

One day in Alcalá

(An article by **Jordi Roch**, President of Jeunesses Musicales Spain, Honorary President of Jeunesses Musicales International and former Vice President of EMCY)

For me, as JMSpain President, one of the greatest pleasures which I can have is to see how an association, in its city, carries out its work both competently and with great energy and commitment. Jeunesses Musicales, in its whole international dimension, lives thanks to the creativity of all the organisations that, inspired by the aims of our federation, make their mark according to the public they serve.



Jordi Roch, attentive during the concert

This is the case of Alcalá de Henares where, from the children to the general public of the city, they all live together with a musical development which is a role model to follow, and I would also say, a phenomenon to analyse.

I saw how the members of the Athanor Association consisted of an ensemble and three narrators, Colectivo Escénico Légolas, who caught the attention of the audience of children with its great talent. With an excellent result, they told them really good tales enriched with musical illustrations, some of them popular and some really well known.

In the afternoon the family concert took place on the magnificent organ of the cathedral on which, with great skill, the organist Liudmila Matsyura played works for the 'king of the instruments'. Eva Alonso, a teacher and pedagogue who lives for this cause, explained clearly this popular definition with a metaphor of a king and all his entourage consisting of wooden and brass pipes and all the trumpets. She did it in such a way that it was a surprise for the children but a magnificent concert for the adults where they could know the ins and outs of this complicated instrument. It was a learning experience for all of us.

Once again I have seen a gradation from children to young people participating in an activity, like in this family concert, where great interpreters take part; because these activities are part of the coherent concert season of Jeunesses Musicales. All these initiatives, which imply also the creation of educational tools, are done with a well oriented vision.

Juan Antonio Jiménez and Eva Alonso know how to coordinate a team in such a way that at the association's Board all of them act with vision, energy and with the desire to work on an excellent level.