The new direction has also led to changes in the kind of performances put on at the festival, since the basic aim in this new approach is to show the process followed in the preparation of the work, so that the public can appreciate the pupils' effort and dedication, which in the case of younger children is especially important.

## CULTURAL COOPERATION

As on other occasions, Crèdit Andorrà Foundation has taken part in ventures with various cultural entities and institutions, with the aim of contributing to wider dissemination and knowledge of the cultural and creative wealth of the Principality. Albeit limited, that contribution has allowed us to offer timely aid for the implementation of projects that provide a suitable complement to the programmes launched by the Foundation itself.

### Expo 2008

As a result of an agreement signed with the National Commissariat of the Government of Andorra for Expo 2008 in Zaragoza, Crèdit Andorrà Foundation cooperated on the programme of events for Andorra National Day at Expo 2008 held in that city on 24 July. Support took the form of a financial contribution that enabled the Andorran National Classical Orchestra (ONCA) and dance troupes from the country to perform at this celebration.

The cooperation of Crèdit Andorrà Foundation in this event was part of the many activities it encourages, promotes or supports in order to contribute to improving the qualitative development of the economic, social and cultural life of Andorra. The Foundation took part in the celebration of Andorra National Day at Expo 2008, given the central theme – water and sustainable development – and the effect on tourism an event of this kind has for the country. This is not to forget what it means for Andorran cultural entities to have an opportunity to present their projects in such an international setting.

### “Andorran memorandum books”

A significant example of the cooperation Crèdit Andorrà Foundation establishes from time to time with other institutions or associations on specific matters is the publication of the eighth volume of the series “Andorran memorandum books”, promoted by the Cercle de les Arts i de les Lletres. This series was directed by Father Cebrià Baraut Obiols until his death in 2003. The post was then handed on to the Rev. Benigne Marquès Sala.

The publication includes articles and other works of historical and humanistic research on Andorra since the Middle Ages and contains contributions from the historians and scholars Carles Gascón Chopo, Enric Moliné Coll, Pere Canturri Montanya, Montserrat Pagès Paretas and Benigne Marquès Sala himself. Subjects dealt with include such matters as the Caboet-Castellbò documentary collection of the Urgell Chapterhouse Archive; the sacking of La Seu d’Urgell in the late 12th century, according to the account by Antoni Fiter i Rossell; the episcopal chief magistrate and other ministers of justice of Andorra from 1372 to 1600; or the Romanesque paintings of Sant Martí de la Cortinada and their interpretation.

Work was done on this eighth volume between 2006 and 2008 and it proves a useful tool for consultation available to all scholars in the country. A scientific approach is the guiding principle of these research works designed to make known the culture, history and the functioning of the country’s institutions. Initially Crèdit Andorrà, and then Crèdit Andorrà Foundation, have worked on publication of the “Andorran memorandum books” since their beginnings in 1976.



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