

## The Reina Sofía School of Music

The first academic course of the Reina Sofía School of Music took place in 1991-1992. Since those first steps in the implementation of the project, the constant guidance of both Federico Sopeña and Enrique Franco were fundamental in the design, educational objective and the selection of the professors of the School. Additionally, the sound counsel of outstanding personalities of the music world such as Mstislav Rostropovich, Daniel Barenboim, Zubin Mehta, Alicia de Larrocha and, of course, Yehudi Menuhin who has given his name to this prize were of enormous importance. Since those beginnings, the School has been deeply involved in the objectives marked by its director, Paloma O'Shea: to offer the students an education of excellence. Towards this end, the School has a first-class Faculty, offers individualized education -a maximum of nine students per professor- and a system of scholarships, where the resources factor is of the least importance, as well as an active teaching system which enables the students to continuously perform before the public. In addition to the foregoing, first and foremost, it has the great honour of enjoying the constant encouragement of Her Majesty the Queen who has given Her name to the School. The institution, which celebrated its Tenth Anniversary during the 2001-2002 academic year, has become a centre of musical education of international prestige in a milieu of growth and general recognition.

## The Albéniz Foundation

The Reina Sofía School of Music is integrated, both financially and institutionally, in the Albéniz Foundation, created by Paloma O'Shea in 1987. Along with the educational programme, the Foundation has three other lines of action. These are: an informative area which includes important programmes such as the Paloma O'Shea Santander International Piano Competition, and many cycles of concerts offered throughout Spain; an investigation area where important Archives such as those of Mompou, Rubinstein or Cacho Viú are catalogued and safely kept; and a creative area through which the Foundation has sponsored several dozen of music compositions.

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