



Pau Casals UNESCO Chair

FUNDACIÓ
Pau Casals



Universitat Oberta
de Catalunya



unesco

Chair

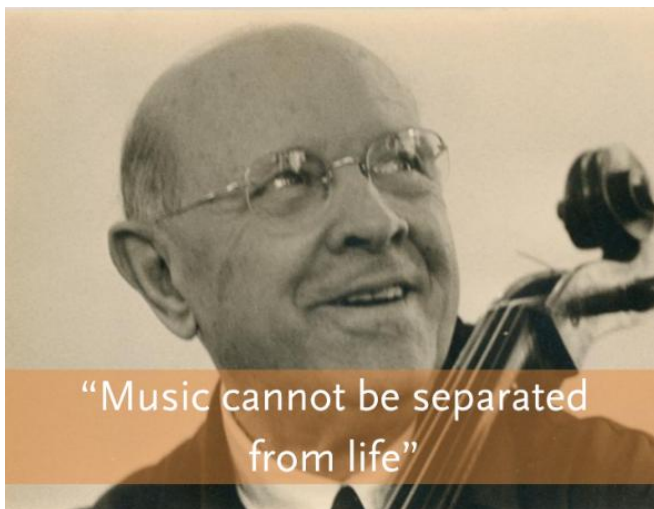


PABLO CASALS

Pablo Casals was an exceptional cello performer who marked a before and after in the interpretative technique of the cello, one of the most important orchestra conductors of his time, and a great composer. In his capacity as a musician, he combined the defence of peace, human rights, and democracy. In turbulent times, he defended a world without borders with music as a universal language of fraternity among peoples. He was invited on three occasions to visit and perform for the United Nations General Assembly, also delivering historic speeches with great impact. Pablo Casals received from the United Nations the commission to compose a hymn for the UN (Hymn of Peace), which was performed and conducted for the first time in 1971. In recognition of his humanitarian work and the defence of peace, he received the first United Nations Peace Medal.



THE UNESCO PABLO CASALS CHAIR for music, the defense of peace and human rights



The UNESCO Pablo Casals Chair is a project established in agreement between the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (UOC) and the Pablo Casals Foundation with the aim of promoting research, knowledge, dissemination, and contemporary debate on the musical and humanistic dimension of Pablo Casals and his extraordinary legacy, as well as the values he defended throughout his life.

A Chair to foster the commitment of culture and music to the major problems of today's society, to bring together people, researchers, and artists. A space for reflection and

research on the role of music in intercultural dialogue and the institutions that defend human rights and multilateralism for a better world. The Chair presents two central areas of activity:

- I. The musical legacy of Pablo Casals. Pablo Casals as a complete musician: performer, conductor, and composer.
- II. The humanistic legacy of Pablo Casals and the contemporary interpretation of the defence of peace, democracy, and human rights.

OBJECTIVES

- I. To promote research, dissemination, and musicological and historiographical knowledge of the artistic work and the facets of Pablo Casals as performer, orchestra conductor, and composer.
- II. To promote research, knowledge production, dissemination, and contemporary debate on the relationship between music, the defence of the values of peace, human rights, and democracy.
- III. To contribute to the strengthening of culture, and more specifically musical expression, within the framework of the United Nations 2030 Agenda, and the various UNESCO conventions, with special attention to the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.
- IV. The promotion of music as an intangible heritage fundamental for social cohesion, multicultural dialogue, and conflict prevention.

PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

- I. **Training activities:** Teaching scholarships, awards for final projects, participation in the organization of training programs, conferences and seminars, promotion of educational cooperation (internship students), collaboration in the training plans of the company/entity, promotion of expert meetings in the chair's area of interest.
- II. **Research and innovation activities:** Research scholarships and grants, development of joint research lines, carrying out research and innovation projects, completion of doctoral theses in cooperation with the company/entity, promotion of national and international expert meetings on topics of interest, cooperation to obtain research projects at the Catalan, Spanish, and European levels, promotion of entrepreneurship and knowledge transfer.



III. Dissemination, knowledge exchange, and international projection activities:

Organization of scientific and humanistic outreach days, collaboration in the promotion of scientific, cultural, social, or humanistic events, encouragement of publications on topics of interest, support for doctoral theses in the chair's area of interest, distinction and recognition of international initiatives related to the musical and humanistic legacy of Pablo Casals.

UNESCO CHAIR

The UNESCO Pablo Casals Chair for music, the defence of peace, and human rights was recognized in 2024 by UNESCO, within the framework of the UNESCO/UNITWIN program. This recognition is related to the significance of the project, the importance of Pablo Casals' musical and humanistic legacy, which also highlights his historic connection with the UN. Pablo Casals was invited on four occasions, received the commission to compose the United Nations Hymn for Peace, and in 1971, Secretary-General U Thant awarded him the United Nations Peace Medal.



UNESCO Chairs are an initiative of the United Nations Organization aimed at improving research and training through the establishment of university networks and the promotion of interuniversity cooperation. An initiative approved in 1992 that currently includes 850 institutions from various member states.



DIRECTION



Dr. Joan Fuster-Sobrepere **Chair Holder**

Doctor in History from Universitat Pompeu Fabra and Bachelor in Philosophy from Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. Postgraduate in Management of Cultural Institutions from ESADE Alta Dirección. Associate Professor of Contemporary History in the Studies of Art and Humanities at the UOC. Former Director of the Studies of Art and Humanities at the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya. Founder and Director of the Master's in Humanities: Art, Literature, and Contemporary Culture. Member of the consolidated research group Identitat.



Dr. Alfons Martinell Sempere **Co-holder of the Chair**

Doctor in Pedagogy from the Universitat de Girona. Bachelor in Philosophy and Letters from the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. Member of the Spanish Network for Sustainable Development. Former Director General of Cultural and Scientific Relations at the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Spain. Honorary Director of the UNESCO Chair: Cultural Policies and Cooperation. Professor Emeritus at the Universitat de Girona. Gold Medal of Merit in Fine Arts (2024).

ADVISORY COMMITTEES

The Chair has two advisory committees composed of distinguished individuals in the fields of music, peace, and human rights.

• **Music Advisory Committee**

Asier Polo, internationally renowned cellist. 2019 National Music Award from the Ministry of Culture.

Bernard Meillat, musical advisor of the Pablo Casals Foundation and artistic director of the Pablo Casals International Music Festival.

Enrique Barón, president of the Yehudi Menuhin Foundation Spain.

Ester Bonal, co-director of Xamfrà, Center for Music and Performing Arts for Social Inclusion, winner of a 2022 Gold Medal from the Spanish Academy of Performing Arts.

Jonathan Brown, violist of the Casals Quartet

Maria Claudia Parias, president of the Batuta National Foundation (Colombia).

Marie Hallynck, internationally renowned cellist.

Mireia Pacareu, classical music editor at the European Broadcasting Union

Núria Sempere, general director of the Higher School of Music of Catalonia (ESMUC).

Ruth Miura, teacher trainer for the European Suzuki Association.

• **Peace and human rights advisory committee**

Ana Barrero, president of the Spanish Association for Peace Research (aiPAZ) and director of the Culture of Peace Foundation.

Arantza Acha, director of UNESCO Etxea, the UNESCO Centre of the Basque Country.

Daniel Innerarity, professor of political and social philosophy and researcher at the University of the Basque Country.

Esther Barbé, researcher at IBEI and professor at UAB.

Hannes Swoboda, president de l'International Institute for Peace.

Jean-Jacques Bedu, writer and founder of Mare Nostrum – Une Méditerranée Autrement.

Joan Manuel Tresserras, professor at UAB and former Minister of Culture of the Generalitat of Catalonia.

Xavier Mas de Xaxàs, journalist and diplomatic correspondent for La Vanguardia.

Pol Morillas, director of CIDOB (Barcelona Centre for International Affairs).

TECHNICAL TEAM

- **Direction of the Pablo Casals Foundation, Jordi Pardo.** Member of the UNESCO Cultural Policy Expert Group 2011–2015; member of the European Commission Expert Team for European Capitals of Culture 2012–2016. He has directed and advised cultural projects in various countries across Europe, Asia, and the Americas.
- **Historical and documentary advising, Núria Ballester.** Director of the Pablo Casals Museum with experience in conservation, research, and heritage dissemination. Cultural affairs and community relations.



- Technical Secretary of the Chair, Griselda Massó. Cultural manager and project coordinator.

PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES 2024

February. *Signing of an agreement with UNESCO for the establishment of the UNESCO Pablo Casals Chair* (Signing of the agreement between Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO, and Àngels Fitó, Rector of the UOC).

February 26. Online meeting of experts from the project *Educating for Peace through Cultural Rights*. With the support of ICIP.

From March 14 to May 12. *Application period for the 2nd call of the 2024 Research Grants*. With the support of the *Entidad de Gestión de los Artistas Intérpretes o Ejecutantes de la Música (AIE)*.

- Applications: 26 people
- Awarded grants: 2 grants
- Nationalities: 11 (Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Spain, Italy, Latvia, Mexico, the Netherlands, and Russia).
- 4 from Catalan universities and research centers, 11 from centers in the rest of Spain, and 11 from international institutions.

March 18 and April 22. Online meeting of experts from the project *Educating for Peace through Cultural Rights*. With the support of ICIP.

May 28. *In-person meeting of experts from the project Educating for Peace through Cultural Rights*. With the support of ICIP.



May 29. *3rd Conference of the Chair: Educating in Human Rights for Peace*, at Pati Manning in Barcelona (CERC of the Diputació de Barcelona). In collaboration with ICIP.

62 in-person attendees / 156 online attendees

The conference was framed within the humanistic and musical legacy of an artist committed to his time through his dedication to human rights and peace. It served as a space for reflection on the role of music in intercultural dialogue and in institutions that defend human rights and multilateralism for a better world. Its main objective was to analyse the relationships and interdependencies between education for peace and education in cultural rights.

It featured speakers and participants such as:

- Jazmín Beirak, Director-General of Cultural Rights at the Ministry of Culture.
- Maider Maraña, Director of the Baketik Foundation and international consultant in cultural rights and public policies.
- Marina Caireta, researcher and trainer in education for peace at the School of Peace Culture.
- Mireia Tresserras, co-director at Educ'art, educational and cultural services.
- Beatriz Barreiro, PhD in Human Rights and Associate Professor of Public International Law and International Relations at Universidad Rey Juan Carlos.
- Laurence Cuny, Human Rights International Law lawyer and researcher.
- Tere Badia, international consultant and former director of Culture Action Europe.
- Espai Avinyó, Barcelona City Council with Teresa Fernàndez, municipal reference for the BCN Interculturality Program.
- Fes! Cultura with Diego Salazar, director.
- Libraries Without Borders Project of the Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation with Marta Grau, Head of Communication and Education.

- Pablo Casals Museum with Núria Ballester, director.
- CreArt Association with Carol Pujadas, director.
- Catalan Association for Peace with Teresa Palop, Head of the Cultural Rights Program.
- Exhibition at El Born: Why War? with Jordi Font Agulló, curator of the exhibition, director of the Memorial Democràtic, and cultural manager.
- Esther Bonal, music teacher and director of Xamfrà.
- Nicolás Barbieri, professor at the Open University of Catalonia (UOC), specialized in cultural rights and cultural policies.
- Sílvia Plana, Head of Strategic Alliances at the Catalan International Institute for Peace (ICIP).
- Joan Fuster-Sobrepere, Director of the Chair.
- Alfons Martinell, Co-director of the Chair.
- Jordi Pardo, Director of the Pablo Casals Foundation.





September 25. *International webinar on “Educating in Cultural Rights” from the project Educating for Peace through Cultural Rights. In collaboration with the ICIP.*



November 21. *Participation of Alfons Martinell in a talk organized by the ICIP and the Goethe-Institut Barcelona.* The talk focused on the role of culture in peacebuilding, sharing the space with Ulla Schmidt (former German Minister of Health and Vice President of the Parliament).

November 28. *Participation of Alfons Martinell in the talk “Education and Culture as a Tool for Social Transformation”* at the Lobby of the Teatre Tarragona.

November/December. *Submission of the 2023 research fellowship projects.*

- *From Festívol to the Prelude of El Pessebre. An approach to Pablo Casals’ musical works catalog through his sardanas,* project presented by Anna Costal and Albert Fontelles.
- *The evolution of international mechanisms for the protection of musicians at risk. A historical perspective exploring the legacy of Pablo Casals,* project presented by Laurence Cuny.

More information

December. *Submission of the 2022-24 Research Project: “Pablo Casals and the Spanish Refugee AID (SRA)”.* Project commissioned to researcher Gemma Caballer, PhD candidate at the University of Barcelona.

December. Dr. Alfons Martinell, co-director of the UNESCO Pablo Casals Chair, receives the Gold Medal for Merit in Fine Arts. The Council of Ministers awards the 2024 Gold Medals for Merit in Fine Arts to 38 personalities and institutions in the cultural world. Among the awardees is Dr. Alfons Martinell, co-director of the UNESCO Pablo Casals Chair, in recognition of his extraordinary career and contribution to the cultural field, as well as his expertise in cultural rights. More information:

<https://www.cultura.gob.es/actualidad/2024/12/24/1223-cmin-medallas-bellas-artes.html>

December. Dr. Alfons Martinell interviewed on the radio (Lleida Ràdio UA1) to talk about the UNESCO-Pablo Casals Chair and about the Culture of Peace and the challenges we face. Organized by the UNESCO Friends of Lleida. More information:

<https://www.ua1.cat/?podcast=293616>



December. *Creation of the Papers of the Chair collection* for research projects, publications, and documentation. Cover of the new collection.

Papers

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Research

The evolution of international protection mechanisms for musicians at risk

A historical perspective exploring
Pau Casals's legacy

Laurence Cuny





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